

Rosyth
Methodist Church



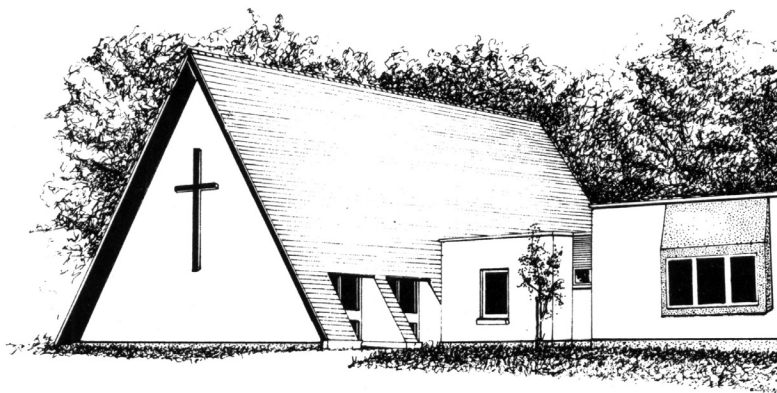
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 100

December 2018/January 2019

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:

Very Rev Kenny Rathband

01383 732654

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)



For seasonal changes see
page 13 and our Diary
section on pages 19–23

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 "Christ is come today!"



Sandra and I knew when we set the theme for this issue that we would get a range of responses, and "Christ is come today!" did indeed inspire a variety of contributions, reflecting the widely-differing life experiences of the members of our church family. The result is that, apart from a few pages of regular items, the whole of the first half of this issue has a seasonal flavour.

Of course, that really means *two* seasonal flavours, Christians traditionally drawing a distinction between Advent and Christmas that is at odds with secular practice. And even with us the edges have become rather blurred – gone are the days when the tree came in just in time on Christmas Eve, and carols only took the place of Advent hymns once the great day had arrived.

This blurring may be no bad thing, and some have even suggested bringing Advent into November, and singing carols in the weeks before Christmas, joining our friends in the world outside.

However, our first articles (pp3–4) reflect that, for us, Advent should have a different emphasis from Christmas. So perhaps we have to prepare our *hearts* for the coming of our Lord, at the same time as we prepare our *homes* in a different way for the time of celebration.

By the way, did you notice that our theme was a slight mis-quotation? The hymn that is now, in these politically correct times, generally rendered as "Good Christian friends, rejoice" actually ends "Christ is *born* today!"

While the difference was probably a slip of the grey cells, it emphasises the Advent theme of expecting Christ's Second Coming. As Eddie Sykes says: "... we are directed to both the celebration of Christmas, and toward the second coming of Christ – whenever that may be!"

Coming at what is now (at least since 1752) the turn of the calendar year, and just after the winter days have begun to lengthen almost imperceptibly, Christmas and New Year is also a time when we look both backwards and forwards. Like the Roman god Janus, we look back in thankfulness and we look forward in hope.

In a new year when 29 March has major significance for the continued well-being of the nations of the United Kingdom, we need that "sure and certain hope", that "anchor to the rock that does not move", and a faith in the eventual triumph of our Lord.

"Away with gloom, away with doubt!" as Edward Shillito's hymn starts ... read it!

Included in this issue ...

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Kenny Rathband, our new priest-in-charge	pp24–26

Plus our regular items:

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A guide to our symbols



working
together



the wider
world



building
community



Christ is
come



Good news outlined in Advent carols

From the new Quarterly Plan from Eddie Sykes, Superintendent Minister

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is good to greet you at the beginning of Advent – a season which is as much about the end of time, ‘the second coming’ of Christ, as it is about preparing to celebrate the coming of the Christ-child in Bethlehem. I would encourage you to look closely at the words of the Advent carols which celebrate the promise that Christ will bring an end to all that is contrary to the ways of God.

The biblical themes in Advent begin on the first Sunday with the call to be watchful, of being aware that God may not necessarily act in ways that we suppose. There is a yearning for righteousness that encourages a passion for justice and holiness.

On the second Sunday in Advent, we hear the cry of John the Baptist who tells people to prepare the way for there is one who comes after him who is greater.

The third Sunday in Advent celebrates that God is near, which includes the call to repent. Repentance is not about removing

all the fun from life, but in discovering that true joy is found in doing the work of God.

It is only on the fourth Sunday that we read about the birth of the promised one; as Mary discovers she will bear God’s son – Emmanuel – God with Us!

All through Advent we see the patience of God. As we wait for the day of the final reign of God, we discover that God is in our midst – present with us. The hymn: “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” captures the Advent mood wonderfully well, as we are directed to both the celebration of Christmas, and toward the second coming of Christ – whenever that may be! We are encouraged in our faith towards mission as we share the good news of Emmanuel.

The rest of the Circuit staff, and our families, join with me in wishing you all a very blessed Advent and Christmas as together we pray for a hopeful, purposeful, and peaceful New Year.

Grace and peace, Eddie Sykes

Advent explained

From the Advent liturgy booklet prepared by Michael Paterson

Advent – the four week period of preparation before Christmas – is a time of expectation and waiting before we hear again the story of Christ’s birth. It is a time of joyful longing and of inner reflection and preparation. The word Advent comes from the Latin ‘adventus’, meaning coming or arrival.

Our keeping of Advent today reflects these themes. There is a longing and an expectation as well as an air of muted celebration as we sing the great Advent hymns and light the Advent candles. But there are also the austere themes of

the readings from scripture, a sense of the darkness of our world, of human wilfulness and self-centredness, and of our need for divine grace to illuminate and redeem. We omit the Gloria from the liturgy and replace it with the Kyrie (“Lord have mercy”) to highlight this, and change the colour of our vestments to purple.

Our celebration of Advent is a time for reflection as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Our liturgy emphasises the themes of darkness and light, mortality and eternity, to which the season of Advent bids us attend.

A different kind of Advent

Jan Benvie is doing things differently in 2018



I'm marking Advent this year in two different ways, one as a time of prayer and meditation, and the other having an Advent (rather than Christmas) tree, where I add a decoration each day. And I began in the middle of November!

'Christmas' seems to begin earlier and earlier each year, but this year it served to inspire me to have a different Advent. Seeing Christmas decorations and food for sale in the shops in late October got me thinking about Advent early – what, I wondered, was I going to use for my Advent study? Over the years I have collected a number of Advent reflection books and browsing through my bookcase I came across *40 days with the Celtic Saints* by David Cole. I purchased it at a retreat about Celtic Spirituality in the summer of 2017, used it primarily as a reference book, then forgot about it!

Coming across the book again I remembered that Celtic Christians not only spent 40 days of spiritual preparation before Easter – Lent – as we do, but also observed a 'Lesser Lent' before Christmas, beginning on the evening of 15 November (40 days before 25 December). What better way I thought to "put Christ back into Christmas" than to have an additional two weeks of Advent!

As has become my custom during Lent, my 'fasting' involves making more time for prayer and bible study. I will 'fast' from Facebook and emails, spending only an hour each day and not using them at all on Sundays. As well as my usual daily prayer I will use the readings and meditations from *40 days with the Celtic Saints*.

Ed: We've included an extract from this book on Page 8.



The inspiration for my Advent tree comes from my two grandchildren. For the past three years they have had a Playmobil Advent Calendar. Behind each door is a character or object and over the period of Advent a scene is built up – but the closest to Christmas these scenes come is Santa's workshop; most of them are winter scenes, and nothing at all to do with Christmas!

I have a small twig tree that I hang with papier-maché eggs and crosses at Easter and decided this year to make it an Advent Tree. Each day (and I began on 15 November in line with my Celtic Advent) I hang a small Christmas decoration (stars, angels and small olive wood nativity decorations) on the tree. The final star for the top of the tree will be put in place on Christmas Eve.

Both my Advent activities make me feel I'm somewhat striking a blow against the secularisation and commercialisation of Christmas!



Getting ready for Christmas

Ecumenical Study Group Advent Course

The material for this year's study is a booklet by Krish Kandiah titled *A Strange Christmas*. It's about the people surrounding the birth – strange people like shepherds, bolshie innkeepers, soothsayers, an even stranger king, and a poverty- and scandal-stricken family. Yet the birth fulfils Scripture, down to the finest detail. The study is covered in four **Monday sessions at 7.30pm**, started on **Monday 26 November** and will finish on **Monday 17 December**. Everyone is welcome to come along to the Parish Church for any of the sessions. For more information speak to Alan Taylor.

Carol Concert – and Light Up the Christmas Lights

A change of name, but the same idea. The annual nativity will take place on **Tuesday 4 December at 7.00pm** in the Parish Church with primary school choirs and Rosyth Concert Band taking part. There are only two schools this year, as the other two have a performance at the Alhambra.

Tea and mince pies will be served afterward, again donated by Co-operative Funeral Services. Tickets £1.00 are available from Alan Taylor.

Christingle service

It is some years since we have had a Christingle service, which will be held on **Sunday 9 December** at Café Church at 11.00am. All are welcome, especially children, so please ask your friends to join us.

Ed: If you want to find out what Christingle means, read Mary Kidd's article on Page 11.

Words and music for Advent

You are invited to a service of "Words and music for Advent" on **Sunday 9 December at 3.30pm** in Holy Trinity, Dunfermline.

Taizé service

The Rev Dr Margaret Dineley has invited us to a Taizé-inspired service for Advent, in hope, joy and anticipation on **Sunday 9 December at 4.30pm** in St Finnian's, Lochgelly. The worship will be preceded by fellowship and refreshments, including mincepies, from 3.45pm. Everyone is welcome.

Joint communion service

This December our joint communion service is a week earlier than usual, on **Sunday 16 December at 11.00am**, when our service for Advent 3 will be led by the Very Rev Kenny Rathband.

Scout Christmas Post



Our Scouts and Explorer Scouts are taking part in the Scout Christmas Post, and cards can be sent to most parts of Fife for 35p (see poster for further details). There is a separate post box in the Church crush hall for these cards. Please "post" your cards in good time – the deadline is **7.30pm on Monday 10 December**. Cards and money should be placed in a plastic bag or envelope with a note of your name and contact details in the event of any queries. Please include postcodes on the cards. The cards will be delivered by local scouts in the period 15–21 December.

Martin Rogers

Out of the darkness into the light

A seasonal message from David Easton, Chair of Synod



Dear Friends,

I have been asked to write this article for your magazine at the turning of the year and as I enter my last few months as Chair of the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland.

In our much-lit world it's hard for us to imagine just how much time our forebears must have spent in darkness. The moon and the stars and the 'figures' they saw or imagined in them were very much part of their world. In the Christmas story – the Birth Narratives, as they are formally called – God speaks to his world through light in the sky. The Shepherds were dazzled by the light and the words of the angels; the Wise Men were guided by a star.

Who the Shepherds were is pretty straightforward: ordinary working men doing a difficult and sometimes dangerous job keeping the sheep safe. In the midst of their ordinary night-time round and task, God suddenly broke into their world; a reminder, of course, that Christ comes to us in the midst of the everyday of our lives; not just at Christmas, not just on Sundays but every day. We can be dazzled by his presence just as much as the Shepherds were.

The Wise Men are a bit more of a puzzle. Matthew's gospel doesn't call them 'Kings' or say that there were three of them, but who were they? Most biblical scholars think they were some sort of astrologers or diviners who tried to find meaning in the movement of the stars. Anyway, they were not like the Shepherds. They were special enough to get a hearing at Herod's court and were 'from the East'; a reminder perhaps that Christ's birth has a wider, global significance.

Shining glory and guiding stars are not the only signs to appear in the Bible's sky. After being released from their time in the ark, Noah and his family were given the sign of the rainbow. Today most see this as a meteorological phenomenon, but God declares it to be more than that – a sign of his 'covenant with the world'.

At the beginning of the New Year most Methodist churches hold a Covenant Service (some do so in September at the beginning of the Methodist year). During this we renew our covenant with God – our commitment as Christian disciples and remembering his commitment to us, supremely demonstrated not by rainbows or stars but by Christ lifted up on the Cross for all to see and beyond that the resurrection. The Holy Spirit is God's gift to enable us to fulfil our part of the Covenant each day.

When we see the glory of a sunset we may think of the glory shown to the Shepherds; when we see a particularly bright star we may remember the Wise Men; when we see a rainbow we may remember God's promise to Noah and all succeeding generations.

When we see the light of Christ in a sudden revelation in the midst of the everyday; when we feel that we are being drawn to discover 'new lands' or new ways by a star from God; when all ahead of us seems full of the darkest clouds, the sunlight behind us may reveal the wonder of the multi-coloured arc of God's promise and purposes.

However we are spending Christmas, and whatever the coming year holds in store for us, I pray that we may look up and follow with wonder the purposes of God.

Every blessing, David Easton



A different Christmas dinner

Erica Lock remembers

A few years ago, during a spell of bad weather before Christmas, I was shopping for bread and milk and met two ladies who lived near by.

During our conversation we all mentioned that our planned visits to family for Christmas had been spoilt by the weather, and it and wisdom dictated a stay-at-home Christmas. As we lived so close to each other we decided not to spend the whole day alone, and I volunteered to cook Christmas dinner.

However, the two ladies had attended two or three Christmas dinners and felt more turkey was too much of a good thing, so a “school dinner” of mince and tatties and dead man’s leg for pudding? Aghast, I was asked “What is dead man’s leg”? “Just a school name for jam roly-poly pudding and custard” I answered, and this met with relief and approval.

On Christmas Day, armed with the meal in my cool box (to keep hot of course) and dressed as a belle(?) of St Trinians in tattered tights, bedraggled skirt and

blouse, and my son’s ancient school tie (not forgetting the wellington boots). I ventured forth to my friends around the corner.

I was greeted with plenty of Christmas cheer, and we put the finishing touches to the meal served on paper plates to avoid too much washing up.

Fortified with more Christmas cheer, and after a primary school grace, we enjoyed our school dinner with lots of laughter and memories of past Christmases and hopes for future ones, and thankfulness for the reason we celebrate that birth in humble surroundings so long ago. Remembering too that, despite not making a sumptuous feast with the best china, glass, cutlery and table linen, we had fed far, far better than too many others in the world.

After the Queen’s Speech, and with more Christmas cheer to keep out the cold, it was time for two of us to go home to telephone our families and with many giggles and hiccups wish them a truly memorable and blessed Christmas, with hopes for a peaceful and fruitful year to follow.

Lesser Lent

From 40 days with the Celtic Saints by David Cole

Celtic Christians believed that the incarnation of Christ was not just shown through Mary in the physical birth of Jesus, but that it is happening all the time through the birth of Jesus spiritually within us—not just once at ‘conversion’, but repeatedly, each time we make the choice to walk in the ways of Christ rather than walk our own way.

Preparation throughout the Lesser Lent also means ensuring that we are ready not only to welcome Christ within ourselves,

but also to welcome him when he returns to reconcile all things to God at the end of the age. Over the 40 days leading up to Christmas, the Celts remembered the three comings of Christ:

- The coming of Christ in physical form as a baby through Mary.
- The coming of Christ into our lives in Spirit, through our faith.
- The coming of Christ at the end of the age to reconcile all things to God.

Christmas carol singing

Mary Dempster reminisces



When we moved into our house in Pitcorthie in the early 1970s, as well as making friends with our neighbours, we discovered carol singers at Christmas time. This we enjoyed so much, especially when our neighbours, Owen and Eileen Purches, told us that singers came from their church – the Methodist Church in Rosyth. Their children, Trevor and Mary, were in the group and, along with Jimmy Lawson, they played their guitars.

A few years later, Ron and I decided to join the Methodist Church and we got involved in the Christmas carol singing. Although Ron was the singer, I shook a can collecting money for National Children's Homes (now Action for Children). As we had a number of young children in the group, I spent a lot of the time rounding them up as they kept on running away to knock on doors – it was great fun.

The first evening we sang in Pitcorthie, ending in the Purches' house where we were treated to supper. The next night we were in the Camden area of Rosyth and supper was at Mrs Rogers' house, Martin's mum.

The third evening we sang in the Woodside Avenue and Middlebank Street area and David and Chris Slater served supper in the Church Crush Hall. When Eileen Purches could no longer manage to entertain us, Dennis and Jean Cook invited us to Alness Grove. We all enjoyed these suppers of hot soup, sausage rolls, mincemeat pies, etc. All these evenings were great fun, especially as members of some of the other churches joined in.

I have lots of happy memories.

Ed: Jimmy and Olive Lawson visited from Queensland in 2010 (letter and photo in our October issue) and there was tribute to Jimmy from those who knew him in our December 2014 issue. Coincidence is a strange thing: only last month we heard from their daughter Christine, asking us to remove Olive from our mailing list. "She can no longer read the small print and does not want you to go this unnecessary expense. She has enjoyed reading it very much over the years. This ends a 75-year relationship between my parents and RMC, though the church will always be in my 92 year-old mother's heart."

Triangles Coffee Shop

A Happy Christmas to all our customers!

Thank you for supporting us throughout the year and helping us to raise £2,300 for charity. Our chosen charities this year include The Scottish Air Ambulance Service, Christmas treats for the Rosyth Foodbank, and other local charities. The money will soon be on the way!

You will be able to enjoy lots of home-made goodies right up to Christmas. We will be open on **Friday 21 December**, so come along and meet your friends and treat yourself to something with a Christmas flavour. In fact, this year we will not be closing over Christmas at all, so we look forward to seeing all our regulars with their friends and relatives on **Friday 28 December** and **Friday 4 January**.



David Slater
sends Christmas
Greetings to all
readers of Contact.

Mary Dēmpster
wishes all her friends
in both congregations
a peaceful, healthy,
happy 2019.

Lesley Yellowlees
wishes friends in both
churches a Happy
Christmas and blessed
New Year.

John Cowell
wishes all friends in both
churches a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

*Thelma and David
Couch* wish everyone
in both congregations the
Season's Blessings.

Dennis Cook
wishes all his
friends at church a
very Happy Christmas
and a good New Year.

*Myra and
Martin Tarr*
wish all their friends
at church a joyous
Christmas and a
peaceful New Year.

Pauline Fisher
wishes all in
both churches a very
Happy Christmas.

Olive Lee wishes everyone
at St Margaret's and Rosyth
Methodist a Happy Christmas
and peaceful New Year.

*Eve and Julie
Denning* send their
Christmas Greetings to
both congregations.

Sheila Lee thanks everyone for
the support she has been given in
2018 and sends her very best wishes
for Christmas and New Year to all
members of our churches.

As you celebrate this
Christmas may you know the
peace of the Prince of Peace.
*Love Helen, Colin,
Caitlin & Oran Jenkins*

Thank you to all those who have decorated our Christmas
tree, and given generously to charity for the privilege!

Messy Church

an update from Gwyneth Kirby



Our November Messy Church had a Christmas theme, since there won't be a Messy Church in December. The children had lots of fun working on some big Christmas pictures which you will be able to see for yourselves in Church.

Why not come along to the Christingle/Café Church Service on **9 December** at **11.00am**? We will be singing lots of favourite carols as we learn the meaning of the Christingle. This will be suitable for all ages.

We are just starting to rehearse our **Messy Church Nativity** (again an all-age event) which we will perform on **Christmas Eve** at **4.00pm**. We have about eight children to play the leading roles, plus Mums and Dads, but there will be a chance for any children who come along on the day to dress up and

take part. We always need lots of shepherds and angels! If you would like a speaking part, then please get in touch with me (01383 624779) and I will let you know when our rehearsals are. If you haven't yet been to one of our Nativity plays you really have been missing a treat – it's just about the best way you could spend an hour (or even less) on Christmas Eve!

For a change this year we will not be having a Messy Church Christmas party. We are hoping to have an outing to the Saturday morning cinema instead. The date has yet to be finalised, but let me know if you would like to be included.

All of us at Messy Church wish you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

What is a Christingle?

Mary Kidd explains

A Christingle is a symbolic object using during the Advent Services of many Christian denominations. Christingle simply means 'Christ Light' and is used to celebrate our Saviour, Jesus Christ, as the Light of the World.

The Christingle can be traced back to Germany in 1747, when it was just a red ruff wrapped around a candle. The tradition only got going here in the UK during the 1960s, when John Penson was raising funds for the charity "The Children's Society". It's now estimated that there will be 6,000 services held – including one here at Rosyth on Sunday morning, **9 December**, which will be led by our Minister, Rev Eddie Sykes. I don't recall there having been a Christingle service since Deborah Cornish's ministry with us earlier this century!

A Christingle usually consists of an orange, representing the world.

- A candle is pushed into the centre of the world, then lit, representing Jesus as the Light of the World.
- A red ribbon placed around the orange represents the blood of Jesus, sacrificed for us.
- Dried fruits, or sweets, are skewered on to cocktail sticks, and pushed into the fruit to represent the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. Cloves may be added as well.

This all sounds like an event not to be missed!



From Hurt to Hope

An invitation from Mary Kidd

This is now the seventh year we have run this “different kind of Christmas service”. The “From Hurt to Hope” service will be held on **Thursday 7 December at 7.00pm** and will be led by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet.

Hope and peace at Christmas can seem impossible at Christmas with all the preparation we put into being ready for the ‘big day’!

Christmas usually brings us joy, cheer and glad tidings, but for many it brings stress, grief and hurt. This may be because of painful memories, the loss of a loved one, financial hardship, a breakdown in personal relationships, or fears for the future and family circumstances.

During the service we will be given a chance to sing and to pray. We can offer up the pain, the loneliness, the sad memories, the anxiety and fear to the one whose birth we eagerly await – Jesus Christ.

Many things have happened this year which make us long for the day when our world will be made new, when there is no more sorrow. We aren’t getting any better as a human race; we don’t seem to learn from history the mistakes man has made.

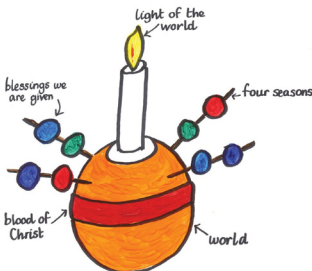


“Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”

Proverbs 13:12

But Jesus wasn’t born into a world where everything was “calm and bright”. We pray that you will find hope and peace in this service, and comfort in knowing that you are not alone in your unhappiness.

All are invited to this service; refreshment will be served afterwards, and there will be a chance to talk to and share your thoughts with Deacon Elizabeth.



For an explanation, see Page 11!

An Advent prayer from the Northumbria community

“Show me, Lord Jesus, how I may best prepare to celebrate Your birth into this world. Show me those things I need to repent of, that I may find Your forgiveness. Show me how to avoid the greed and selfishness of this season and focus on what is truly essential. Amen.”

<https://www.northumbriacommunity.org>

Services at Christmas and the New Year



At our church ...

... on 23 December

- | | | |
|---------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Very Rev Kenny Rathband |
| 11.00am | Methodist Morning Worship | Ms Julia Reid |
| 6.00pm | Sunday@Six | |

The Christmas carol service this year will be a “Christmas Anthology” – a selection of poems old and new that tell the Christmas story. Carols and musical items will be led by the choir and accompanied by the praise band plus friends. Do join us for lots of singing followed by mince pies and cake!
The offering at the service will be for CHAS and Action for Children (Gift-Aid envelopes available).

... on Christmas Eve

- 4.00pm All-age Nativity service

... on Christmas Day

- | | | |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|
| 10.00am | Family Service | Rev Eddie Sykes |
|---------|----------------|-----------------|

... on 30 December

- | | | |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 9.30am | Sung Eucharist | Very Rev Kenny Rathband |
| 11.00am | Morning Worship | Rev Hilda Warwick |

... on 27 January

- | | | |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 11.00am | Joint Covenant Service | Rev Eddie Sykes and Ms Julia Reid |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|

And elsewhere...

... on 23 December

- 11.00am Young Church Nativity at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

...on Christmas Eve

- 3.30pm Christingle Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
6.30pm Christmas Eve Service at Rosyth Parish Church
Refreshments and mince pies served from 6.00pm
8.00pm Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Communion
at St Finnian's, Lochgelly
11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

...on Christmas Day at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

- 8.00am Said Eucharist
10.00am Family Service



Fellowship news – 1

Happy 60th



Alan and Ruby Lucas were married in Rosyth Methodist Church (then in Parkgate) on 27 September 1958 by Rev James Mack BD. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding with a family meal at Pitbauchlie Hotel, less than three weeks after the wedding of their grandson Matthew. Don't they look young!



But their 1958 wedding wasn't the start of their service to the Rosyth Methodist cause – both Ruby and Alan have been members of the Church family for over 70 years.

Remembrance Sunday

With a congregation of well over 80, Mandy Ward would like to offer a big thank-you to the Methodist Church Uniformed Organisations who attended the Centenary Parade Service held on the 11th of the 11th. The service, taken by Louise Gilchrist, covered ages 5 to 94 and was both well-researched and appreciated by all.

Guide Unit

Note the changes to Linda Wallace's contact details on our inside back cover and the meeting times for Guides and Rangers. Note that, as with their Scouting counterparts, the Explorers, the Ranger unit is available to any ex-guide in the district, whereas the Guides are from our Brownies only. If you know any girls aged 14–18 who are at a loose end on a Thursday evening, do encourage them to talk to Linda.

Emails to the Editor

From Susan and Eddie:

Thank you for the very warm welcome that has been extended to us by both the Methodist and St Margaret's congregations. We really enjoyed the welcome evening with Ruth and Kenny on 14 November. Thank you too for the beautiful flowers. We look forward to our journey together as we share in the work that God has for us to do.

From Kenny:

Can I say a massive 'Thank you' to you all from Ruth and myself for the wonderful welcome that has been extended to us. You have all helped with the transition and move and made this a joyful experience. We both very much look forward to our future amongst you all.

Fellowship news – 2



Jock Headden



We were all very saddened to hear of the passing of Jock, the ‘elder statesman’ of St Margaret’s on 10 November, aged 92. We published Contact before Jock’s funeral had taken place (arranged for 1 December), so we offer our own short tribute to him.

Jock was our friend for over 20 years and a loyal member of St Margaret’s since Audrey and he moved back to the area to settle in Dalgety Bay when he retired from the Ministry of Defence in the early 1990s. They joined us at St Margaret’s Naval Base Church, where Jock’s brother, Bob sang in the choir. When the Naval Base Church closed and they came to worship in this church, Jock became our Treasurer (a role he fulfilled for many years), a server and bass member of the choir until a few years ago. He also attended the Retirement Fellowship and after it folded up, Wednesday Fellowship until earlier this year.

Jock carried out his duties in a dignified and quiet way and was a devoted churchman. He had a wry sense of humour, was kind, friendly and courteous to us all – in short he was a real gentleman. Jock always loved to reminisce about his church upbringing in Rosyth as a member of St Andrew & St George, where he learned the art of serving at the altar and sang in the choir.

Jock was also committed to another musical ‘team sport’, having been for nearly 20 years a member of the Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society, where his bass voice supported many a chorus line.

Life in later years was not easy for Jock. He lost his brothers Bob and Harry, with whom he was close, but more devastating for him and Audrey was when their dear son, and our treasured friend, Mark, was cruelly taken from them in his 40s in February 2009. Then in 2016, their nephew, Dr Geoffrey Headden, a lay reader ministering at St Paul’s, Kinlochleven, died very suddenly and unexpectedly, having seen Jock and Audrey earlier in the week. Such was Jock’s faith that he accepted, at least outwardly, these sad losses in his life and showed no bitterness or resentment.

We have happy memories of Jock – celebrating significant birthdays, his ‘retirement’ lunch at Garvock House Hotel in 2015, and his Golden and Diamond Wedding anniversaries. Audrey and he were blessed with over 67 years of marriage.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Audrey and their family at this sad time. We will miss you, Jock – Requiescat In Pace.

Sandra Young



Working together

Wednesday Fellowship

It's said that time flies quickly when one is enjoying oneself! And that is very true when it comes to Wednesday afternoons when we meet for fellowship. Our autumn session has gone by so quickly it's hard to realise that it's almost over!

We have enjoyed listening to our speakers who come to share in the fellowship with us. On our Powerpoint travels we have been on a visit to Vienna, and walked the Fife Pilgrim Way; we have been entertained with Scottish country music, and Puppets for Jesus; we have learned more about organisations within our community, like Rotary International, CHAS, how to stay safe at home and in the street, Street Pastors in Dunfermline, sharing our food and produce at The Hub, and learning more and being aware of climate change. Such a variety and we do thank those who have been to share with us.

Now we have our winter break following the festive lunch at Aberdour on 13 December. During that time our committee will meet to plan the Spring session. Our membership numbers have increased significantly this term, so we must be getting something right! We may have to look for a larger room to accommodate us all, in order to comply with fire regulations and all that! Watch this space!

In the meantime, I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, and a peaceful, blessed New Year.

Mary Kidd

Rosyth Foodbank

Many thanks as always to both congregations for your generous contributions to the Foodbank. So much thought goes into your regular gifts, and you always respond so well to the requests in the news sheets for items in short supply. The Foodbank is not taken for granted by the majority of our users and your kind donations make a big difference for people experiencing difficulties.

It is so good that our "seasonal" requests are answered, and it makes a pleasant change to be able to pop a selection box, extra-nice biscuits or other Christmas items into someone's basic supply bag. I wish you could see how surprised and pleased the recipients are.

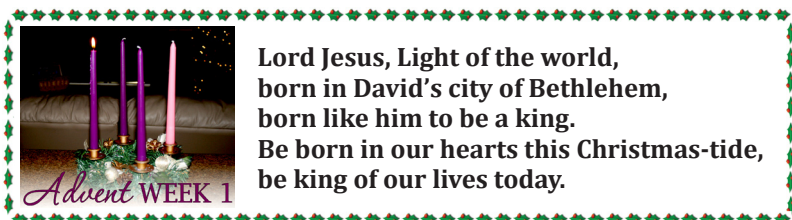
Without your regular bags of goodies and the supermarket collections Foodbanks could not function, so a heartfelt and very grateful thank you.

Erica Lock

Macmillan Coffee Morning

A cheque for £423.48 has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support, the sum raised by our Triangles teams from our contribution to the 'Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning' held on Friday 28 September. A big thank-you to all who baked, served, attended and ate on that day.

Dave Ward



Invitations and requests



Seasonal lunch

The Christmas/New Year lunch will be on **Thursday 10 January 2018 at 12noon for 12.30pm** at the Hideaway, Kingseat Road, Halbeath.

Dennis Cook

Memorial Book update

An update of the Memorial Book will be carried out in January/February. Please give names to be added to Mary Kidd.

Ideas needed for Sunday@Six

This session will have seen four very different evenings: a presentation by young people; evensong led by a visiting choir; an audio-visual reflection on remembrance; a 'carol service with a difference'.

A hard act to follow! For 2019, we're having a break in the winter months, starting again on 3 March, and Sandra Young would love to have your ideas and offers for evenings with variety and a broad appeal.

Called to pray?

Would *you* like to contribute a prayer to the 2019/20 Methodist Prayer Handbook? The Handbook will explore how we are called to respond to the gospel by demonstrating God's love, grace and generosity.

The call for submissions by 11 January 2019 is for both short prayers and images to help bring the prayer to life. More information at <http://tinyurl.com/ybvwkucj>.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

Luke 6:46 (NIV)

"Say it with flowers"

Two new lists will appear on the notice board in December for you to add your name as donor, or arranger, for 2019. Please indicate if you are willing to supply the flowers, or arrange them – maybe both. Perhaps you have a special date, an anniversary or birthday you wish to commemorate in this way.

I would like to thank all those people who have supplied flowers, and given money for flowers during the last year. This is an important part of our ministry of our church. Not only do they add beauty to our worship area in the sanctuary, and add to the welcome cheer in the Crush Hall, they are also appreciated by recipients afterwards, maybe in the comfort of their home when a visit is made. Please let me, or the Duty Steward, know of anyone who is ill at home and would appreciate flowers.

Visiting cards and a record book are kept in the flower cupboard in the back entrance room; these are helpful to those who are distributing these messages of good cheer with love from our church.

Thanks also to those people who have taken time and care to arrange the flowers during the year: Jennifer Irvin and Lesley Yellowlees. Thanks are also due to Dave Ward, who 'manages' the Methodist Flower Fund. Any contributions to the fund may be passed on to him – please inform him if you are a Gift-Aider.

Mary Kidd, Methodist Flower Secretary

"Let your light
so shine before
men" illustrated
in flowers at
our June 2016
Flower Festival





Making music for Christmas



A number of musical events involving members of our partnership are taking place before Christmas:

Wednesday 5 December at 7.00pm

The **Naval charity Aggies** is arranging a carol concert which will be held at Rosyth Methodist Church. Entry is free but a wee donation to Aggies after the concert will be appreciated. The concert will feature the Rosyth Military Wives Choir and has been widely advertised within the Naval estate and dockyard, so it is hoped that some of the officers and crew from HMS Prince of Wales will be able to join us. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Saturday 8 December at 3.00pm and 7.30pm

Dunfermline Choral Union's Christmas Concerts of Seasonal Music takes place at the Vine Venue. This is an ideal way to take some calm, enjoyable time away from the Christmas preparations and get you into the Christmas mood. Tickets are £12 (standard), £10 (seniors and students) or £5 (U18 including school students). Get your tickets now as these concerts are very popular. See Gwyneth Kirby or Myra Tarr.

Wednesday 12 December and Thursday 13 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Concert in Dunfermline Abbey by the **Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines**, Scotland, and supported by The Rotary Club of Dunfermline. Tickets £12.50 from the Carnegie Box Office, or The Gift Shop, Queensferry Road, Rosyth. In support of local and service charities.



a musical
angel from
the choir
stalls at
Bath Abbey

Thursday 13 December at 7.30pm

Christmas Concert with Kingdom Singers in Gillespie Church, Chapel Street, Dunfermline. Come along and enjoy an evening of Christmas music. Join in some carol singing with the choir and enjoy some Christmas refreshments. What better way is there to get in the mood for Christmas? Tickets £10, concessions £7, Associate members £6, including Christmas refreshments. See Ann Duly if you would like tickets or get them at the door on the night.

Sunday 16 December at 2.00pm and 4.00pm

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society is presenting its annual Christmas Concert in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Tickets cost £8 (adults) and £4 (children) and can be obtained from Adrian Masson (St Margaret's congregation) or by emailing kirkcaldyorchestralsociety@gmail.com or phoning 07770 332812.

As in previous years the orchestra will be sharing the concert with the Langtoun Singers and Sandra Wilson will be narrating the tale of the Red Etin. Other works included will be the Christmas Overture by Nigel Hess, Christmas Memories arranged by Bruce Chase, a Christmas Sequence comprising popular classical pieces and a carol sing along with the orchestra and choir.

Sunday 16 December at 3.00pm

"Christmas Crackers" – some of your favourite Christmas music played by a group from **Rosyth Concert Band** in Rosyth Parish Church. Come and join in a perfect warm-up to Christmas. Tickets £7, concessions £6, children free, available from the church or at the door.

Diary for December 2018

Sunday 2 December

Advent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Lyn Smalridge

Note: No Sunday@Six

6.30pm Advent Carol Service in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth
All churches in the Diocese are invited to attend

Monday 3 Dec 7.30pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Week 2 of "A Strange Christmas" (see Page 6)

Tuesday 4 Dec 7.00pm Carol Concert – and Light Up the Christmas Lights,
Rosyth Parish Church (see Page 6)
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
7.00pm Aggies Christmas Service (see page 18)
7.00pm Circuit Meeting, Livingston United Parish Church

Thursday 6 Dec 7.00pm "From Hurt to Hope", a service for people who find
Christmas a difficult time Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
(see page 12)

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 (see page 18)

Sunday 9 December

Advent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Christingle service	Rev Eddie Sykes
	3.30pm	"Words and music for Advent" at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	

4.30pm Taizé-inspired service for Advent at St Finnian's,
Lochgelly (refreshments from 3.45pm) (see page 30)

Monday 10 Dec 7.30pm Ecumenical Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Week 3 of "A Strange Christmas" (see Page 6)

Diary for December 2018

Tuesday 11 Dec 10.00am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Note: Next meeting 8 January 2019

Wednesday 12 Dec 12.30pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Christmas Lunch at Woodside Hotel, Aberdour

Note: Wednesday Fellowship resumes on 6 February 2019

7.30pm Christmas Concert by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Scotland, Dunfermline Abbey (see page 18)

Thursday 13 Dec 7.30pm Christmas Concert by the Kingdom Singers at Gillespie Church, Chapel Street, Dunfermline (see page 18)

7.30pm Christmas Concert by the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, Scotland, Dunfermline Abbey (see page 18)

Friday 14 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 16 December

Advent 3 11.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Note: No Traidcraft stall today

2.00pm Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society 'Fact and Fiction' Christmas
and 4.00pm Concert with The Langtoun Singers, in Old Kirk,
Kirkcaldy (see page 18)

3.00pm Christmas Crackers played by a group from Rosyth
Concert Band in Rosyth Parish Church (see page 18)

7.00pm Advent Carol Service for the Benarty & Lochgelly
Churches Together, accompanied by the Lochgelly Brass
Band, St Kenneth and St Bernard's Roman Catholic
Church, Ballingry (see page 30)

Monday 17 Dec 7.30pm Ecumenical Advent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Week 4 of "A Strange Christmas" (see Page 6)

Friday 21 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

The Advent candle prayers sprinkled throughout this issue are taken from Michael Paterson's Advent liturgy booklet, the introduction to which is on page 4.

Diary for December 2018/January 2019

Sunday 23 December

Advent 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Julia Reid
	11.00am	Young Church Nativity at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six "Christmas Anthology": Offering in aid of CHAS and Action for Children (see page 13)	

Monday 24 December

Christmas Eve	3.30pm	Christingle Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	
	4.00pm	All-age Nativity service	
	6.30pm	Christmas Eve Service at Rosyth Parish Church. Refreshments and mince pies served from 6.00pm	
	8.00pm	Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Communion at St Finnian's, Lochgelly	Rev Dr Margaret Dineley
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Day	8.00am	Said Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	
	10.00am	Family Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
Friday 28 Dec	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	

Sunday 30 December

Christmas 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Hilda Warwick
Friday 4 Jan	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	

Sunday 6 January

The Epiphany	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Jane Peers

Note: No Sunday@Six

Diary for January/February 2019

Monday 7 Jan 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
 Tuesday 8 Jan 10.00am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns
 Thursday 10 Jan 12.00pm Seasonal lunch at the Hideaway, Kingseat Road, Halbeath
 Friday 11 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 13 January

Epiphany 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 11.00am Morning Worship Miss Anne Baird
 4.30pm Taizé-inspired service at St Finnian's, Lochgelly
 preceded by refreshments at 3.45pm (see page 30)

Monday 14 Jan 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Friday 18 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 20 January

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

Epiphany 3 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Louise Gilchrist

Monday 21 Jan 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 22 Jan 10.00am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns
 7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Room 5 (tbc)

Friday 25 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 27 January

Homeless Sunday 10.30am Messy Church
 11.00am Joint Covenant Service
 Rev Eddie Sykes and Ms Julia Reid

Monday 28 Jan 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Friday 1 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice

Diary for February 2019

Sunday 3 February

Candlemas	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Julia Reid

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 4 Feb	7.00pm	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 5 Feb	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	
Wednesday 6 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Opening meeting	
Friday 8 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Every church needs its Marthas!

Some examples from this issue ...

Sometimes people wonder what they can 'bring to the party', so we thought we'd give three examples of activities that don't fall into the mainstream categories of doing things in public that we might immediately think of as being 'Christian service', but still need willing workers.

On **page 35**, Ross Stirling-Young tells us about the fund-raising Charity Curry Night held at St Finnian's. Now a Curry Night is nothing without the right food(!) – in the photo on the left we see Dorissia and Ray 'stirring the pot'.

On **page 34**, Sue Masson talks about the good that can come from a bit of spare time, a pillow case or a few odd balls of wool, allied to needlework skill.



On **page 17**, Mary Kidd pays a rare tribute to those who decorate the church every week – not to mention the teams who faithfully clean it, for which artistry is not needed, but dedication is!



Kenny Rathband, our new priest-in-charge

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

Rosyth these days is a place of new beginnings, with three new clergy, and at St Margaret's we've been delighted to welcome Kenny Rathband and his wife Ruth. They moved into the Holy Trinity manse in Dunfermline a month ago, and Kenny was formally instituted as Holy Trinity's rector and priest-in-charge at St Margaret's by Bishop Ian at a service on 3 November that Val reports on elsewhere in this issue (page 27).

Kenny's ministry is like that of Eddie Sykes in having a wider perspective than the local church. In Kenny's case he is Dean of the Diocese of St Andrew's, Dunkeld and Dunblane, so he's technically The Very Rev Kenny, though he prefers to be called Kenny! Being Dean involves supporting the Bishop in many different ways – for example, in discussions, being on major diocesan committees, and assisting churches during periods of vacancy – as well as being part of the Chapter of St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth. So Kenny is another minister that has to juggle his diary, but he should be getting rather good at 'plate spinning' after 11 years as Dean!

Kenny is unusual for a Contact interviewee, having spent all his life in Scotland, and having parents and sister still alive and living locally! Born in Edinburgh, Kenny and his parents lived for a few years in Musselburgh until the family moved back to Edinburgh. So his education started at Bruntsfield Primary School and continued at Boroughmuir High School. Kenny compensated for the shortness of the walk to school by exerting himself on the playing field. He particularly enjoyed rugby, playing at scrum half throughout his schooldays.

Kenny gave up rugby at 18 because "he was getting confused with the ball!", but continues to love sport, and takes an interest in professional rugby and football, though his participation is now mostly walking, cycling and skiing.

Kenny had another type of education, one that was at least as important, at Christ Church, Morningside. Kenny joined the choir aged just 7, and enjoyed 15 years spent in the stalls. So Kenny knows both the tune and the bass part, though he found his transitional tenor part rather difficult to follow.



Alongside the singing, Kenny moved from Sunday School to Youth Fellowship, where he and his friends were blessed by support from a wonderful team of clergy, with a rector, a curate and a retired priest, supplemented by ordinands on placement.



Between them they helped Kenny through the discernment process that started with a sense of calling that Kenny felt when he was in his mid-teens. His friends must also have been nurtured effectively, because four of his Youth Fellowship cohort became ordained!

Kenny was not exclusively Episcopalian, also enjoying Boys Brigade with the local Church of Scotland company.

Kenny is grateful that he didn't go straight to college, but left school at 18 and spent four years as a teller at the Clydesdale Bank, at a time "when banking was good". So he knows what it's like to have a 9-to-5 job, and gained valuable insight into what working people think.

Throughout this period Kenny studied at night school to get the extra qualifications needed for his vocational training. Having passed the selection conference in January 1982, Kenny started later that year as an ordinand at Coates Hall Theological College. Here his four-year course led to an Edinburgh University degree in theology, his study schedule being disciplined by Morning and Evening Prayer at 7:30am and 6:00pm! Especially valuable course elements were church attachments and "Pastoral Study Units" where he learnt on the job in challenging environments. These included St Columba's Hospice and the former Gogarburn Hospital.

Kenny was ordained Deacon in 1986 and served first at All Souls', Invergowrie in the Diocese of Brechin. Kenny lived in Invergowrie, and also worked as part of the team at St Paul's Cathedral Dundee. Priested in 1987, Kenny's responsibilities transferred to Dundee, to St Martin's, Derby Street, and St John the Baptist, Albert Street, serving the communities at Hilltown and Stobswell.



Kenny then moved to Edinburgh, where he spent a fulfilling year as assistant priest at St Philip's and St James', Goldenacre (the church where our former curate, Tembu Rongong, is now rector), before transferring to our diocese in 1991, where he became Rector of St Catharine's, Blairgowrie, St Anne's, Coupar Angus and St Ninian's, Alyth, and also had pastoral care of St Michael's, Ballintuim.

Kenny has spent the last 27 years in the countryside north-east of Perth, and is a well-kent figure in the area. He looks forward to making friends in his new environment.





Bishop Ian and Kenny at the
Diocesan evensong on 28 October

His service to the Church in our diocese was recognised when in 2005 he was elected by his peers as a Canon of St Ninian's Cathedral. Two years later, Bishop David Chillingworth also honoured Kenny by appointing him as Dean of the Diocese. That appointment is the personal gift of the bishop, and Kenny is both gratified and humbled by the fact that our new bishop, Ian Paton, has extended his tenure as Dean.

In all this, Kenny has been supported by his wife Ruth, who has her own career as a creative writer with a novel and a stage play already to her credit, and more in the pipeline. Kenny says that "He does the spoken word; Ruth the written word". Between them, Kenny and Ruth have five children, all in their 30s. Two of their children live relatively locally, with two more in London, and one in Norway.



Kenny sees his role in the local church as bringing support, encouragement and leadership, and has an openness of mind to working alongside others. But he was clear that he's not here to "reinvent the wheel" for any current work, though he might eventually suggest some redirection. He stressed that what is done has to be rooted in prayer – we should be asking for guidance as to how to share the Good News – and reminded us that "everyone can pray"

When it comes to talking to other people, Kenny gave a helpful illustration of having a set of imaginary keys that we use to unlock a relationship with them. Different people 'open up' with different keys. So we need to be flexible in our way of communicating with the people we come in contact with. These are many and varied: Kenny spoke about the occasion when he and Ruth were being moved into the rectory, and opening up conversations with the ten (!) removal men, who were curious about what he did.

Apart from sport, Kenny is still passionate about encouraging and enabling people to share their faith – "being who we are in the marketplace" – and giving having them "the confidence they need in any situation, not to run away from it, but to encounter it".

Kenny's institution

Valerie Leslie reports



The day of Kenny's institution was thankfully fair: after the wind and rain of the night before, it seemed that God was favouring all with a good day! I had been chosen to present the Host to Kenny along with a dear friend from Holy Trinity, Stephen Ballinger, whom I have known for too many years to mention.

The service began at 11.00am, but Erica and I were at the church much earlier! I was delighted to note that most of the hymns came from Common Ground, the first of these being "Longing for Light". The congregation and choir were in great voice and made the rafters ring!

Kenny was presented to Bishop Ian by Linda Sherwood and our own Alan Taylor. The first reading was Isaiah 61:1-3 beautifully read by a member of Holy Trinity congregation. After the second hymn - "Brother, sister, let me serve you" - the Gospel was read by our own Rev Michael Paterson - Luke 22:24-27.

Bishop Ian's sermon reminded us all that we should allow Christ to be our servant and in doing so we can become servants of Christ. The Bishop reminded the congregation that Kenny would minister with love, but he was not superhuman - he can't do everything that needs to be done in a parish, especially when there are two churches involved. The long list of expectations that some congregations expect a priest to undertake would exhaust Superman!

After the sermon the hymn "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire" was sung and the Licensing began.

It was at this point that, along with the young church, Stuart Gray, Ross Kennedy, Gordon Pryde and Linda Sherwood, Stephen and I presented the gifts of office. When it was our turn Stephen and I said "Kenny, take this bread and this wine and be among us to break the bread and bless the cup".

After receiving the keys of Holy Trinity and St Margaret's from Linda and Gordon, the Bishop lead Kenny to his place by the choir stall and Kenny led the intercessions. Other hymns during the service were: "I, the Lord of sea and sky", "Be still in the presence of the Lord", "O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray" and "Lord for the years". The choir also sang an anthem.

I must thank both Erica Lock and Lesley Yellowlees for the sterling job they did helping with the refreshments. It was a long day for both ladies and quite hard work! Well done, Erica and Lesley.

I also wish to thank the Rev Eddie Sykes and members of the Methodist congregation for sharing in Holy Trinity and St Margaret's joyful day. It truly was a joyful event! We look forward to sharing Kenny with Holy Trinity and hope that there will be many joyous occasions where brotherly and sisterly love can be shared among the congregations of St Margaret's, Rosyth Methodist Church and Holy Trinity.

Kenny, you are very, very welcome, and we look forward to many years shared on our journey to knowing God's love. "Be among us to break the bread and bless the cup". Amen.



Bishop Ian's consecration

Val Leslie attended in her official capacity as our Lay Representative

On 20 October 2018 Ian Paton was consecrated as the Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. I found myself travelling to Perth on the bus with several of Bishop Ian's previous congregation from Old St Paul's, Edinburgh. I was delighted to have coffee with them in a lovely wee coffee shop just down from the cathedral and then show them how to get to St Ninian's. They were a lovely group of parishioners who all spoke lovingly of Bishop Ian and his wife and how much they would miss him.

The service was an all-ticket occasion and I was delighted to be there with Erica Lock, my right-hand woman!

Erica and I both agree that the consecration service was stunning. The choir was sublime and the organist's skill was epic! The

anthems were beautifully sung by the joint choirs of Old St Paul's and the Cathedral choir. For details of the service, please see the notice board in the crush hall where I have pinned up the Order of Service.

It was evident from the rousing applause after the service that Bishop Ian was a popular choice as Bishop, his love and humility shone through, and his smile was as warm as the applause! The refreshments after the service were as usual rather special and, when the Bishop came in to say a few words to those present, he received yet another rousing round of applause. God was truly present in the joyous celebration. Bishop Ian will lead the diocese with love and humility and it is hoped that it will not be too long before he and his wife come to be among us in worship at St Margaret's.

Welcome Service

Sandra Young reports on a very happy occasion

Although Kenny was instituted at Holy Trinity on 3 November, we were delighted to formally welcome him as our Priest-in-Charge here on Wednesday 14 November. Ruth, his wife, and Eddie and Susan Sykes, sat in the congregation as Martin Tarr led the short service. The three well-known hymns (two by Charles Wesley), complemented by the anthem "Go forth into the world in peace" sung by the choir, the readings from Isaiah 42.1-9 and Mark 12.28-34 read by Adrian Masson and Olive Lee, and Martin's thoughtful intercessions, made it a meaningful and joyful act of worship. Val Leslie, as our lay representative, welcomed Kenny and Mary Kidd welcomed Eddie, although Eddie has been with us since September! Also in the congregation was

Rev Brian Dobby, inducted as minister of the Parish Church the previous week, his wife Debbie, and Morag, Deacon CS.

After the service we mingled and chatted informally in the Crush Hall over a splendid spread provided by Pam Pryde and friends. Lesley Yellowlees welcomed Ruth and Susan, and Pauline Fisher and Sandra Wilson presented them with flowers. This was a lovely evening of fellowship and friendship – such a happy occasion to welcome our new ministers, for what we hope will lead to further strengthening of our Local Ecumenical Partnership.

Our grateful thanks to all who helped to make the evening so enjoyable.

Area Council update

Val Leslie reports



The final Area Council meeting of 2018 took place at St Margaret's Episcopal Church Rosyth at 7.30pm on 21 November. I am in debt once more to my good friend Erica Lock, who did a sterling job putting together a lovely spread of cake, scones and yummy chocolate delicacies. Erica seems to live at the church hall on a Wednesday as she stays on after Wednesday Fellowship to set up for occasions just like Area Council. My thanks also go to those in the congregation who attend Area Council, they know who they are!

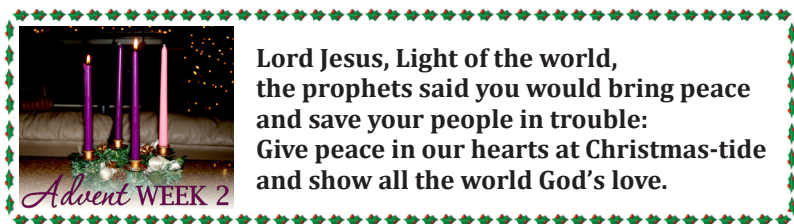
Our own Jan Benvie gave a really interesting talk on the Third Order of the Society of St Francis. Jan told us of the aims of the Order which are: To spread the knowledge and love of Christ, to promote the way of love and unity with all creation, and to live joyfully a life of humble service.

Jan used a Powerpoint presentation which was both interesting and thought-provoking. Jan spoke about the Third Order's personal Rule which is firmly rooted in the Holy Eucharist, penitence, personal prayer, self-denial, retreat, study, simplicity, place in society, work, family and obedience. I have placed information about the Third Order of the Society of St Francis on the notice-board in the Crush Hall. It is well worth a read and I am sure Jan would be happy to chat about her experience as a tertiary member of the Franciscan order.

Jan was happy to answer questions after her presentation and it was clear that the Area Council members were fascinated by the Rule of the Third Order. Jan spoke of the Franciscan concern for justice and peace in the world, much needed in these troubled times. The Franciscan way of life is life-long and is certainly not an easy option, but it is deeply satisfying. All Franciscans share a concern for justice and peace, seeing all people and all creation as brother and sister, after the example of Francis.

After Jan's presentation and the usual Area Council business was concluded we said compline. It was really nice to be able to conclude such an interesting meeting in this way. I am always humbled and comforted that at the end of every Area Council meeting we stand together, holding hands to say the Grace together.

It is hoped that at some point next year Bishop Ian will come to be amongst us at Area Council. It will be a case of "watch this space". To those who are regular attenders at Area Council meetings, I humbly ask you to keep coming, and for those who haven't been before, why not come along? It is a great way of meeting other diocesan members in the West Fife area and hearing what they have been doing to look outward in the community around them. With prayer and God's grace we will continue to look for new and interesting ways of serving the communities of West Fife.





News from the Diocese



The College of Bishops is designating 2021 as a Provincial Year of Pilgrimage. The Rt Rev Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney, who will act as lead bishop in this initiative, says: "In this designated year of pilgrimage we will be encouraging as many people as possible to make a holy journey of some kind. This can include taking part in an organised pilgrimage or spending time individually or in groups simply focussing on our own spiritual journeys."

Over the coming year there will be various opportunities suggested to start planning a Pilgrimage in 2021. This might involve:

- walking a pilgrim route, ancient or new, or visiting a holy place
- congregations travelling together to visit another church in their Diocese or in the Province
- taking the opportunities offered in this year to walk the Camino or to visit the Holy Land
- making a spiritual "journey of the heart and mind" in one's own home



It is expected that most activities will be organised at a local or Diocesan level and it is hoped that many activities will be ecumenical.

As the initiative is developed, updates and information will be shared on the Provincial and Diocesan websites and social media. If anyone has ideas or resources they would like to share at this initial stage please contact Bishop Anne on bishop@aberdeen.anglican.org.

More information at
<http://tinyurl.com/y7nlap32>

Ed: As reported in our last issue, three of our congregation enjoyed a very successful Diocesan pilgrimage in July along the last part of the new Fife Pilgrim Way from Ceres to St Andrews. What should we be planning for 2021 ... or 2019, come to that!

Happenings at Lochgelly

Margaret Dineley has arranged a series of monthly Taizé services for the winter months. The next, on **Sunday 9 December**, is an Taizé-inspired service for Advent in hope, joy and anticipation. There will also be a service on **13 January**.

Taizé services are quiet, reflective services, a peaceful way to start our week. The services begin at **4.30pm**, but there will be fellowship and refreshments in the hall from 3.45pm. Margaret has extended an invitation to join her and her congregation at St Finnian's, where we can be assured

of a warm welcome. It was good that Alan attended the service in November, so perhaps some of us can go along on 9 December for some peace and calm during the frantic run-up to Christmas.

Also in the Area on **16 December at 7.00pm** the Benarty & Lochgelly Churches Together are holding their annual Advent Carol Service accompanied by the Lochgelly Brass Band, at St Kenneth and St Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Ballingry. Again, Margaret extends an invitation to join them.

Keeping the show on the road



St Margaret's AGM

The AGM on Wednesday 28 November was attended by 15 members, who braved the atrocious weather. This was an informed meeting and the annual reports previously passed to the congregation were all very well received. Our finances remain in a reasonably healthy state and we made a small surplus of £488 last year. Our overall budget for 2018/19 was similar to that for the previous year and had been approved by Vestry at their meeting on 30 October. Rev Kenny thanked all who had contributed with reports and also offered special thanks to Sandra and Gordon for all their work both upfront and behind the scenes.

Kenny thanked the congregation on behalf of Ruth and himself for the warm welcome they had received and already, after less than four weeks here, St Margaret's felt like home and Kenny was thoroughly enjoying being with us. He is passionate about people sharing the Gospel and sees his role to support and encourage us in all we do. Kenny is looking forward to working with Rev Eddie to help develop our partnership

with Rosyth Methodist Church. Kenny also expressed his grateful thanks to Michael Paterson for looking after us during the interregnum and who we will continue to see here in future.

Our lay representative, Valerie Leslie, and our alternate, Erica Lock, were re-elected to serve for another year. Colin Dolbear, our new independent examiner for the 2017/18 accounts, had intimated to Gordon that he is willing to continue for this financial year.

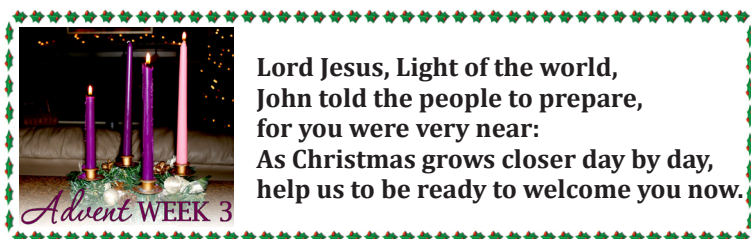
Members of the Vestry for the next year remain the same: Jan Benvie (also PVG co-ordinator), Sue Forman, Valerie Leslie (ex officio), Erica Lock, Gordon Pryde, Myra Tarr, Alan Taylor, Lesley Yellowlees and Sandra Young. The secretary and treasurer will be appointed at the January Vestry meeting.

The meeting finished with said Compline from the Scottish Prayer Book.

Minutes of the meeting will be available shortly and will be distributed to all members of St Margaret's.

Sandra Young

Both our churches have established methods of giving pastoral support to members of the church and congregation, and most of the work done necessarily goes unpublished. However, there are occasions where a mention in our Fellowship news section would be appropriate. If you hear items of news concerning members of the fellowship, whether for information, for rejoicing, or to inform our prayers, please let the Editor know, and please *don't* assume that someone else will!



**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near:
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.**



Issue 100

A greeting from a former minister and her husband

Greetings to all our friends from Deborah and John.

How time flies! Congratulations on the production of the 100th edition of *Contact*. A tribute to the editors and the contributors.

Fourteen years ago, we moved into the Dalgety Bay Manse full of anticipation for this new life of ministry ahead of us. And what great times they were! Now, following eight years in Hereford South and East, we have ended up in Brighton. Deborah has responsibility for the Sussex part of the South East District as Assistant District Chair, Dorset Gardens Methodist Church in Brighton, and Woodingdean Methodist Church on the outskirts. There is, as usual, never a dull moment. It is a huge job, certainly not the wind-down into retirement a person should have, or not! As I write Deborah is about to get on a plane to Gibraltar which, with Malta is another of her responsibilities. Deborah's ministry is about pastoral care and development of the superintendent ministers of the district, the mission work associated with Dorset Gardens (have a look at the website), and the faithful community at Woodingdean who are striving to make a real difference in their community.



We are both very grateful for the time in ministry in The Kingdom of Fife and Granton and especially grateful to Mary for not only keeping us up to date with *Contact* but for bringing us your love and prayers.

Christmas love and greetings

Deborah and John

Ed: It was very reassuring to find on the website (<http://www.dgmc.org.uk/>) to which John refers evidence that Cornish Cream Teas are still a feature of John and Deborah's ministry!

Are we really 100?

The Editor asks if you can fill in the gaps about our early life ...

We don't have any old file copies to verify this, but it seems likely that our current issue numbering – which has just hit the ton, as John Cornish reminded us – started with the setting up of our LEP in 2000, though the 'Contact' name was used by the former magazine issued by Rosyth Methodist Church, as evidenced by the November 1990 issue in the archive.

Unfortunately our web archive is only complete from Issue 47, though it contains some issues from Issue 31. So, if you have earlier issues that we could borrow to scan and add to our collection, please do get in touch – your treasured copies will be returned to you safely after scanning. The old issues make interesting reading, and illustrate how things have changed!

World Day of Prayer 2019

Mary Kidd has some good news to share ...



In August I gave an update on what is happening for the World Day of Prayer movement, both locally, nationally and internationally, and told you that our Scottish National Committee had put in a bid to host the next International Conference (held every five years). The next International Conference will be in 2022, nearly four years away yet, but I'm delighted to let you know that our bid was successful. Our friends on the Committees of England, Wales and Ireland will be the 'writing country' for 2022. The work for that has already begun.

In September, I was delighted to meet with our sisters down south, in the Friends' Meeting House in London, and to share with them our ideas and prayers for what lies ahead for us all. The Executive Director WDPIC, Roseangela Oliveira, and Laurence Gangloff, the International Chairwoman, came to see us on Thursday last week to talk about the initial plans for hosting

the Conference in June 2022. They, with members of the Scottish Committee, then went to visit the John McIntyre Centre where the event will be held for one week. Lots of discussion, ideas, friendship, laughter and fun were part of their two days together. Many people are already involved in the planning, and within a year or two, I will be listing some suggestions as to where your help, in any capacity, will be needed and appreciated.

Locally, our 2019 service will be hosted by St Margaret's here in Rosyth. All the material required for that is already stored away in the vestry/office and will come to light in January. The service will be on **Friday 1 March at 2.00pm**, and Lesley Yellowlees will be the contact who will advise on the preparation a bit nearer the time. Watch this space!

Watching the clock

The Editor "takes time out" to visit an exhibition

Have you noticed how often we talk or write about time? In this issue I lost count after finding 30 different examples!

Time is, of course, used in several distinct ways: in the sense of a specific time, such as "the time of Advent" or "nearer the time"; meaning a period as in "this sad time"; almost being a commodity, as in "taking the time"; or associated with action, as in "time to take a break".

And in Advent we're reminded that time is short and of uncertain duration:

"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matthew 24:36)

While in London last month we visited Tate Modern to see "The Clock 2010", an 'installation' by Christian Marclay that has captivated audiences across the world.

The installation is a montage of thousands of film and television images of clocks, edited together so they show the actual time. You can imagine where the clip from "4.50 from Paddington" comes!

The Clock is 24 hours long, but we enjoyed the hour we had to spare. Highly recommended as a journey through cinema history, and it's open until 20 January 2019.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens - " (Ecclesiastes 3:1)



Leading Change Uganda

Sue Masson talks about turning craft skills into practical aid



Leading Change Uganda is a not-for-profit organisation that was started by a group of young people in Uganda who wanted to see change in their world.



I have recently had a letter from Lilian, thanking us all for our efforts – this year they have managed to find sponsors for 50 children, bought 25 mattresses for the children who stay at school during the week (they previously had to sleep on the earth floor), and provided basic clothing and school materials for another 50! Thank you so much to all who have knitted and sewn – the fruits of your labours are always received with joy!

Ed: You can find the charity on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/LeadingChangeUganda/>



Linda Mitchell, who used to be Depute Head teacher at Donibristle Primary School, and who has visited the Wednesday Fellowship, collects dresses, jumpers, blankets, flipflops, school items etc. and sends them directly to the coordinator, Lilian, in Kampala for distribution to the villages of Bawaali and BBanga. She has also been out to Uganda and worked with the women and children, teaching and encouraging them to start up their own micro-projects.

Our craft group has been busy making dresses and re-useable sanitary towels, and Jennifer and friends have knitted lots of jumpers and hats – It's amazing what can you do with a bit of spare time, a pillow case or a few odd balls of wool, isn't it?



Arunima Hospice update

Ross Stirling-Young gives us the latest update



In my last update regarding the Arunima Hospice, you may remember I began by sharing the sad news of the passing of Jeet, one of the much loved children living at the hospice, aged 7. Furthermore, I shared the distressing news about the damage to the new roof caused by monsoon rains.

In this update, I begin with good news, and it feels so appropriate to share such good news as we approach the time of Advent. The photo below is of the recent newborn at the hospice, Maitree, which means friend.



On another note, the damage caused by the previous monsoon storms has been repaired and the new roof fully fitted. The total cost of this was far more than estimated but I'm so delighted the cost was met. One way the additional funds were raised was from a Charity Curry Night held on Friday 5 October at St Finnian's in Lochgelly.

The night was a great success with superb food, a fun quiz, an informative presentation, henna tattoos and great socialising. We raised £640 towards the hospice roof repairs. I'm very grateful to all who

attended, including support from members and friends of St Margaret's Rosyth. I'm also very thankful for all the effort that Dorissia and Pam put into creating an Indian-themed feast, for Gordon assisting with crockery and Martin for designing the professional looking menus. I consider St Margaret's and St Finnian's to have a special connection, it's hard to explain but you can certainly feel it. And it's not just me that talks about this either ... I'm continually grateful for all your support and prayers.

Next Project

There have been so many changes at the Arunima Hospice from LED lighting, to a new girl's dormitory, from a new roof to new beds and painting of the internal rooms. I suppose it would be easy to say a lot has been done and perhaps it's time to take a break or think of some other charity. But when I was asked the question "What next?" at a recent presentation to the Cowdenbeath Rotary Club, it was so easy for me to think of many different "what next" scenarios. If costs hadn't increased for the roof, I would estimate that there would be around £2,500 in the pot towards the new bus. At a cost of £10,000 there is some way to go, but pennies make pounds, and each fundraising event (no matter how small) adds to the total. Just to remind readers, it is highly unsafe for the children to walk freely around the area in which they live and attend school. There are still very real issues surrounding HIV and stigma/discrimination. The bus would allow them a sense of freedom that they currently don't have – an ability to travel to school more easily, to attend hospital appointments and attend more outings.

Thanks for taking the time to read my latest update.

In Christian love, Ross



A Scout Group Anniversary event

Martin Rogers (Assistant Group Scout Leader) reports

As a special event for our anniversary year we held a long weekend in October at the PGL Centre at Dalguise. A total of 31 cubs, scouts, explorer scouts and leaders took part.



The weather was not too bad for the time of year: it was dry but cold on the Saturday and we had some rain on the Sunday and on the Monday morning.



There were also two night-time activities – ambush and a (rather disappointing) camp fire. Accommodation was in a wooden lodge and our meals were provided – no cooking and no washing up – what luxury!



There were ten activities in our programme for the weekend – canoeing, challenge course, aeroball, climbing, tree climb, zip wire, abseiling, raft building, sports and team games and fencing.



The numbers attending were a bit lower than expected, probably because of family commitments during the school holidays. However, those who attended had a good time and enjoyed some new experiences.



**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
blessed is Gabriel who brought good news;
blessed is Mary your mother and ours.
Bless your Church preparing for Christmas;
and bless us your children who long for your coming.**



Choral Evensong for Harvest

At our October service we welcomed a small choir of doctors and consultants working across NHS Forth Valley, directed by Philip Hacking, from their Spiritual Care Team.

The choir sang evensong with a harvest flavour, the anthem being Rutter's "Look at the world". Michael Paterson was precentor and gave a most apposite homily.

The service was much appreciated by what turned out to be a fair-sized congregation, despite the unfriendly weather.

Hearing all those fresh, young voices was a real treat, as was hearing the organ full out in the capable hands of Tony Baldwin, who ended with one of his own compositions. We hope we'll be seeing the choir again!

Remembering the Great War



Throughout the country during November events were held to commemorate The Great War. On 4 November we offered our own remembrance through our Sunday@Six worship. Martin Tarr must have spent many long hours preparing this moving and thought-provoking sombre service, which was much appreciated by those from our churches and further afield who came along to pay tribute to those who gave their lives in a war before the time of any of us.

With the help of the projector, Martin put together an account in pictures, videos and sound telling the stories of people who were affected by the conflict and its

aftermath. Many of the illustrated readings were extracts from the *Centena Collection*, created by the 100 DAYS project, and beautifully read by members from the choir and our congregations. Each reading was inspired by and based on the life of a real individual who had experienced the First World War. These experiences ranged from the home front to foreign fields, and included memories of a conscientious objector, before considering the way we remember the dead, the gaps that were left and, finally, the scars of war – all so powerful and poignant.

Mary Kidd's tribute "said it with flowers". We sang it in three hymns from *Hymns of Peace and Remembrance*, a collection written to mark the centenary of Armistice Day and the end of the First World War. We didn't know the hymns, but the words were relevant and the tunes were familiar. Marc Templehoff led us in the popular war song "Keep the home fires burning" and his moving rendering of "Empty chairs at empty tables" from *Les Misérables* sent shivers down our spines.

Thank you, Martin, for helping us to appreciate what our forebears did so unselfishly 'for King and Country' – it was an unforgettable evening.

Sandra Young

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 A competitive bunch!

If ALAN scores 50,
KEVIN scores 6,
and CLIVE scores 154,
how many will TAMMI score?

2 Hidden sequence

5 GR
4 CB
3 FH
2 TD

What comes next?

3 Who is next?

BUSH
SHAKESPEARE
BECKHAM
SCISSORHANDS
CLOONEY

NORTON
HARRISON

Who is next?

Hint – there could be more than one correct answer with a common link.

4 Somewhere over the Atlantic!

What are these American States

- A) SESESESESESESESESESE
- B) OILLIS
- C) M
TANA
- D) AINIGRIV
- E) I-----CUT

5 Last letter

What is the final letter in this series
TSELRNS_

Answers to

October/November puzzles

1 Family headcount

None! If the answer were 1 to 9, statements 2 and 3 would be true; if the answer were 10 or more, then statements 1 and 3 would be true. Hence the answer is none.

2 Coded words

"Safety in numbers".

3 Birthday blues

55AD. The year after 1BC is 1AD.

4 Interrupted by ladies

The two men were widowers who married each other's daughters.

5 Continue the sequence

E The letters represent the five main continents.

Let Dave know if you need extra clarification!

*Wait for the Lord
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord,
be strong, take heart!*

Taizé chant based on Psalm 27:14

*Bonum est confidere in Domino,
bonum sperare in Domino.*

*It is good to trust and hope
in the Lord.*

Taizé chant based on Psalm 117:8-9

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
gm Kirby@hotmail.com

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

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

Wednesday Fellowship (Wed 1415-1600)
Mary Kidd 01383 872332
cmmarykidd@btinternet.com

Coffee, Cake & Crafts (1st Tue 1930-2100)
Sue Masson 01383 824887
susan.masson@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Parahandies Disabled Club (Mon 0930-1400)
Peter Merckel (sec) 01383 822940
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

Scout Group

Group Scout Leader
see Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Beaver Scouts (Tue 1730-1830)
David Sinclair 01383 410255
davidgraeme31@yahoo.co.uk

Cub Scouts (Tue 1830-2015)
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)
Alan Connery 01383 731391
scouts_13th_fife@btinternet.com

Explorer Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)
Gary Dewar 01383 411938
gary.dewar@sky.com

Guide Unit

Rainbows (Mon 1800-1900)
Skye Fraser 07565 531886
skyefraser96@gmail.com

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

Guides (Thu 1800-2000)

Rangers (Thu 2000-2130)
Linda Wallace 07491 971989
rosythrangers@gmail.com

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

From our website

All are welcome in this place!



It's true of any biblical passage that the only way to understand a biblical extract is to do so sitting down on a three-legged stool in which one leg is the biblical text a second leg is the context in which the story happens and the third leg is made up of all the co-texts, the other things that are said or happen around the particular passage. Because it's only when we bring all three legs of that stool together that the full meaning of the biblical passage emerges.

To put it another way, when we ignore one of the three legs, when we only read the text and ignore the context, when we cherry-pick a text as if it had no co-texts, then we can be sure that our reading will be unsteady, our interpretation wobbly and our take on the passage likely to come crashing down.

To find out what happened when Michael Paterson invited us to sit on the interpreter's three-legged stool to consider Mark 10.2–16, and the reason for the post with the hymn-line title that appeared on our websites during October as our Thought for the Month, you'll have to read the sermon linked at <http://tinyurl.com/yaokz6dw>!

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 27 January, and its theme will be **"A light to lighten the Gentiles"**. Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 20 January**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

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