

Rosyth
Methodist Church

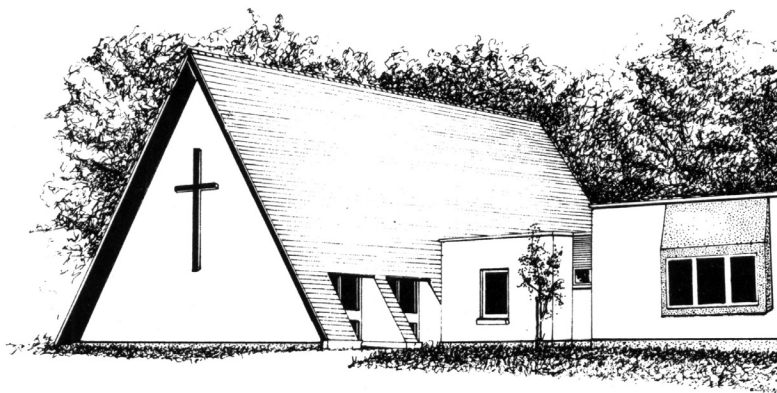
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 101

February/March 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)

1st Sundays:

6.00pm "Sunday@Six" (as announced)

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 this issue's theme



The great advantage to your editorial team of setting a theme for each issue is that it seems to stimulate contributors! For our February/March edition, being published at Candlemas, we had hit on "A light to lighten the Gentiles", and asked folk to share the thoughts that the Presentation story evoked for them, suggesting some ideas to explore:

- Social – the place of older people in our community;
- Mission – taking the light to the world;
- Insight – recognising the potential in people.

As you'll see, the responses were widely varied: Sheila Lee asks us to remember that old people can have a significant 'back story'; Alan Taylor explores our use of candles in church; Mary Kidd praises the Candlemas Bell; Dorissia Forsyth lights a candle for St Finnian's. Then we have *two* very different stories relating to Christian witness in Iraq, and how the light shines there. And Ian Young's Candlemas service provided several elements for the following two pages. Grateful thanks to all our contributors.

Aficionados of Contact will be surprised by one omission – for the first time for many issues we have included not one of the sermons preached at Rosyth! However, anyone who is feeling deprived will soon be able to read one on-line, as you'll discover on page 36.

A guide to our symbols



working together the wider world building community light for the world

Only for some does Candlemas mark the end of the Christmas period – it's a biblically-resonant 40 days after the birth of Christ – but everyone agrees that Candlemas is associated with light in a number of ways.

Luke tells how Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the world, and many liturgies bless candles to be taken into the homes of the congregations, in some places to be put in a window for everyone to see. Now there's an idea!

And the light continues to shine. As Rebeka Maples puts it: "Candlemas ... does not mark the end of light coming into the world; rather it reminds us that the joy of Christ's birth is only the beginning of the gift we have been given, are given, and will be given."

The last prayer in our own Candlemas litany reminds us of the part we have to play:

"Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna and showed them the infant King. Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises, and the patience to wait for their fulfilment."

Included in this issue ...

A light to lighten the Gentiles

pp4–9; p25; p36

Julia Reid, our part-time Student Minister

pp27–29

Plus our regular items:

Diary to early April pp18–23

Fellowship News pp11–13

Invitations and requests pp14–17

Music corner p37

Puzzle page p38

Reports pp34–35

The wider world p24; pp30–33

Working together p26

Young people p10



A light to lighten the Gentiles

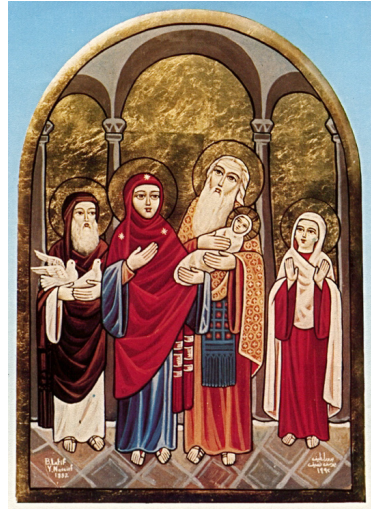
The Editor explores what's in the picture

There are five people in the icon alongside: Joseph (carrying the doves), Mary with a protective hand stretched out towards Jesus, who is being carried by Simeon; Anna the prophetess. The image has the confident lines and the naive and almost childlike depiction that characterise Coptic icon painting, and its key element is 'Simeon the God-receiver'. Rightly so, as he is central to the story.

But what image comes into your mind when *you* hear the words "A light to lighten the Gentiles?". For me, it is of a candle-lit Evensong in my College Chapel, once the readings had been safely negotiated, and the choir launched into the second canticle, the Song of Simeon (from Luke 2:29–32), usually called the *Nunc dimittis* after the first words of its Latin text.

Both images are beautiful in different ways, but they're certainly sanitised when compared with what happened 2,000 years ago! What is now called Candlemas has two elements: the ritual purification of Mary and what we refer to as the 'presentation' of Christ. The purification part comes from the Jewish view, based on Leviticus 12, that women were unclean after child-birth. As one needed to be physically pure to have access to God's presence, women weren't allowed to worship for 40 days (for a boy; 60 for a girl), after which they came to the Temple or synagogue to be purified.

At the same time, Joseph and Mary had set out to obey God's command (Exodus 13:2) that every firstborn male should be consecrated to the Lord. An offering to cover both purification and consecration had to be brought – actually *bought* with Temple currency at an exorbitant exchange rate – which for poor people was a pair of doves or two young pigeons.



It is when that gift was presented that an old man recognised that the baby he was holding was the One who was coming to bring light to the whole world. And he also recognised that grief would be Mary's lot.

Luke also tells a parallel story of Anna, who arrives on cue and gives thanks to God. Is this Luke being politically correct in today's feminist terms? I think it's actually an acknowledgment that the real Jesus was (and still is) there to be spotted by Godly people of all persuasions who look forward to the redemption of Jerusalem?

Final Responsory for Candlemas

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels: may Christ be born in our hearts today. **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have shared in the joy of Simeon and Anna: help us, like them, to trust your word. **Praise to Christ our light.**

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world: may we be filled with the light of your love. **Praise to Christ our light.**

Don't judge a book by its rather worn cover!

Sheila Lee recalls a story told to her by a younger colleague



Around twelve years ago, a young colleague and I would share thoughts about our Christian faith and experience. Out of work hours, she was a keen participant in outward-bound activities. She recounted how, on one occasion, she was going to Wales for a kayaking competition. Reminded by her mother that she had three elderly aunts who were now living together very near to the location of the competition, she decided it would be rude not to visit.

If I remember correctly, the eldest aunt was called Abigail and was approaching 90 years of age. Sarah's long-lasting memory of her was of a gentle wife of an elderly cleric in a quiet, rural parish.

Sarah dutifully visited and enjoyed tea with her aunts. When Abigail asked her what she was doing in the competition, Sarah reasoned that her aunt might not know what kayaking was, so she said that she was canoeing.

Her aunt replied with a smile, "Oh, I've done a little canoeing in my day." At which her other aunts burst into laughter.

It turned out that Sarah's aunt had as a very young woman, gone with a church mission to Nigeria. Her role was to help young girls, from the riverside villages, who had been sold or were in abusive situations. At a danger to herself, she began to provide education for rescued girls.

Her exploits are recorded in an out-of-print book called 'Niger Dawn' that Sarah kindly loaned me. Far from being an elderly widow with a nondescript background, Abigail was recorded as the first white woman to canoe the Niger. A statue was erected in recognition of her great contribution to the education of girls.

Whenever we meet others, who may no longer be able to manage their own challenges or to contribute to the world around them, it is good to remind ourselves that they may have done a "little bit of canoeing" in their time.

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3 (ESV)

Candlemas Song

I was not there.
I did not dream my way
up prayer-worn Temple steps
as you did, Christ-Mother, that day.

I was not there.
I did not scan the gloom
or clutch a hand for courage
in the Temple waiting-room.

I was not there.
I did not hear the praise
which ancient ones sang of your child
at the midnight of their days.

I was not there.
I did not feel the sting
which bitter-sweet horizons
of your motherhood will bring.

But I am here.
And I would know a birth
to bring Divine Light's love
into an aching, longing earth.

Yes, I am here.
And I would do my part.
O let a rising blade of Spring
strike fire into my heart.

author unknown



Running Home – supporting Iraqi Christians

Jan Benzie writes about spreading the light in a novel way

Embrace the Middle East (formerly Biblelands) gives financial and prayer support to Christian groups throughout the Middle East, enabling them to shine the light of Christ. Their most recent project, launched at a choral evensong in Dunfermline Abbey on 12 January (attended by Bishop Ian and our Priest-in-charge Kenny Rathband) is supporting Iraq's Christians as they try to rebuild their country after war.

The project, led by local Christians, will provide support for refugees returning to cities previously occupied by the Islamic State in the north of Iraq, helping people to rebuild their livelihoods through offering basic skills training in computers, hairdressing, bee-keeping, etc. The project will also support inter-communal peace-building.

Many displaced Iraqis are trying to return home only to find that everything they knew has been destroyed. Yazidi and Christian families who fled ISIL's atrocities tell their harrowing stories of the loss of loved ones and the sense of terror that still surrounds them. But they also talk about the hope they experienced through the love they felt from the communities who welcomed and prayed for them.

And that's where Running Home begins ... Embrace's Regional Manager in Scotland, Mark Calder, has taken on a challenge in 2019 to run 14 ultra-marathons along some of Scotland's ancient pilgrim routes to raise awareness (and funds) for the Christian-led projects in Iraq.

Mark will retrace the steps of Celtic saints and cover a total of 1,725 miles across Scotland and Northern England over the next eight months. Each distance he runs will range from 47 to 350 miles and will include



Mark at Dunfermline Abbey ready to run

some established pilgrim routes such as St Cuthbert's and St Magnus's Ways, while others will travel through areas associated with saints. Along the way he hopes to drop in on churches and communities that he passes through to share a cup of tea with them on rest breaks.



Mark with Bainsford Parish at the Kelpies



Run 1: Mark arrives
at Glasgow cathedral

He has already completed his first challenge (on Sunday 13 January), from Dunfermline Abbey via Culross, where St Mungo was born, to Glasgow, where the saint is buried.

As Mark explained, the length of the challenge “is the distance from Baghdad to Damascus to Beirut to Jerusalem to Tel Aviv to Cairo and back to Baghdad – the capitals of the countries in which Embrace the Middle East works”.

Embrace supports local Christian communities throughout the Middle East, but this is their first partnership in Iraq, supporting the work of Christians who are already responding to the needs of displaced people. Christians have been a part of the fabric of society in Iraq for 2,000 years. Now, in the aftermath of horrific persecution, their numbers are low so it's vital that we support them and the tireless humanitarian work that characterises their presence.

There are several ways you can support Mark and Christians in Iraq:

- Pray with Mark and for the people of Iraq as he runs the pilgrim routes
- Join him in raising money for Embrace's first programmes in Iraq
- Cheer him on as he passes through communities and pauses at churches to tell everyone about the work that his run will make possible.
- Run with him in Edinburgh and join in the fun at Embrace's Fun Run

Take on your own running challenge for Iraqi refugees and sign up for the 5k fun run or 1k family friendly run, on **Sunday 22 September**. Sign up for emails to keep in touch and registration will open soon.

You can find Running Home at www.runninghome2019.co.uk or ask Jan at church for details.

Mark's next challenge is running St Duthac's Way – Aberdeen to St Andrews via Stonehaven, Montrose and Dundee.

Ed: The route forms the second part of an expanded route which starts at Tain (Gaelic: Baile Dubhthaich, 'Duthac's town'), the shrine of St Duthac there being another former pilgrimage destination of some importance.

The route is relatively flat, with only 720m of ascent and 740m of descent, but it's 146km long – just over 90 miles in 'old money'.

More about the old pilgrim ways at "The Way of St Andrews" website: <https://www.thewayofstandrews.com/>



Candlelight in the church

Alan Taylor explores our use of candles in church

Our theme of 'A Light to Lighten the Gentiles' conjures up for me several thoughts. I suppose 'lighten' is a strange word for most of us – it comes from the King James Version and is probably best replaced with 'enlighten'. But other commentators prefer to use 'reveal' – a light to reveal Christ to the Gentiles, ie non-Jews, or to inform non-Jews about Christ.

However, for me in my role at St Margaret's of looking after the candles, I am attracted to exploring the meaning of why we use candles in church, in this age of electricity when it is so easy to turn on a switch and we are instantly lightened (lit up) or illuminated, i.e. become less dark. Too many strange thoughts! Let's stick with candles ...

Christ is the Light of the World, and it is in this sense that we use candles in church to signify that Christ is indeed the light of the world. For many years we used oil-filled candles, but these were unreliable and often quite unseemly. They didn't shed much light, and were frequently quite smoky. Thus we changed over to real candles, made of beeswax and other similar substances. By so doing, we were enabled to use new, as yet unlit, candles to mark significant points in the church's calendar – always on the First Sunday in Advent and on Easter Day, but also at other times such as the Sunday a new priest takes his first service at St Margaret's, as we did in November with Kenny.

Having changed to real candles it was logical to go a step further by bringing a Paschal Candle into our worship. A Paschal Candle stand was donated anonymously by several members of the congregation, suitably engraved with "In Memory of Loved Ones". Each year a Paschal Candle for that year is donated by a member of either congregation in memory of a loved one

or to mark some significant event in their lives, and this is acknowledged by the priest when the Paschal Candle is consecrated. When a new Paschal Candle is donated, the old candle is given to the person who donated it. However, last year the candle was re-cycled by changing the year to the current year and by dressing the top of the candle so that it appeared new, and that will happen again this year, though if anyone would like to donate a Paschal Candle in the future, that would also be good.

On Easter Day at St Margaret's, after the Paschal Candle is consecrated, lit and placed in the candle stand, a taper is used to light the new altar candles for the first time, perhaps emphasising the significance of a new beginning, by signifying that Christ is indeed The Light of the World. The Paschal Candle remains lit throughout the six weeks of the Easter season – continuously where that is possible – and is only extinguished after the Gospel on Ascension Day, some six weeks later.

We also light the Paschal Candle when a child or adult is baptised and take the light from that candle to light the person's baptismal candle, as a sign of passing the Light of Christ to that person. The Paschal Candle is also lit at funeral services, and at St Margaret's we light it on All Soul's Day. Otherwise it remains unlit.

Our use of candles in church, for many, also signifies our prayers going up to heaven. Thus our candles have several important purposes, not just for lighting the altar. And of course the use of candles in worship is as important to our Methodist friends as it is to St Margaret's. One year the Paschal Candle was consecrated by the Circuit Superintendent, using the Methodist liturgy for that purpose. So, we welcome blessed candlelight in our church.

An offering to the cold world

A thought from Mary Kidd, who arranges so many of the church flowers



My favourite flower is the snowdrop, probably the first flower to be seen after Christmas. The sight of snowdrops always lifts the spirits, and promise that the days will gradually become lighter and longer. Tiny, and apparently fragile, but unbelievably tough, they bring a luminous quality to dark woodland floors and churchyards and in our gardens at a dark time of the year. In the harshness of winter they bob as if they were flickering candles. And, close up, the white of the petal is entirely unblemished, except for touches of green – the colour of life.

The snowdrop *galanthus*, is a name derived from the Greek *gala* meaning milk and *anthos* meaning flower. The best way to see a snowdrop is to kneel down and gently lift the drooped head, to see the intricacy of the patterns. Wordsworth wrote: "Nor will I then thy modest grace forget, chaste snowdrop, venturous harbinger of spring, and pensive monitor of fleeting years".

Those themes of purity, light, candles, mother's milk, and intricate beauty have long linked the snowdrop with the great feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple – Candlemas, and that's why the snowdrop has been known as the Candlemas Bell. From medieval times the practice was to bring snowdrops into the church at Candlemas to evoke that sense of reverence and presentation and offering. Centuries ago, snowdrop bulbs were dried, and transported to European shops from Turkey. Monks bought snowdrop bulbs from Rome to England and were the first to plant them around old monasteries.



This snowdrop was photographed by David Paloch in March 2005 in a garden under the Beskydy mountains in the Czech Republic

Since our last edition of *Contact* appeared we've sung about the Epiphany which celebrated Jesus being presented first to the shepherds, and then to the spiritual seekers, the magi, from the east. Then in the Church's year, we think about Jesus being baptized in the River Jordan. Then he was presented publicly at the wedding feast in Cana. He was baptized with the Holy Spirit. In the synagogue at Nazareth he read "The spirit of the Lord is upon me ... today the scripture is fulfilled in your hearing".

When I look at the snowdrop's three petals I am reminded of God, as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The little snowdrop, just like the candles, makes an offering to the cold world that gladdens the heart. May the offering of ourselves, our souls and our bodies be a holy and living sacrifice to God's glory, in Christ's body, the Church, that, through the Holy Spirit, His Kingdom may come.



YF enjoy a “Burnt Supper”!

The Youth Fellowship followed in the greatest of all Scottish traditions in serving up the “Great chieftain o’ the puddin’ race”! YF has traditionally served up a range of burnt food, so this Burns night may not have been any different. The evening started with songs and tales, but no turns were taken by our lot. A Burns-related quiz on the Scots language set up some hilarious answers of the potential meanings of words we don’t often use these days. Then a search in the dark for a “Wee, sleekit, cow’rin, tim’rous beastie” who was found hidden amongst the nativity scene. This was still in sharp contrast to the YF hitting sticks the week before that had leaders (and rectors) flying across the hall in the most violent and traditional of YF sports.

Then “Some hae meat and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it: but we hae meat and we can eat, sae let the Lord be thankit” rang around the hall before the haggis, neeps and tatties were served, surprisingly



not burnt at all! We even had the New Testament in Scots. It was enjoyed by everyone including our mascot Bubbles who, whilst not

allowed haggis, ate the rest. Huge thanks to everyone involved including those who provided the placemats.

Andrew Wedge



Ed: I can’t resist adding the extra verses for the Selkirk Grace that I found on-line at the Scottish Poetry Library:

But some hate meat and girn and weep,
resisting all coercion,
so bless the tatties, bless the neeps
and the vegetarian version.

Then filled wi’ fruits o’ field and vine
and feelin fairlie frisky,
the One who water turned to wine,
we’d ask to bless the whisky.

Extra verses by Richard Medrington

Reminder of an invitation to young people ...

Back in August 2015 we ran an article (pp12–13 at tinyurl.com/y7w3ce5o) about the Youth Fellowship (YF for short) at Holy Trinity, and its leader, Andrew Wedge, made the point that the youth group at Holy Trinity is also *our* Youth Group. What the economists call ‘leverage’ turns one or two teenagers into a group, and reduces that feeling of being alone.

YF is a safe place for young people to meet, and Andrew described it as “a place I felt comfortable in, away from the pressures of high school”. During the past twenty years YF has also been the means through which many young adults have found their faith and life-long friendships.

Go to page 23 for more information and contact details.

The end of an era



We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jean Oliver only three months after her dear husband Jim's death. She had been deteriorating for a few days and died peacefully in her sleep on Christmas morning at Lindsay House, Lumphinnans. Jean was 92, and Jim and she had been married for over 72 years.

Jean was a Norfolk lass and met Jim during the war when he served in the Royal Artillery and was stationed in the area. They married in 1946 and Jean moved to Fife where she spent the rest of her life.

Jean and Jim came to St Margaret's in the late 90s and worshipped regularly until a few years ago when Jim gave up driving. But they retained their interest in St Margaret's and the friendship we all shared meant a lot to them. I thoroughly enjoyed my visits to their North Queensferry home when I listened with interest as Jean would tell me about the history and life of St Peter's, Inverkeithing, where the Olivers were members before coming to St Margaret's, and of the Rectors they shared with SS Andrew and George, Rosyth – Jean remembered them all. In her heyday she organised and was involved in sales of work and other fundraising events at St Peter's. I got the impression she was quite a character – a force to be reckoned with, and treated with respect by many a rector!

Jean never forgot her Norfolk roots, and as well as keeping contact with relatives and friends – mainly by letter – she kept up-to-date with events there including church matters by reading the local paper which she received each week: something else she would tell me about, warts and all!

Jean was for many years the key custodian of the small graveyard near their house in North Queensferry, which you can view from the train when crossing the Forth Bridge. A stone has been set into the outside of the wall near the gate which is inscribed "This is done by the sailers in North Ferrie 1752" Jean was also responsible for keeping the flowerbeds in the garden tidy, something she enjoyed doing.

Lesley, Erica, Pauline and Mary attended Jean's funeral on 11 January in St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly and were pleased to meet Caroline, who expressed her appreciation for all our continued contact with her parents.

We remember Caroline and her three children in our thoughts and prayers as they come to terms with the loss of both parents and grandparents in such a short space of time. We give thanks for the life of Jean as our happy connection at St Margaret's with the Olivers comes to an end. It was a privilege to know Jean and Jim. May they rest in peace.

Sandra Young

Eve Denning – quite a character!

Adapted from the eulogy given by Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Our friend Eve Denning died on Boxing Day 2018, and Kenny led the funeral service at Dunfermline Crematorium on 10 January 2019. It was by all accounts a good send-off, with hymns chosen by Eve herself (Thou whose almighty word; God be in my head; Rock of ages) and a number of occasions when you could see amusement among a congregation thinking “That was just like Eve!”



As Kenny said at the start of his eulogy: “Unfortunately, I only met Eve once and that was very recently when she was rather tired and not able to fully communicate. However, when I said to the congregation that she had died, and that I gathered she was quite a character, everyone smiled that knowing smile. A smile of appreciation and love. “I am very grateful to Eve’s family for the memories that they have given and I hope that in the course of these next few moments something of what is shared will rekindle your own memories of Eve and that you will be able to offer your own thanks to God for her and for the times you shared together.”

Eve was born on 5 January 1920 in Sunderland, County Durham, the elder child and only daughter of Will and Edie Dick. Will was a merchant seaman and chief engineer travelling all over the world. Edie was the youngest of 11 children and was a farmer’s daughter. She lived in Sunderland all her life and Eve was devoted to her.

On leaving school, Eve’s first job was as a shorthand typist in a firm of solicitors in Sunderland. During the war she worked in the Home Office in London based in what had been the cells of Wormwood Scrubs – at least that was Eve’s description!

Eve was also in the ATS and was posted to Germany, and it was here that she met Lawrie who was soon to become her husband. Lawrie came from Holcombe near Bath in Somerset so, if you like, they had a North/South divide.



The “hat, gloves and handbag” version of Eve in her earlier years

Lawrie and Eve remained in Germany for a further four years after the war during which time their eldest daughter Liz was born. The family then returned to Somerset where they lived for 11 years with their son John being born in 1951 and their second daughter Julie in 1954.

In 1961 the family moved north to Rosyth where Lawrie was employed as a civil servant working in the Dockyard. Eve soon made new friends, joining the church and S.W.A.N.S. (Society of Wives of Admiralty and Naval Services) which was held in the dockyard club. Eve was a great lover of Scottish country dancing, something she continued to do well into her 90s!

She was also an accomplished needlewoman and made some beautiful dresses for Julie and Liz. Knitting was another great joy, especially for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Music played a major part in Eve's life. She greatly enjoyed singing and was a very regular member of the church choir – having a birthday on the eve of Epiphany, she was very insistent that “Brightest and best” be among the hymns sung then, and she enjoyed the choir party that was often held around the turn of the year. Eve and Julie were also members of the Woodmill Singers from that choir's earliest days.

Eve was a loyal and happy member of St Margaret's, and had many good friends there. Her invitation to come to church brought folk to St Margaret's, and the welcome she gave, and the hospitality she dispensed sustained the fellowship. Eve had a great faith and didn't want people to be sad when she died – many was the splendid hymn that had been practised which earned the accolade “I'll have that one at my funeral!”

Eve was a real character, extremely kind and caring. She was proud of her North-East origins, especially Sunderland. A canny northern lass who said it as it was, but you always knew where you stood with her. One close friend said of her: “Eve was forthright and feisty, but also kind, sociable and hospitable.”

Sadly in 1993, Lawrie died and was sorely missed, Eve and Lawrie having been married for 48 years. Eve was a devoted and proud grandmother and great-grandmother. She had two grandchildren, Vanessa and Alastair, both of whom live in Portsmouth, and seven great-grandchildren all of whom live in the Portsmouth area.

In 2013 Eve's only son, John, died after a long illness. The death of any family member is tragic but the death of a child more so, and Eve missed him more than words can say. John's long-term partner, Marjory and her family are all loved dearly as members of the wider family.



Eve was cared for in Henderson House for over 2½ years, following a period of illness and a long stay in hospital. Eve was a woman of great faith: it is that faith which sustained her during this difficult time, and in that faith she now rests with her Lord and his resurrection. Let us give thanks for that life and for the knowledge and love that Eve shared. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

We remember especially Liz and Julie and Eve's wider family members. The retiring collection at the service was in aid of the RNLI, and there is still an opportunity to make a donation in Eve's memory on-line at <https://rnli.org/support-us/give-money/donate-in-memory>.



Invitations and requests – 1



“Come – everything is ready”

Mary Kidd invites you to the
2019 World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement with an annual service held on or near the first Friday in March. This year it is hosted on **Friday 1 March** by St Margaret's congregation in Rosyth, at **2.00pm**. It is interdenominational and ecumenical; it is for all ages and for men as well as women, despite its roots.

Throughout this service, written for us this year by Christian women of Slovenia, we are invited in this year's theme to “Come – everything is ready!”

In a story Jesus told about a great dinner the invitations are rejected, and then given to people on the streets. However, there is still room and more invitations are given out until the celebrations can begin.

A local preparation day was held at church last Friday, so that by the beginning of March all the preparations for World Day of Prayer will be ready and invitations given out.

But we should ask: Who is missing from the table in our communities? How can we include them?

As in the story, all are invited. World Day of Prayer is for everyone. Will you accept our invitation? And who will you invite? A warm welcome awaits everyone.

PS: We are looking for volunteers to help on the day. If you can spare the time, and have the initiative, please contact Lesley Yellowlees or myself.

103 Not Out!

At our 103rd Church Anniversary on **3 March** we welcome back Rev Dr David Easton, Chair of the District Synod of Scotland, for what may well be his last visit to Rosyth before he ‘sits down’ in July. If this is so, we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

The history of Methodism in Rosyth is well-documented and illustrated by our local historian, Martin Rogers. In the anniversary booklet to commemorate the 75th year, our then minister, the late Rev Malcolm Trew, wrote:

“Though shaped by our past we live in the present. The pace of change has quickened. People are more mobile, and many traditions have weakened. Society is more materialistic and secular in outlook and church-going is no longer fashionable.”

Thinking about the future, he said:

“Will we be able to say in 25 years’ time that through the present witness of our church, men, women and young folk have found real faith? We may rejoice about many things. We are a community church and our premises are very fully used. Our Rosyth Church prospered in past difficult times because it met the changing needs of that day. So must we. Change is uncomfortable. Churches weaken when, like other organisations, they try to cling to past ways and refuse to adapt to the present.

“To adapt our approach to ‘serve the present age’ takes faith and courage. This task requires the fullest support of all our members – their prayers, time and giving. As we travel together we must look upward in faith, look forward in mission and service, and look forward in hope.”

Nearly 30 years later, these words still ring Trew(!) Happy Anniversary!

Mary Kidd

Invitations and requests – 2



Wednesday Fellowship

Time passes so quickly that it's hard to believe that our Wednesday Fellowship is about to begin the Spring session. Our membership numbers continue to grow even though some of our older members are not able to come regularly. We miss them very much. New members who have joined this year certainly seem to enjoy the afternoon fellowship; they are always assured of a warm welcome, of course. We're not quite bursting at the seams (I'm talking accommodation here – not waistslines!), so it may be that an occasional meeting will have to be held in the church sanctuary.

The first session will be a devotional one and led by Hilary Henderson, one of our circuit Methodist Local Preachers, who always looks forward to starting off the new year for us. We have several guest speakers 'booked' to come and talk to us about their life and work, as you will see from the new syllabus that started distribution last week.

In advance, I'd like to thank all the members of the committee who give tirelessly of their time each week to ensure the smooth-running of the organisation, and all members who give generously each week. It means we can financially support some of the organisations which are involved in making our world a better place and lightening the darkness for many disadvantaged people.

Readers, please do feel free to join us, even if it's for an occasional visit when something particularly interests you. We would love to see you!

Mary Kidd

Christian Aid 2019

As yet we don't know of plans for any local events, but you may wish to be aware of the following events taking place in Edinburgh towards the end of February.

Coffee morning

For the last two years City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (CEMC) has hosted a Book Sale and Festival during Christian Aid Week, and in 2018 they raised £2,514. A Coffee Morning fundraiser will take place at CEMC at **10.30am–2.30pm** on **Saturday 23 February** with teas, coffees, cakes and savoury snacks, and stalls with home-baking and books.

The aim is to help fund a banner to advertise the book sale, and go towards other publicity costs, the hire of trestle tables, and other expenses. Do come along – it'll also be a fun social event, and it would be lovely to see you!

Christian Aid Gatherings

A series of gatherings are being arranged where Christian Aid supporters come together to learn more about the themes that Christian Aid work on, and get small practical examples of how people can give, act and pray year-round.

The keynote speaker at all venues will be Jeanne Kamara, Head of the Christian Aid team in Sierra Leone, who will talk about the diverse nature of CA's work in that area and explain how the team there dealt with ebola.

The nearest venue to us is St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4BJ where the Gathering on **Tuesday 26 February** from **10.00am–1.00pm** is open to all.

Invitations and requests – 3



Take part in Morning Worship

On **Sunday 10 February**, Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet will be leading worship at **11.00am**. Elizabeth has asked if a few members of the congregation would be prepared to share a 'good news story' during the service. This could be something to thank God for; something that God has clearly been part of; a special blessing; a special person; a prayer answered; or something that God has asked you to do.

Contributions would be very welcome and there is no need to contact Elizabeth in advance. On the day would be fine. Thank you!

Introduction to Biblical Engagement

Following a good attendance at the 'Introduction to Biblical Engagement' in the Strathclyde Circuit, another session has been arranged to take place on **Saturday 16 February** at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church from **10.30am–3.30pm**. Registration and refreshments are available from 10.00am. Please bring a packed lunch and a Bible.

The day involves Interactive Resources with an opportunity to experience various approaches to biblical engagement including:

- Godly Play
- Community Bible Experience
- Take Time Together

This is an opportunity to experience different approaches to Bible engagement and to explore a range of resources suitable for adults, young people, children or intergenerational contexts.

Address any questions to Lorraine Darlow at darlowl@methodistchurch.org.uk and register at <https://tinyurl.com/y7xr6jdp>.

Easter Code

EASTER CODE will be run again for the school week **beginning 25 March** at the Parish Church. If you would like to help that week, even for a short time, please let Deacon Morag (0131 332 2253) know. The first planning meeting will be held on **Thursday 7 February** at **3.15pm** at the Church.

Bible Month Training day

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. This year, Paul's letter to the Colossians has been selected.

In preparation for this, we are hosting a district training day on **Saturday 23 March** from **10.30am–3.30pm** in Perth Methodist Church, Scott Street, Perth, PH2 8JN. Registration and refreshments are available from 10.00am. Lunch is provided.

Our keynote speaker is Richard Tiplady, Director of Mixed Mode Training for the Scottish Episcopal Church, previously Principal of International Christian College and British Director of European Christian Mission (a church-planting mission agency). His current role includes the development and leadership of a mission-focussed ordination training pathway for the SEC. Richard comments, "A focus on Colossians is timely as we try to work out what it means to live for Christ in Scotland today. What does the Lordship of Christ mean in a diverse, pluralistic context? What does being "alive with Christ" mean, and how then should we live? These are some of the questions which Paul considers in his letter to the Colossian churches."

For more information contact Gary Williams at williamsg@methodistchurch.org.uk or 07799 900464. Book at <https://biblemonth-training-day.eventbrite.co.uk>

Preparing for Easter

Ecumenical Study Group

We are currently studying a film called *The Shack* over a four week period, finishing on Monday 18 February. *The Shack* is an American Christian film about a family where the father comes from an abusive situation at home, but marries into a very fulfilling relationship, with three young children. During a camping trip, a child is abducted and is believed to have been murdered. The rest of the film is about the healing process. All are welcome to join this lively, friendly group of people from the Rosyth churches any Monday at **7.30pm**.

The Lenten study group will probably start on **Monday 25 February or 4 March** and run during Lent. Watch the weekly Sunday notices for details of the subject and book to be studied. All will be most welcome to come along to the Parish Church. Each session will finish with refreshments, usually about 9.30pm. If you are interested, talk to Alan Taylor for further information.

Two chances for Bible Study

Kenny is offering a series of Bible Studies on **Wednesday evenings** in Lent, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, when the Gospel for the following Sunday will be read and discussed.

The series commences on **Wednesday 13 March** and finishes on Wednesday in Holy Week. Each meeting will start at **7.30pm**, ending with Compline at 8.30pm until 8.45pm. All are most welcome to come along – bring your Bible!

The Methodist Leadership Team are convening a Lenten Study Group to be held at our church at **10.30 am on Thursdays** during the five weeks of Lent. Eddie Sykes will be at the first meeting on **14 March**, and the last two on 4 April and 11 April. Further details will be announced later.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is on **6 March** when there will be the usual Sung Eucharist at **7.00pm**, including the imposition of ashes. Everyone will be most welcome, whether or not they are Episcopalians, as we prepare to mark the beginning of Lent.

Holy Week services

With Easter being later this year – **Sunday 21 April** is when we celebrate the Risen Lord – details of all the services, including those at other churches in Rosyth, are not yet fully available. Full details will appear on the weekly notice sheet and website diary and also in the April/May edition of Contact.

However, we hope to enter Holy Week with a devotional Sunday@Six on **Palm Sunday, 14 April**, Holy Communion will be celebrated by the Rev Eddie Sykes at Wednesday Fellowship on **17 April** at **2.15pm** and on **Maundy Thursday** we will commemorate the Last Supper at **7.00pm**. On **Good Friday**, still to be confirmed, from **12noon until 1.00pm** there will be a service of meditation and readings followed by refreshments and hot cross buns.

An invitation is open to everyone to join all or any of these services as we remember this most holy week in the life of our Lord.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

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 (see page 17)	
Tuesday 5 Feb	10.00am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns	
	10.30am	Zero Waste Workshop 'Love Food, Hate Waste' (until 12.30pm)	
	1.30pm	Zero Waste Workshop 'Love your clothes' (until 3.30pm) Both workshops at St John's Church, Cupar (see the noticeboard for details)	
	2.00pm	Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together services	
	and 7.00pm	"Time to Reflect and Experience Peace", The Salvation Army Hall, Lochgelly (see page 24)	
	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 Tea, Chat and Devotion – Mrs Hilary Henderson	
Thursday 7 Feb	3.15pm	EASTER CODE planning meeting (see page 16)	
Friday 8 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 10 February

Epiphany 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Local service with Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet You are invited to take part – See page 16	
	4.30pm	Taizé-inspired service on the theme of Discipleship St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly, refreshments at 3.45pm (see page 24)	
Monday 11 Feb	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church (see page 17)	

Diary for February 2019

Wednesday 13 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker: Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Friday 15 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 16 Feb 10.30am Introduction to Biblical Engagement,
to 3.30pm City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (see page 16)

Sunday 17 February

Epiphany 6 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Eddie Sykes

Monday 18 Feb 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting

7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
(see page 17)

Tuesday 19 Feb 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting, St Peter's
Kirkcaldy. Guest speaker: a representative from
Kirkcaldy Street Pastors (see page 24).
All interested are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 20 Feb 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker: Norman Liddle - Scottish Bible Society

Friday 22 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 23 Feb 10.30am Coffee morning fundraiser for Christian Aid Book Sale
to 12.30pm at City of Edinburgh Methodist Church.
Teas, coffees, cakes, savoury snacks, home baking stall,
book stall (see page 15)

Sunday 24 February

Epiphany 7 10.30am Messy Church

11.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Monday 25 Feb 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
tbc later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)

Tuesday 26 Feb 10.00am 2019 Christian Aid Gathering,
to 1.00pm St. John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh
(see page 15)

Diary for February/March 2019

Wednesday 27 Feb	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Rev Eddie Sykes
Friday 1 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service in Rosyth Methodist Church hosted by St Margaret's (see page 14)
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 2 Mar	7.30pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert Vine Centre, Dunfermline (see page 37)

Sunday 3 March

Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Anniversary Service	Rev Dr David Easton

Note: no Sunday@Six – come to the WDP service on 1 March instead!

Monday 4 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)
Tuesday 5 Mar	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 6 Mar	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Jim McRae – Aggie's
	7.00pm	Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes
Friday 8 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 9 Mar	tbc	Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Sunday 10 March

Lent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning worship	local arrangements
	4.30pm	Taizé service for Lent at St Fillian's Church, Lochgelly refreshments at 3.45pm (see page 24)	
Monday 11 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)	

Diary for March 2019

Wednesday 13 Mar	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Jo McFarlane – Plastic-free environment
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 17)
Thursday 14 Mar	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group (see page 17)
Friday 15 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 16 Mar	tbv	'Come and Sing' with the RSCM Venue Perth (further details later)

Sunday 17 March

Lent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Edward Idle

Monday 18 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)
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Tuesday 19 Mar	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns
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Wednesday 20 Mar	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speakers: Aleksandra Grzywacz-Kalaska and Wendy Miller – R.N.I.B
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 17)

Thursday 21 Mar	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group (see page 17)
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Friday 22 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Saturday 23 Mar	10.30am	Bible month training day
	to 3.30pm	Perth Methodist Church (see page 16)
	7.30pm	Scottish Chamber Choir St John Passion, J S Bach Canongate Kirk, Edinburgh (see page 37)

Sunday 24 March

Lent 3	10.30am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service Rev Dr Helen Jenkins and Ms Julia Reid Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
	3.00pm	Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Spring Concert Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy (see page 37)

week beginning 25 March EASTER CODE at the Parish Church (see page 16)

Diary for March/April 2019

Monday 25 Mar	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)
Tuesday 26 Mar	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meets in Room 5
Wednesday 27 Mar	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Lynne Strachan – Forest Rangers
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 17)
Thursday 28 Mar	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group (see page 17)
Friday 29 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 31 March

British Summer Time begins at 1.00am

Lent 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
(Mothering Sunday)	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Hilary Henderson
Monday 1 Apr	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)	
Tuesday 2 Apr	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 3 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Lou Davidson - Haiti Help update	
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 17)	
Thursday 4 Apr	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group (see page 17)	
Friday 5 Apr	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 7 April

Lent 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes
Monday 8 Apr	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)	
Wednesday 10 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Willie Hershaw – Musical Interlude	

Provisional Diary for Holy Week

Sunday 14 April

Palm Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and blessing and distribution of palms	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Local worship led by Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet	
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six – a devotional service for Holy Week	
Tuesday 16 Apr	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
Wednesday 17 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Holy Week Communion	Rev Eddie Sykes
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 17)	
Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper All welcome from both churches	
Good Friday	12noon	tbc Service of readings and prayers followed by refreshments and hot cross buns. All invited from local churches	

Sunday 21 April

Easter Day	9.30am	Sung Eucharist with blessing of the Paschal Candle	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning worship	Miss Anne Baird

For younger people

For **children up to the age of 12**, Messy Church is on the **fourth Sunday of the month at 10.30am** with snack, craft and a story – please bring an adult with you!

For **young adults** from their final Easter at primary school upwards, Holy Trinity run a Youth Fellowship, as you can read on p10. YF is in a wider “Cluster Group”, bringing together youngsters from across West Fife, and its leaders are heavily involved with the Provincial Youth Committee who run youth events all over Scotland, such as the annual Glenalmond camp – remember our September 2018 Sunday@Six? – so there's a lot going on. Many meetings are at **6.15pm on Sundays** in the hall at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, but do check! You'll find the programme at tinyurl.com/yd3f5l9v.

To learn more, contact the YF leader, Andrew Wedge, email wedge-pars@hotmail.com or phone/text 07846 187354.



St Andrews West Area Council

The first meeting of 2019 will be held on **Tuesday 19 February at 7.30pm to 9.15pm** in St Peter's Kirkcaldy. Our guest speaker will be a representative from Kirkcaldy Street Pastors who will give a presentation about their work. We have had speakers from the Dunfermline Street Pastors at Wednesday Fellowship and it is quite an eye-opener to learn about their varied and important weekend night work. Meetings are open to all members of the congregations. St Margaret's is always well represented so do come along if a speaker or topic interests you.

Area Council diary 2019

Tuesday 19 February at 7.30pm in St Peter's, Kirkcaldy. Guest speaker from Kirkcaldy Street Pastors.

Thursday 23 May at 7.30pm in St Columba's, Aberdour. Bishop Ian will be our speaker.

Sunday 16 September tba in Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. Annual Area Council Service led by the Very Rev Kenny Rathband.

Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm in St Margaret's, Rosyth. The speaker will be from the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust who will talk about the Fife Pilgrim Way.

Happenings at Lochgelly

Margaret Dineley continues her series of Taizé services for the winter months. The next, on **Sunday 10 February** is a Taizé-inspired service on the theme of Discipleship. There is also a service on **Sunday 10 March** on the theme of Lent.

Taizé services are quiet and reflective services – a peaceful way to start our week. The services begin at **4.30pm** and are preceded by fellowship and refreshments in the hall **from 3.45pm**. Some of our people have attended the monthly services which they found inspiring and peaceful. So do go along if you can to join Margaret and her congregation at St Finnian's where you can be assured of a warm welcome.

Also in the area on **Tuesday 5 February**, there will be two services "Time to Reflect and Experience Peace" at 2.00pm and 7.00pm in The Salvation Army Hall, Lochgelly.

These services constitute the fourth in the Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together outreach services, aimed at those feeling stress, anxiety or a need for peace. The quiet reflective time will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome, whether church members or not, whether believers or not.



Were you expecting us to report something from Ross Stirling-Young in this issue?

We're told that there's no formal update on the Arumina AIDS hospice project in Kolkata ready for circulation yet, but we urge you to keep the children and Suvabrota (Ross's trusted friend in Kolkata) in your prayers.

A peaceful light within each one of us

Dorissia Forsyth enjoys a Taizé service at Lochgelly



On Sunday 13 January, I attended a Taizé-inspired service at St Finnian's, Lochgelly. This service was led by the Rev Margaret Dineley and Edith Mathewson, and we were joined by members of neighbouring churches, as well as members of St Margaret's.

Taizé was founded by Brother Roger in 1940 in a small village in Burgundy region where his mother's family had originated. He was 25 years old and had come there to offer shelter to refugees, notably Jews fleeing Nazi persecution from across Europe. The three core values of Taizé are prayer, work and hospitality.

We had assembled in the hall for refreshments prior to the evening's service. Rejoicing was the theme of the service. Once inside the church, we observed a few minutes silence before singing the opening chant "The Lord is my light and salvation, in him I trust, in him I trust." After each chant we said a prayer or bible reading. It is in fact a very meditative form of prayer in which singing and silence have always played a large part. It is a way of opening ourselves to Christ's peace and joy.

Although Taizé services tend to attract young people, it is becoming more popular in many churches, retreats and seminaries.

The following intercessory prayer reflects the example of a community that has welcomed people of all faiths and none, a



community living the Gospel call to Hope and Reconciliation:

"Rainbow God, you have created people of many colours and given us different cultures. But in you each has its source and fulfilment. In Jesus Christ you have made us one, breaking down the walls we make to protect ourselves. By your Holy Spirit you have joined us in one body, giving to each part its special gift. Help us to use our unique gifts for sake of your kingdom."

This service is held every second Sunday of the month at 4.30pm with refreshments at 3.45pm. Everyone is most welcome.

I'd like to end with this prayer by the late Brother Roger of Taizé:

"God of every human being, you never force our heart; you place your peaceful light within each one of us. With that light shining on them, our failures and our joys can find meaning in you."

Taizé chants are often Bible-based. The one that Dorissia refers to comes from Psalm 27.1, which the New International Version renders as: "The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

That same psalm, to which the New Revised Standard version gives the title "Triumphant Song of Confidence", also holds in its final verse the source of a chant we sang in Advent: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"



Working together

Rosyth Foodbank

Rosyth Foodbank continues to open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4.00–6.00pm. We greatly appreciate the regular donations from the congregations here and individuals who drop by personally or with donations from workplace or schools.

Most months Rosyth supplies food for 30–40 people, but in August and December last year the figures reached 90 for both months. This reflects changing in work patterns like zero-hours contracts, business closures, and methods of benefit payments with some people without income for considerable periods of time.

Foodbanks are staffed by volunteers, with an organiser in Dunfermline paid by the Trussel Trust (who set up the scheme in the mid '80s in Salisbury). He is responsible for the smooth running and supply of the Foodbanks in this area.

A supply depot in Elgin Street, Dunfermline, is also manned by volunteers, who receive the weekly orders from the local Foodbanks and then deliver as needed.

Supplies come from regular supermarket collections where customers are asked to pop food and household cleaners or toiletries in the collection baskets on specific days, and by shoppers using trolleys left by some supermarkets for casual donations. Some people give money and this is used to supplement supplies as the depot is occasionally short of particular items. Local shops too will often give stock which is close to 'best by' or 'use by' dates and this has to be used quickly but is still welcome.

The importance of client confidentiality is stressed to all volunteers, and we have to remember that needing to use a Foodbank can be a daunting prospect for

Charitable giving

The collections taken at December's Sunday@Six Christmas Anthology were in aid of Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) and Action for Children (AfC). Through the generosity of all those who contributed, the amount collected for AfC was £284.70 and a donation of £371.88 (inclusive of Gift Aid) will be made to CHAS. A cheque for £471.82 will shortly be sent to Action for Children, made up of the collections over Christmas, donations at the tea-bar on a Sunday during December, and money raised by Jean Hall during the summer.

Our Treasurers, Dave and Gordon, would like to thank all those who contributed towards these two extremely worthwhile causes.

Ed: For historical reasons St Margaret's handle donations for CHAS, and RMC process gifts for AfC.

In addition, Triangles has sent approximately £125 of goods to the Foodbank, £300 to the charity Choices and £300 to the Scottish Air Ambulance Service.



a lot of people. So there are short training programmes for new volunteers and also updates on new legislation such as recent changes in Data Protection.

It is a privilege to be able to give a little time regularly and to know that, not only are we enjoying the company of fellow volunteers, but also we are helping meet an unexpected need in our community and sadly in the country generally. We can only pray that, despite so many major changes on the horizon, Foodbanks will one day become a folk memory.



Julia Reid, our part-time Student Minister

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

Every denomination has its own ways of doing things when it comes to training candidates for ministry so, if you are a cradle Methodist, please forgive the words of explanation of the Methodist process that are scattered throughout this article!



Julia is on a path which will lead to full-time itinerant ministry as a presbyter, starting with her first placement in September 2020, which will begin with two years “on probation”. It’s “itinerant” in the sense that her first church could be anywhere in Britain, with no restriction on Julia’s part, and she will thereafter move from posting to posting, probably every five years, in the same way that our other Methodist clergy do.

Julia is working with Eddie Sykes at Rosyth to gain practical experience of the role of a minister, as distinct from a member of the congregation, so she is deliberately not a member of our local church, nor the Circuit or District, but is part of the central structure of the British Methodist Connexion.

Julia is also part-time, interleaving study with earning a living, and she lives 45 minutes away in Auchterarder. So don’t expect to see her at every service and meeting, though she will spread her nominal three hours a week on placement as far as it can possibly go!

But who is Julia? And what does she bring to the ministry? And what is she passionate about? These are just some of the things we explored in our conversation.

Julia comes from a service background, her father being a Royal Marines officer, so she was born in Portsmouth while her father was posted there, and moved around during her early years. However, Julia regards herself as thoroughly Scottish, having been educated in Scotland, latterly at Carnoustie High School and Edinburgh University. [Julia’s father had become Quartermaster at RM Condor at Arbroath when Julia was five: when his time came to move on, her mother stayed in Arbroath with Julia and two of her three siblings.]

Julia did well at school, her excellence at mathematics suggesting to the school a career either in teaching or the Civil Service, while her mother favoured accountancy. In the event, Julia took her degree in Business Studies, working her way through “stacking shelves at M&S”, and enjoyed her time in Edinburgh, though at that stage in her life she hated the accountancy element!

Apart from attending occasional official services as a child with her father, and being sent to be ‘child-minded’ for a few years at the local Church of Scotland Sunday School, Julia describes herself as having been ‘unchurched’. There had also been a negative influence from her family regarding any involvement in church, or even mentioning the subject, on the grounds that “religion splits families” – this being due to the enforced split from her family of her maternal grandmother when she married outside her faith.

Julia’s decision to follow Christ came as a direct result of a New Testament distributed at her secondary school by the Gideons. Reading this Julia had a “physical, real sense of the Spirit” and a conversion experience she described as “a burning fire”.





Her path of discipleship was aided by the witness of a girl across the road from their new home, who invited Julia (then aged about 15) to come with her to the local Methodist Church. The 16th birthday present for which she asked was a Bible – the first complete Bible she had ever owned. Julia is convinced, from her experience, that “Scripture can speak for itself” and that it is important that God’s Word “be heard read, and read well”.

At University, Julia was passionate about her faith, her room in Pollock Halls (newly-refashioned for the 1986 Commonwealth Games) being adorned with Christian posters, and visitors left in no doubt that she was a Christian. While she belonged to the University Methodist Society – ‘MethSoc’ – based at Nicolson Square, her main involvement was with her local house group of four.

Julia had first felt a call to ministry aged 16, but didn’t appreciate the possibility of realising this vocation immediately on graduating for one like herself who was both a woman and had no church background.

Feeling that option was not open, Julia began a career with what was then General Accident in Perth, where she worked for eleven years. She began with actuarial training (hard going!), but changes in the industry persuaded her to move to a career path that used her considerable management potential.

There are many “What if’s” in Julia’s life, where things might have turned out differently:

- if the Methodist Church in 1990 had been more proactive in encouraging (women) candidates ...
- if the finance industry had provided major opportunities for actuaries in 1992 instead of in 1996 ...
- if Aviva hadn’t taken over GA (officially it was a merger) when they did ...

The list could go on but, as Julia says, “God will use that experience in my ministry”. Particularly in relation to delaying the exercise of her vocation, she feels that ministers need to come from different backgrounds and bring experience of various lives to their ministry.

When Aviva took over GA, Julia took up the offer of redundancy to fund a year’s very intense study to become a Chartered Management Accountant in 2001. While she first spent a year with BEAR Scotland as Financial Controller, the qualification allowed her to practice as a self-employed provider of accountancy services and business consultancy, thus finding time to care for the needs of her family. It’s this work that she still carries out.

Asked “How could you give up a glittering career to become self-employed?” Julia would offer the same answer as to the question others might ask of her now “How can you give up stability and a good income for uncertainty and a minister’s stipend”, which is “The rewards are different”.

From 1990 to 2011, Julia was a member of Perth Methodist Church, where she taught in the Sunday School and was at various times Church Treasurer, Safeguarding Officer, Synod Representative, Circuit Steward and Circuit Treasurer. And all these while taking full responsibility for three children and lacking support from her (now ex-)husband – the children frequently found themselves involved in activities such as Synod!

Things at home had not been easy for Julia and came to a crisis around 2009–11 with a mental breakdown that was accompanied by marriage difficulties and what is a continuing heart-break over rejection by her eldest daughter, Kirsty. But, as Julia puts it: “God experiences rejection all the time, but he doesn’t stop loving each one of us – whether our rejection of Him is temporary or on-going”.

About the time all this was happening, Julia felt led to start on the path to becoming an Accredited Lay Preacher, the essential prerequisite for the Methodist ministry. This she completed in 2015 and she then “candidated for ministry”, a protracted process which involves multiple levels of interviews and approvals and preparation of a portfolio. During this time Julia was a member of Stirling Methodist Church.

Julia’s three-year part-time course, which started in summer 2017, is based at what is formally “The Queen’s Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education”, based at Edgbaston, Birmingham. The course involves home study of 5/6 modules a year, with the usual workload of assignments, helped by fortnightly Skype tutorial sessions (mostly five students sharing) and some face-to-face opportunities – a one-week “Easter School” and eight residential weekends a year.



Family gathering for Julia’s Local Preacher accreditation service in 2016: (l-r) Alasdair, Linda (younger sister), Irene (mum), Iain and Julia

Despite the travelling, Julia enjoys the reaction with other students from different faith backgrounds, and the variety of styles employed in the five periods of worship each weekend.

For the first year, Julia was attached to Pollokshaws Methodist Church, but the recent Circuit changes have meant her being reassigned to Rosyth. She is looking forward to her placement here, expecting to lead worship twice a quarter and participate in worship more often, and hoping to get to know people through activities such as the occasional appearance at the Triangle coffee shop. Do help her in this, and pray for her over the next 18 months, when she will experience considerable change in her life as she moves from accountancy to minister, and her lads Iain (19 in March) and Alasdair (17 just after Christmas, and just learning to drive) finally quit the nest. And think of her as she exercises her two dogs and works out how and when to add to her score of two half-marathons!



The Christian community in Baghdad

Sandra Young feels a personal connection ...

St George's Church in Baghdad, the only Anglican church in Iraq, is one of the Chaplaincies in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. The current building was constructed in 1936 to commemorate those who died in the First World War and also to serve soldiers of the British Empire who were stationed in Baghdad. The church was closed in 1991 after the first Gulf War. Over the years it fell into disuse and the building was totally looted. It was restored with funding from the British Embassy in Baghdad and the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, and was reopened after the toppling of Saddam Hussein in 2003.



St George's Church, Baghdad

My brother, Ian, spent twenty-three years of his ministry in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. In addition to serving the Anglican congregations in Qatar, he was archdeacon of the diocese, and for five years was the Provincial Secretary of the episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. He visited Baghdad several times to take services at St George's Church. Ian also visited during and after both Gulf Wars and met with officials from Saddam Hussein's government including the Christian Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz. If flying was impossible because of the wars, then it was a ten hour journey from Amman, Jordan by the desert road keeping a lookout for possible attacks from villages en route!

Today the church is ministered by the Reverend Father Faiz Jerjees, the first Iraqi-ordained Anglican priest, and serves a congregation of about 300, all Iraqis. A few years ago, St George's was targeted by suicide bombers. Fr Faiz survived this attack, but a number of people were killed. The church is now protected by concrete bollards, security gates, and armed guards.



Fr Faiz is pictured here with Revd Canon John Kafwanka, Director for Mission at the Anglican Communion Office

In 2015, the Church supported some of the internally displaced Iraqis who had fled from their villages, and who by then were congregating at and around St George's. With the support of the Church of the Epiphany in Doha, Qatar, St George's provided household goods and provisions to around 60 families.

Jan has mentioned in her article (page 6), that many of the Christians who had fled have since returned to their villages. Rebuilding is taking place, but there are still no jobs and they face an uphill struggle to rebuild their shattered lives. However, in reality, relatively few Iraqi Christians have been able to leave the Middle East and Christians in Iraq still aren't safe.



On Christmas Eve 2018, the highest Sunni authority in Iraq issued a fatwa (a formal ruling on a point of Islamic law) forbidding his followers to “congratulate Christians during Christmas” or participate in New Year celebrations. Fr Faiz teaches reconciliation at the local university where his lectures focus on peace-building and he encourages the students there to conquer their own prejudices.



The Anglican School of the Redeemer – al-Fadi

Despite the risks, a brand-new primary school has been built in the grounds at St George’s Church. The opening ceremony took place on 29 September 2018 and was led by the Bishop of Cyprus and the Gulf. The school has grown out of the church’s Kindergarten and is the first of its kind in the country. It will enable St George’s Church to offer primary-level education to children after they have completed their time at the existing Redeemer Kindergarten. Like the Kindergarten, the Primary School will serve all the local communities and covers years 1, 2 and 3. Some 90 per cent of the Kindergarten’s 150 children are from Muslim families. Fr Faiz has emphasised the importance of the school in inter-faith relations in the country. At the same time the Bishop also opened a newly re-sited and refurbished Hope Resource Centre.

The Bishop and his wife, Julia, visited Baghdad during December and spent time at the school where Julia and another visitor – both former teachers - encouraged the teaching staff and led some in-service training.

As well as the school, the campus houses a medical clinic that includes a dentist, pharmacy and laboratory. Fr Faiz is closely involved with the clinic, opened in 2007, which employs both Muslim and Christian staff and treats people free of charge regardless of gender, age or faith. Typically the clinic sees 90 patients a day, four days a week. Amid growing sectarianism, it is difficult to find another example of this in Iraq. The Mothers’ Union at St George’s, organises food for 4,000 people each week, helps children who have lost limbs in the war and helps run the clinic.

It is not surprising that in November 2018, Fr Faiz was recognised by the Iraqi Army for a second time in two years for his outstanding contribution to peaceful co-existence in Iraq. In December 2017 the country’s Ministry of Culture named him as one of Iraq’s ‘Distinguished Personalities of the Year’ for his work supporting human rights.

Fr Faiz hopes to visit the UK this spring and be able to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury and other religious leaders, and also decision-makers in Whitehall and Parliament to secure more support for Iraqi Christians.

Ed: The charity involved in bringing Fr Faiz to the UK is the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East (frme.org). More about the visit at <https://tinyurl.com/yc4fe5fw>.

New Zealand adventure

Val Leslie discovers the perfect place for a stressed-out social worker to go on holiday!

Allan and I flew out to New Zealand to visit Paul, Emma and the girls on 27 December 2018. I was so pleased and excited to be going back to New Zealand for the third time! It is a long journey but oh so worth the trip.



Jessica is now almost 6 years old (hard to believe, she is growing so quickly), and Charlotte is 3 and almost a tall as her big sister. They are delightful children, who both love the outdoors so New Zealand is a perfect place for them to grow up.



Allan and I were transported to some very special places by Paul and Emma, to superb beaches and magical waterfalls. The photo shows Mokoroa Falls in Waitakere which

is West of Auckland. We trekked through some stunning forest areas, taking special care to keep to the tracks.

Before entering the forest we had to disinfect the soles of our shoes. This is because Kauri trees have been dying from a disease called 'Kauri die-back', a disease caused by a blight carried by trekkers and tourists on their shoes.

The Kauri trees in the forest are very precious to New Zealanders, particularly the Maori peoples, and they take centuries to grow. Sadly this was not taken into account by the European settlers in the 19th Century who cut down huge swathes of Kauri forest because of its strong and straight timber. Fortunately, New Zealand people are now much more environmentally astute and are taking massive steps to protect their wildlife and forests.



Kauri Tree "Tāne Mahuta" in the Waipoua Forest. The tree has a total height of over 50m with a trunk circumference of 14m.

Photo by W. Bulach



This is just as well, because things take time to grow in New Zealand and time moves slowly and leisurely in the land of the great white cloud. I suppose it is for that reason alone that New Zealand is the perfect place for a stressed-out social worker to go on holiday!

The land that is now New Zealand was discovered by Kupe; a Polynesian explorer from Hawaiki. He gave it the name 'Aotearoa', 'Land of the great white cloud'. 400 years later, Maori began to populate the North Island. The First Europeans arrived in 1642, and they began to settle from 1769 when James Cook arrived. The Bay of Islands was the first place they came, and on the Waitangi Treaty grounds the nations founding document was signed in 1840.

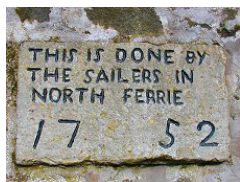
I note that the theme of this month's Contact is "A light to lighten the Gentiles". Simeon rejoiced when he held the baby Jesus in his arms because he recognised that he could die in peace because God had delivered what he promised to him. New Zealand's great age and its glory in all things new, without forgetting its heritage and respecting and caring for things that are of great age, reminds me of this Bible passage. Simeon and Anna were old, but they recognised the wonder and importance of the baby Jesus. Recognising the birth of new beginnings and respecting age and heritage seems to highlight what New Zealand, and particularly Auckland, is all about.

From almost everywhere in Auckland you can see Rangitoto, a 600 year-old volcano. You can sail out to this nature reserve by a ferry which you catch in Devonport, my very favourite little town and ferry port on North Shore).



Rangitoto is not for the faint-hearted. It is a fair trek to the summit and is definitely more of a young person's hike. Allan and I gave it a miss! However, we did go to Waiheke Island which has public transport and lovely sandy beaches (much more my scene!). Waiheke also boasts 30 very special vineyards and great places to eat and drink coffee. Waiheke in the summertime is a very special place to spend time just drinking in the beauty of the place. I loved it!

To sum New Zealand's North island up, it is a mix of old and new, ancient and modern, traditional and zany, but, each complements the other. Auckland is a city full of life and light, particularly when the sun is shining, which on our holiday it did every day – we were so lucky. I was sad to leave Auckland, but with God's grace we will be back again for another visit next year. I hope you like the photos of Rangitoto, Paul and family at Milford beach and Mokoroa Falls (we had a picnic there and it was heavenly).



This too is of great age! You'll find out where this item of more local heritage is on **page 11**.

Christmas past – 1

Aggies' Christmas Concert

Christmas started a little earlier than usual when the Naval charity Aggies used the church to hold a Christmas concert on 5 December. Arranged by Jim McRae, the Aggies' Pastoral Worker in Rosyth, the concert comprised familiar carols for congregation, four readings telling the Christmas story in a less traditional way and musical contributions from the Rosyth Military Wives Choir. The Rev Richard Rowe, Naval Chaplain on HMS Prince of Wales gave one of the readings and led the prayers. The service was well supported by folk from across the Rosyth Churches and £166 was raised in the retiring collection to support the work of Aggies. A lovely spread of refreshments afterwards provided an opportunity to get to know members of the choir better and rounded off an enjoyable evening of entertainment and worship.

Adrian Masson

Christmas Eve Nativity

It was great to welcome so many to our 2018 all-age Nativity Service on Christmas Eve, and wonderful to see a number of new faces.

This year our Nativity play was a traditional one from Tear Fund, "God With Us", replete with angels, shepherds and wise (wo)men! As well as Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus of course.

Our Nativity was indeed all-age – the age of actors ranged from under 1 year old (the star) to 70+. The service was a wonderful celebration, not only of the Christmas story, but also of our church community with a great mix of Methodists and Episcopalians and visiting (and proud) grandparents.

Many thanks to all at Messy Church who made the scenery as well as providing so many talented actors, and thanks to all who attended to make this such a perfect service.

Jan Benvie

Christmas Anthology

Our December Sunday@Six, held as usual on the Sunday before Christmas, allowed the congregation to enjoy singing a number of favourite hymns, but this year took the form of a "Christmas Anthology" instead of the traditional readings and carols.

Devised and directed by Sue Masson, the anthology told the well-known story in an imaginative way by interleaving the hymns with six sequences of poem/music/poem. There was enormous variety in both music and poetry: not always too serious, as with "Saturday Night at the Bethlehem Arms" by Gareth Owen, an inn-keeper's take on



the events of that night, and "The Camel Shuffle" by Peter Ratcliffe, one of a number of items that Sue had specially arranged for four-part choir.

The congregation of over 60, which included people from other local churches and beyond, much appreciated this

different form of carol service.

We "followed that star" with the help of our choir, guest pianist Heather Kelsall, the Praise Band and their friends, and a well-varied collection of readers. And we all enjoyed the festive fare afterwards. Grateful thanks to everyone involved, especially Sue.

Christmas past – 2

Rosyth Nativity Concert and Lighting of the manger and trees

For some years now, the Parish Church has had a manger scene outside, with fairy lights in the trees. This has gone through various iterations, some forced, some unforced. Initially, switching on the lights – usually on the first Tuesday evening in December – was held outside. But it was cold, perhaps wet, even under deep snow in the first year, and conditions were not good for the musicians of Rosyth Concert Band or the school choirs. We arranged for our old friend, Sydney the donkey, to be there, but even if it wasn't snowing in Rosyth his farm lane near Falkirk would be blocked with snow, so he never did attend. And once we had moved into the church, it was no longer possible to invite him!

The main focus of the event is community involvement. The community gave money for the manger and lights to be procured, the local primary schools designed and made the painted figures for the manger scene and, for the first year, the children also created stained-glass transparencies to cover the windows in the church, illuminated from within. Each year since that first event, the Co-operative Funeral Service has donated mince pies for refreshments afterwards!

Choirs from the four primary schools in Rosyth work hard to produce appropriate songs and carols, rehearsing long hours to ensure we have tuneful singing on the night. This year, two of the choirs were involved in a concert at the Alhambra Theatre in Dunfermline and couldn't attend. But a large choir from St Johns and a smaller one from Park Road, accompanied by Rosyth Concert Band, made joyous music. The capacity audience, mostly of adoring parents, grandparents and siblings, and members of the churches in Rosyth, added to the noise! Not to be outdone, our three new ministers, Brian, Eddie and Kenny, related the Christmas story with readings from the Bible and other appropriate narrations – and Morag was our Master of Ceremonies!

The manger scene and lights remain on over the Christmas Season, often accompanied by carols. Money raised at the event is donated to a local charity, though this year – aided by a grant from Fife Council Community Fund – it was used to replace lights which had totally failed in one of the trees.

It is great to see so many Rosyth folk from the community involved over the years in commemorating our Saviour's birth, at a very special time of year.

Alan Taylor

Wednesday Fellowship Christmas Lunch

When we asked the Fellowship members whether they would like an afternoon tea or a lunch they voted to go out for lunch. After visiting various places we decided that the Woodside Hotel in Aberdour was suitable for our needs. This turned out to be a good decision as we had no complaints from anyone. One of our problems is usually transport, but not so this time the bus stopped very near to the hotel and there was a car park nearby.

The staff were very good sorting out a menu that would suit everyone. We had a room to ourselves with nicely-set tables complete with nice Christmas decorations and crackers. We all enjoyed our meal and could certainly recommend the Woodside Hotel to anyone.

Mary Dempster



Spreading light

Some thoughts from your webmaster

You hear a lot about the “dark web”, and much on-line content is indeed dangerous, but the web can also be a really potent force for good, by providing a route to spread the Gospel to people for whom coming to church is an alien idea, but surfing the net is an everyday pleasure.

This is one reason why our websites have a “Thought for the Month” (TfTM), and why some churches post more regularly. Did you notice that our Advent and Christmas TfTM posts linked to daily material written by one of your webmaster’s friends, Rev Geoff Bland? Geoff helped his readers prepare for Christmas by reflecting on what it means that “Love came down at Christmas”, following this for the days between the Nativity and Epiphany with “Twelve reasons why Jesus came”. You can follow his current project on the Apostles’ Creed at skeltonbrotton.wixsite.com/christians, and sign up for email advice of new posts.

Getting something in your mailbox to help you to find new material is something that many Christian websites use to improve what is referred to as ‘engagement’ with their material. Two examples that hit my mailbox regularly are the Daily Lectionary at www.dailylectio.net and “Church Matters” from www.paulbeasleyemurray.com.

Facebook notifications are also useful in keeping in touch with organisations and activities that you might otherwise miss.

Coming to TfTM shortly

At our recent Covenant Service, Eddie Sykes preached on Jeremiah 31:31–34, a sermon on God’s covenant promise that many found helpful. His words will form the basis of our February TfTM.



The web can also host quality resources for study, whether you’re on your own or in a small group. For example, the image above comes from the latest in the series of Lent courses from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (ctbi.org.uk/lent) “The Mystery of God”.

This “seeks to rediscover what it is that draws us so deeply in our search for God. We will follow Jesus through the Lenten readings, allowing him to draw us, in love and wonder, into the mystery of God’s plan of salvation.”

So that you can choose which parts of the weekly resource to use, there are four colour-coded sections:

- conversation starters and things to think about;
- sections that involve prayer and engagement with Scripture;
- sections with something to do – like watch a video clip and talk about it;
- sections that involve theological reflection and invite you to deepen your devotional practice.

Other sites supplement printed material. For example, “40 Days of Reflections on the Beatitudes” by Steven Croft, a new item in the Pilgrim series that Margaret Dineley uses at Lochgelly. The “Lent Pilgrim” challenge at www.churchofengland.org/lent allows you to sign up for daily emails exploring the reflections. Each contains a short Bible reading, an invitation to reflect, a suggestion for prayer and a prompt to act.



DGASS present *The Sorcerer*

Joan Bell, Ann Duly, Gwyneth Kirby or Martin Tarr would love to sell you tickets for what promises to be a most entertaining show, on at Carnegie Hall from **Thursday-Saturday 21-23 February** – evenings at **7.30pm** and a **Saturday matinée at 2.30pm**. Tickets for all performances are £15 adult, concessions £14, under-16s £5.

As Joy Campbell says in the programme: “Why do we come to the theatre? For a little bit of stardust and magic, that’s why! So, willingly suspend your disbelief as you come with us to the 1920s, where a sorcerer will change the humdrum, settled lives of the villagers of Ploverleigh who are celebrating an engagement. We offer you singing, dancing, love, betrayal and potions. This is not one of Gilbert and Sullivan’s best-known shows, but it guarantees a great evening’s entertainment. We have certainly had fun rehearsing it!”

Dunfermline Choral Union

This year’s spring concert features the UK premiere of ‘Sunrise Mass’ by Ola Gjeilo and a selection of pieces by John Rutter, including ‘Psalmfest’. With a choir of over a hundred singers accompanied by a full orchestra this promises to be a fabulous evening!

The concert is at **7.30pm on Saturday 2 March** at the Vine Conference Centre in Dunfermline. Tickets from Mary Kidd, Gwyneth Kirby or Myra Tarr.

We’re always pleased to print information about coming events that are of general interest to our readers and in which members of our LEP are involved – the community is wider than just the church!

Bach St John Passion

Composed when Bach was at the height of his powers, this Passion contains some of his most exquisite and communicative writing for the human voice. It’s a fierce, heart-wrenching realisation of Christ’s physical and spiritual journey to the cross that still speaks to audiences with a visceral energy and timeless relevance.

The Scottish Chamber Choir and MD, Iain McLarty, are joined by sparkling young soloists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and professional orchestral ensemble, Camerata Alba, in the beautiful acoustic of Edinburgh’s Canongate Kirk.

Please join us at **7.30pm on Saturday 23 March** for this performance of one of the greatest sacred oratorios. Tickets are £15, with £10 student concessions and free entry for under-16s, from Martin Tarr (01383 723989).

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society

The Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society will be performing its Spring concert at the Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy on **Sunday 24 March at 3.00pm**.

The concert will include the Overture to the Yeomen of the Guard (Sullivan), Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso (Saint-Saens), Autumn Leaves (Kosma), Radio4 UK Theme (Spiegel and Arlan), The Big Country (Moross), Calling all Workers and By the Sleepy Lagoon (Coates), a new work for orchestra by Isobel Grieve, a Fife student who took part in last year’s composition project, and the finale to Borodin’s second Symphony.

Tickets (£8 or £4 for children) can be obtained from Adrian Masson (St Margaret’s congregation – 01383 824887).

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 Fair shares!

2 boys and a girl were sitting by a swimming pool one very hot afternoon. Being thirsty, they decided to share all the drink they had. One boy had 5 bottles, the other had 3 bottles, the girl had none, so they had 8 bottles to share between them. As the girl had no lemonade she gave the boys 8 packets of sweets between them, saving some extra for herself. **What is the fairest way of dividing the 8 packets of sweets between the 2 boys?**

2 A record distance

A vinyl record measures 32cm across. There is a 1cm margin round the edge and a centre label, which measures 10cm across. There are 30 grooves per cm. **How far does the needle travel if the record is played from start to finish?**

3 Sharing the load

Two donkeys, Tim and Tom, were slowly walking along a road carrying sacks of grain, when tired Tim said to Tom: "If you gave me one sack I'd have twice as many as you! But if I gave you one sack we would have the same." **How many sacks did each donkey have?**

4 Here is a tough one!

What are the next two numbers in the sequence?

1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, 26, 28, 29, 41, __, __

5 Nail that plate

A carpenter nails a plate to the side of a box. If the plate is square and there are 25 nails along each side of the plate, **what is the total number of nails used?**

December/January answers

1 A competitive bunch!

2001 The words all have Roman numerals. MMI from TAMMI = 2001

2 Hidden sequence

APIAPT A Partridge In A Pear Tree from the Christmas song

3 Who is next?

Hurley or Taylor or anyone famous with a first name of Elizabeth, as the list is of British monarchs in order.

BUSH = George,
SHAKESPEARE = William
BECKHAM = Victoria
SCISSORHANDS = Edward
CLOONEY = George
NORTON = Edward
HARRISON = George
----- = Elizabeth

4 Somewhere over the Atlantic!

- A) TENNESSEE (10 SEs)
- B) ILLINOIS (ILL in OIS)
- C) MONTANA (M on TANA)
- D) WEST VIRGINIA (AINIGRIV ←
reading from the west)
- E) CONNECTICUT
(Connecting I to CUT)

5 Last letter

The final letter was **S**:

Wha**T** i**S** th**E** fina**L** lette**R** i**N** thi**S** serie**S**

Let Dave know if you need extra clarification!

Contact points and meeting times

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

Church activities

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

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

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

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

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

Toddlers' Group
(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

Never give up



Our Thought for the Month for the season of Epiphany, and indeed for the whole of this New Year of 2019, came from a sermon on Matthew 2.1–13 preached in Chelmsford Cathedral on 6 January 2019 by the Rt Rev John Perumbalath, recently appointed Area Bishop of Bradwell, in Chelmsford diocese:

“... the wise men in our story are a persisting lot. They were probably not very clear about what they were heading for. They had a sign but they lost it on the way. It was then possibly a path of uncertainty and darkness. But these wise men never gave up. They did not abandon their journey in the face of obvious obstacles on the way. In the absence of any clear guideline, they made mistakes ending up in a wrong place. But their persistence took them till the end of the road.

“We do not encounter God because we do not persevere in seeking him. We look for him in certain obvious places and when we do not find him there we give up. We are not willing to take long journeys in unfamiliar territories of our lives. In a world of instant things where we are able to receive instant food and instant clothing, we also look for instant solutions to our spiritual problems. We expect instant peace and instant happiness and then grow very uneasy and impatient in our journey. The feast of the Epiphany says, ‘never give up.’”

You can read the full sermon at <https://tinyurl.com/y73b4szq>.

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 31 March, and its theme will be “**Death and Resurrection**”. Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 24 March**, 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@rosythmethodist.org.uk mailbox is always monitored,