

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



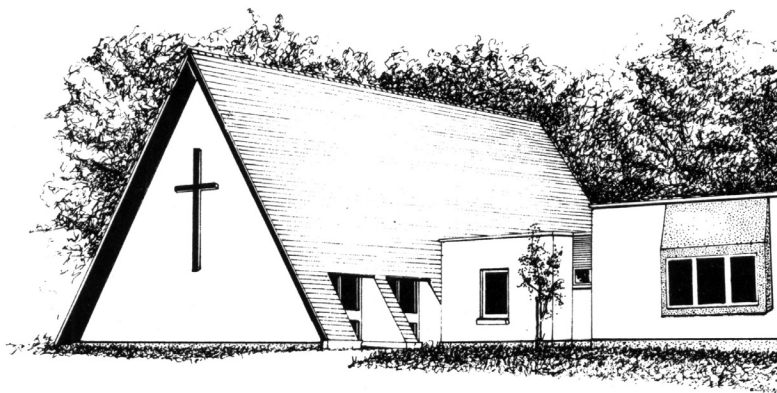
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 102

April/May 2019

## Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

[www.rosythmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rosythmethodist.org.uk)

## St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

[www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk](http://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



With such a late Easter, this issue will be current during a period when our spiritual journey will take us through Lent and Holy Week to Easter and beyond, which is a wide compass indeed! Which we why we challenged contributors to write about what "Death and Resurrection" means to them, suggesting that they might focus on the events that led up to Good Friday ... or the joy of Easter morning ... or the 40 days when Christ was on earth with his disciples.

The result has been a bumper issue, for which thanks to our many contributors! As previously, we have been encouraged by the variety of ways in which the theme has been interpreted – look for the three crosses and empty tomb symbol – and by complementary material received about personal journeys of faith.

This issue has also been made larger than usual because of the sharing of memories and words of appreciation about those who have worked in our midst who are being called to a different sphere of service or who have been called to their reward. We give thanks for them, and we look to plug the gaps that they leave, in terms of effort, expertise, wisdom, generosity, and prayer support. So there are articles in this issue in which we raise the challenges of bringing into play fresh pairs of hands. What are you being challenged to offer? What part can you play in the ongoing work of Christ in this community? How can you help others to "Experience Easter"?

As I write I have absolutely no idea what the outcome of the current Brexit crisis will be, when we will know that outcome, or even whether there will be any resolution before our next issue on 26 May. [Perhaps we should be glad that we can't foretell the future – remember Saul didn't hear what he wanted to hear when he disobeyed God and consulted the Witch of Endor!] As citizens of the UK, we are *in* Europe, but not *of* Europe – a parallel with our situation as Christians of being *in* the world, but not *of* the world – and this situation makes for inherent tension, potential conflict and increasing challenges.

The outcome of our political situation is unknown, perhaps even unknowable, but we **do** know that our God is a God of abundance, a God of steadfast love, that we are invited to share in life in all its fullness and to share that invitation with all the world. If you read nothing else in this issue (and we hope you will read more) read what Louise Gilchrist writes on pages 18–19 ...

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## Included in this issue ...

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Abundant gifts of Steadfast Love	pp18–19
Personal spirituality	pp37–39

### Plus our regular items:

Diary to end-May	pp20–25
Fellowship News	pp10–11; pp29–32
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The wider world	pp40–41
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## A guide to our symbols



working the wider building death and  
together world community resurrection



# Not ours to keep, but ours to share

Very Rev Kenny Rathband reflects on our calling as an Easter people

The Lenten fast is nearly over; the great feast of Easter approaches. Soon we will be called to be an Easter people. The question for all of us is to find ways in which we can show that we are an Easter people, a people who know and share the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are in their own way special times for they allow us space to grow and reflect not only on Christ's journey to the cross and resurrection but also on our own journey of faith. In our everyday lives we all encounter what could be described as mini-Lents, mini-Holy Weeks and mini-Easters. Times when we are called to face challenges and trials just as Jesus was. Yet also times when we share in great joy. Times when such trials are put aside and we rejoice in the glory of the resurrection.

We don't have to look far to see that the world can be a troubled and difficult place, presenting us with both challenges and joys. We live in a society where belonging to a particular group, religious or otherwise, is often on the decline. A society where many are seeking some form of spiritual comfort without necessarily knowing what it is that they really want. Surely one of the tasks of the Church is to try and get alongside those who are searching and offer them a faith to engage with. To offer them hope and seek to share in that journey.

One of the wonderful post-resurrection stories is the 'Road to Emmaus'. Two disciples are walking to Emmaus and are joined by another man. Initially they are unaware of who this person is. It is only when Jesus breaks bread with them that they realise who He is. Once Jesus had gone the disciples shared with one another

how they felt. They then go and relate this experience to the others and the message is shared. The wonderful point of this story is that Jesus met the disciples on an ordinary walk and in the course of an ordinary meal. It reminds us that, so often, it is in our ordinariness that we can encounter and share the good news of the Risen Lord.

Our Lent, Holy Week and Easter experiences challenge, strengthen and enrich us. Such experiences are not ours to keep, but ours to share. They are given to us so that we might share our journey of faith with others who are also searching for some meaning and purpose in their lives. The opportunities of how we can do this are presented to us all in our daily life. All that is required of us is to say 'Yes' to God and share in that journey.

Christ is Risen.

He is Risen indeed.

Alleluia!

As we seek to share our journeys of faith and move from one season to another I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter.

Kenny

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## In your daily life

**How might you experience Easter while you're out shopping?**

No, this isn't one of Dave's crafty questions, because the answer is in *this* issue, not our next one.

Work it out by taking a look at page 22; then head for Dunfermline during Holy Week. Better still, take a friend with you and share your journey of faith with them, as Kenny suggests in his article.



# Preparing for Easter



## Continuing Lent Study Groups

There are still opportunities to join Lenten study groups.

**Monday evenings:** The Ecumenical Lenten study course "Finding a Voice", explores ways in which, like Colin Firth's Bertie in the film "The King's Speech", we too can face and overcome our terrors to find our true and authentic voice, especially important in proclaiming the Gospel. The sessions run **through to 8 April**. Each session starts at **7.30pm** in the Parish Church and finishes around 9.00pm, followed by refreshments. The study group will also meet on **Monday 15 April** to share a Passover Celebration together.

**Wednesday evenings** (until **10 April**) with Kenny offering a series of Bible Studies at Holy Trinity Church Hall when the Gospel for the following Sunday will be read and discussed. Each meeting starts at **7.30pm**, ending with Compline at 8.30pm until 8.45pm. All are most welcome to come along – bring your Bible!

**Thursday mornings** when the Methodist Leadership Team are convening a Lenten Study Group here in Room 5 at **10.30 am**, until **Thursday 18 April**. The course, will be based on the material "Talking Jesus" (available cost £1) whose aim is to give people confidence to talk about their faith.

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## One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

"When I am lifted up from the earth,  
I will draw everyone to me."

John 12:32 (Good News Translation)

## Holy Week services

You'll find a full list of what's on during Holy Week on pages 21–22. A warm invitation is given to everyone to join all or any of these services, as we prepare to celebrate the joy of the resurrection on Easter Day. A lot of work has gone into our preparations, both liturgically and musically, and coming along is a meaningful way of reminding ourselves what it is to be a Christian in today's world.

## Easter breakfast

We will be serving a simple breakfast before the 11.00am service on Easter Day – as we did last year – starting at about 10.00. All from both churches are welcome to come and share with us – St Margaret's congregation can come along at 10.30! – but it would be helpful to have some idea of numbers to avoid wasting food. If you are thinking of coming, please let Jean or Gwyneth know.

## Edinburgh Easter Play – 2020 Vision

Our readers who enjoy attending the annual Easter Passion Play in Princes Street Gardens, will be disappointed to learn that there won't be a Play in 2019 (the group can't afford it) but there are plans to be part of a bigger project for 2020, namely, Cutting Edge Theatre's (aka Suzanne Lofthus) plans for real time drama of the Easter story. Princes Street Gardens will be booked for **Saturday 11 April 2020**, but the group also hope to perform on Good Friday and Easter morning. As plans are firmed up, more information will become available at [www.easterplay.org/en/](http://www.easterplay.org/en/).



# Death and Resurrection – 1

Jan Benvie asks: "How do we explain it? How do we understand it?"

Biblical stories about Jesus' death and resurrection can seem strange and unbelievable. Mary, on visiting the tomb, thinks that Jesus is a gardener, only recognising him when he speaks to her. On the road to Emmaus, the disciples don't recognise Jesus as he accompanies them walking along the road. It is not until he breaks the bread that they recognise him. In this and other meetings Jesus suddenly appears, and just as suddenly disappears. I have no answers to these conundrums. All I have to offer are some thoughts and questions.

I'm writing this at Alnmouth Friary and in the chapel today we read the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son. We all know the story of the young man who squanders his inheritance and returns to his father begging forgiveness. What struck me today were the father's words "for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" (Luke 15:24). I wonder how many of us have had a similar experience, losing touch with a loved one, not knowing if they are dead or alive. And then .... they return, the relationship is renewed. Is that death and resurrection?

The garden here at Alnmouth is bursting into life, spring is here! The snowdrops have been and gone, the daffodils are beginning to droop a little, soon they will die, disappear into the earth again until next year. The trees and bushes are budding, new shoots are pushing up through the earth. Is that death and resurrection?

We don't hear the term 'Born-again Christians' so much now. My recollection was that you had to meet certain criteria to 'qualify' as born-again, but I have always believed that those of us who have lost or drifted away from our faith, then found it

again, are born again. For some this re-birth may have involved an epiphany moment that changed the course of our life. Is that death and resurrection?

Depending only on human experience we can find many guesses, ideas and theories, but no sure answers. I am reminded of the beautiful story of *The Dragonfly*, written by Doris Stickney to explain death to children. The story is of a colony of water bugs living in the dark mud at the bottom of a pond. Every once in a while one of their colony would climb the stem of a pond lily and was seen no more. Puzzled, they promised each other that the next one who climbed up the lily stalk would come back and tell the others where s/he went and why, but none did. Of course the water bugs climb up and metamorphose into dragonflies, and are unable to return to the muddy depths.



A female black-tailed skimmer, photographed in 2004 by Tim Bekaert

I believe that, like the water bugs, death and resurrection is beyond our understanding. We must instead trust in the Word of God.

**Ed:** More about a society that works to conserve dragonflies and their wetland habitats at <https://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/home>



# Death and Resurrection – 2

Ross Stirling-Young takes up our challenge



I was taken by surprise when asked by the Editor of Contact to provide a short commentary on what “Death and Resurrection” means to me. What a challenge! I’m positive it means so many things to different people, therefore, I would be upset if my interpretation of this crucial event was distorted on my part or not appropriate compared to other beliefs. But then I realised it may indeed mean something meaningfully different to each of us, which isn’t so wrong. We are all Christians, we all believe in the central fact that Jesus Christ was crucified and then raised from the dead. But looking closer, is there a part of His resurrection that speaks to each of us differently?

If you are like me you may have days, even lengthier periods in life, trying to fathom who and how great God is, then sometimes just have to sit back, accept that my human mind is incapable of understanding the power of God, and accept the trueness of his love and grace.

I could choose to believe in the resurrection simply because of what I learnt as a child or from listening to sermons in church. However, what I’ve come to realise is that believing in the resurrection is a personal invitation between me and God. In its truest form, it’s complete surrender and acceptance that Jesus is indeed my resurrected King. He died for my sins, for the sins of all humankind. Without this heartfelt and spiritual connection, I feel it would then simply be a one-way belief on my part, such as believing in a fairy-tale as a child. As a child I believed in the tooth fairy, but not so many years passed before I realised she didn’t believe in me! Accepting with all my heart that Jesus loves me for who I am (regardless of my failures) and that He died for me on the cross is what my faith is founded upon.



Ross on the Island of Lindisfarne  
– his ‘thin’ place

The resurrection of Jesus Christ has enabled me to move through dark times in my life. For example, to accept that dearly-beloved family and friends inherit the Kingdom of God in Heaven. Or to suffer from cancer for a second time, but know that, despite my desperation, loneliness and pain, Jesus is always by my side showing love and compassion.

A favourite passion of mine is to listen to praise and worship songs, and they often help secure a peace in me that other pursuits cannot. One of my ultimate favourite songs is by Chris Tomlin called “At the Cross” (“Love ran red”). The part of the song that seems to uproot me most is “I owe all to you, I owe all to you, Jesus”. It’s worth a listen if you haven’t already heard it.

In summary, I do owe all to Jesus. If I can live my life placing Jesus into every situation, then I know I will become (eventually) the person God intended me to be. It’s a far from easy process, but through faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, anything is possible.

In Jesus’s love, until He comes again,

Ross Stirling-Young



## Death and Resurrection – 3

Sandra Young tells of a link between Bethany and Chichester

Some years ago I was privileged to be part of the BBC Radio Daily Service Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There we made music – leading BBC *Sunday Worship* on Palm Sunday from St George's Anglican Cathedral in Jerusalem and singing the *Daily Service* on Radio 4 during part of Holy Week from a Lutheran Church – and our itinerary, although exacting, allowed us to see a lot of the Holy Land. The places selected and the planned events all had Biblical significance. Even today, I still have vivid memories of the pilgrimage.

To the Christian pilgrim, the Holy Land speaks of Jesus and of the Bible nearly all the time. Some places speak of him more vividly and pointedly than others and at times the pilgrim is aware, as I was, of standing where the Lord actually once stood or walked. A group of us set out on Maundy Thursday afternoon on foot from Bethany to follow the route often taken by our Lord over the ridge to Bethpage, to the top of the Mount of Olives and down the other side to Gethsemane, with the city of Jerusalem in view.

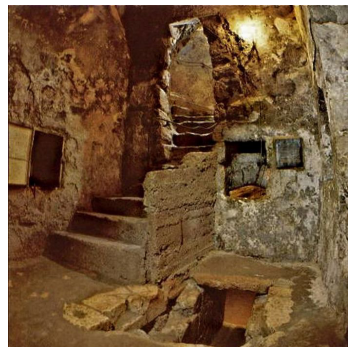
Our starting point was the main street in Bethany, a little Arab village on the southeast slopes of the Mount of Olives, some two miles east of Jerusalem. It was the home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, a favourite place of rest and refuge for Jesus to spend the night.

Bethany plays a part in many of the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus. One of the best-known of these is in John 11 which recounts that when Lazarus was dying, his sisters sent for Jesus. But Jesus delayed his arrival until four days after Lazarus had been buried, “so that the Son of God may be glorified”.

Arriving at the tomb, Jesus called: “Lazarus, come out!” To the amazement of mourners who had witnessed the burial, the dead man walked out. His miracle resulted in many believing in Jesus, while others perceived his increased influence as a threat; in this way it helped to provoke his crucifixion.



Some of our party, including myself, visited the holy Christian site of the Tomb of Lazarus in Bethany. The entrance is open to the street and is made of stone. Once inside, we carefully went down a flight of 24 well-worn, uneven and steep steps to a vestibule and then down three more steps which led to a 2m square cell, reportedly identified as the burial chamber of Lazarus.





Tradition says that Jesus stood in the vestibule to call Lazarus from the grave. Disappointingly, there is nothing to see, and the tomb is in a depressed state. But in visiting the simple grave, I sensed of the power of Jesus to raise believers and every time I hear the passage from John's Gospel I am reminded of my visit to the site.

Since 2005, Palestinian Bethany has been cut off from Jerusalem by Israel's separation wall 30ft high and built across the main street. This has a serious impact on the lives of residents and on the town's economy. When we walked from Bethany towards Jerusalem, retracing Jesus' triumphant steps, the journey was a mile and a half. Not so any more – the route is now cut off. The isolation of Bethany behind the barrier means that the Tomb of Lazarus is no longer on the normal pilgrim and tourist route.

And what of the link with Chichester?

Chichester Cathedral has many treasures and artwork, old and modern, among the oldest and most precious being two carvings known as The Lazarus Reliefs. They depict Christ being met by Martha and Mary at the Gate of Bethany (John 11.30–32) and the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

These panels are considered to be amongst the finest masterpieces of Romanesque sculpture. They were probably carved about 1125 and hidden in the Cathedral for centuries until they were found behind the choir 190 years ago. They are now on prominent display for visitors to admire.

One of the most striking features of the carvings is the emotional intensity in the faces of the figures, something which takes visitors (and me) by surprise, causing them stop to pause and reflect. In the panel of the raising of Lazarus the emotions of the occasion are beautifully captured in the pathos and expressiveness of the faces, especially of Jesus himself. It is almost as if



Christ being met by Martha and Mary  
at the Gate of Bethany

the viewers imagine themselves standing at the gateway and the graveside in Bethany with Martha and Mary and sharing in their anguish.

Last year, a small highly-skilled team specialising in sculpture and architectural conservation undertook essential restoration work on the Reliefs. A glass frontage has now been removed from one of them so that visitors can get a closer look at these beautiful sculptures, and marvel at their beauty, unimpeded by reflections.



The raising of Lazarus from the dead



# Fellowship News – 1

## Sons and Mothers

Marc Tempelhoff has just returned from South Africa ...

As with all men, growing up is a haphazard process, we start with being mum's little angel and quickly progress to "you little devil" and eventually, with some luck and a number of prayers' we become a shoulder for our mums to lean on.

We get to see the tables turned. We see our strong mothers getting frailer and slower, moving from "always on the move" to a "do I have to move?"

As you know, over the past year Mum's health has been deteriorating and a certain finality has reared its head. Mum knows, as they always do, that time is finite. However over the past few weeks, I spent quality time with Mum, reminiscing, laughing and spending a few hours on the beach.



As I sit here writing I realised that it is Mothering Sunday at the end of this week and my thoughts turned to Eve Denning and the simnel cake she used to bake. Good memories.

To all mothers, past, present and future, I wish you all a very happy Mother's Day. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers whilst I was in South Africa – they came in handy!

With love, Marc

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## Also away down South...

... and so nearly returning with a victory, and not just with the Calcutta Cup!

This happy chappie is Andrew Wedge, the leader of the Holy Trinity Youth Fellowship, caught on camera at Twickenham as he urged on the Scotland rugby team. This was the stage of the game where Scotland were beginning to make a comeback against England after a disastrous first half.

Afterwards, Scotland drew level ... then they were leading 38–31 ... until, in the dying moments of the game, England equalised, denying Scotland their first championship victory at Twickenham since 1983.



It has been called: "One of the most extraordinary matches in Six Nations history", and Andrew will remember that day for a long time!



## Barbara and Peter Hand

Those of you who remember Barbara and Peter from when they worshipped at the Naval Base Church until its closure, and later shared their Sunday worship between Holy Trinity and St Margaret's, may be interested to hear of them. Barbara keeps in touch with St Margaret's through Contact and also Dorissia, who she meets at Mother's Union gatherings in Edinburgh.

It was in 2014 that the Hands moved to Edinburgh to be closer to their family. Sadly, Peter is permanently in a residential care home, but thankfully Barbara enjoys the support and comfort of her family. She has also found a niche in St Cuthbert's, Colinton, where she has been made most welcome. In a recent card to Sandra, Barbara spoke of her fond memories of church in Rosyth and wishes to be remembered to us all. Our thoughts too go to Barbara and Peter.

## Jim and Jean Oliver

Caroline Barnes has written to St Margaret's thanking Sandra for printing such lovely articles about her parents in recent Contacts. She and her three children are still coming to terms with their double loss, but are sustained by their many happy memories.

Caroline did acknowledge that her mother's stories of earlier years were well embellished and had to be taken with "a large pinch of salt". Nevertheless, Sandra found her a great raconteur and always came away from their home in North Queensferry feeling refreshed and uplifted after an couple of hours in Jim and Jean's company.

## Eve Denning

Graham, Liz and Julie would like to thank all who sent cards, such beautiful messages and floral tributes following the death of our dear Mum, Eve. The collection taken at the funeral in aid of the RNLI amounted to £254, for which many thanks.

## Parted from us ...

Two of our elderly members have died in Queen Margaret Hospital in recent days. The first of these was **Jack Fowell**, whose funeral took place on 14 March. There is a tribute to Jack on page 29.

Stuart Fowell writes: "I would like to express my thanks to friends in the Methodist and St Margaret's Episcopal Churches for their kindness and support shown to my father, Jack Fowell, during his recent stay in hospital and latterly to us, his family, following his passing.

"We have received a great many cards and letters of condolence from friends. Many of them recounted fond memories of Dad or expressed such regard for him that they were a delight to read and of great support to us. I can only thank everyone most sincerely for their thoughts and the kindness shown to us.

"I would like also to thank everyone who donated so generously to Cancer Research in memory of Dad. The final figure wasn't available when Contact went to print but will be well in excess of £800."

The second member of Rosyth Methodist Church to be called home, on 15 March, was **Dorothy (Dot) Wilson**. Dot's funeral will be on **Monday 1 April at 12.15pm** at the church followed by committal at the crematorium at 1.15pm. A tribute to Dot appears on page 32.



# Invitations and requests – 1



## Work Day in the Church

We have occasional work days in the church. The next is scheduled for **Thursday 11 April**, starting at **9.00am** and finishing late afternoon – more or less when the jobs are done!

Volunteers are always needed, so if you would like to help out, perhaps with a particular skill set, please talk to Martin Rogers. Painting is always a favourite, though we do other work such as tidying up the grounds, washing down window frames, pruning shrubs, putting up noticeboards, etc etc. You don't have to come all day, or even start at 9.00am, but we would love to have a few more volunteers! Thank you.

## Methodist AGM 2019

The AGM this year will be on **Sunday 12 May**, not so much *following* the 11.00am service but an integral part of it, since the service that day is in Café-Church style, in the main hall. All present can help shape our future, whether through discussion of what we do or through the formal elections of Stewards and members of Church Council.

## Heart and Soul

Heart and Soul will return to Edinburgh on **Sunday 19 May**. The festival celebrates the life and work of the Church of Scotland with those who keep it strong and vibrant in communities everywhere – members, volunteers, ministers, and congregations alike!

This great event in Princes Street Gardens from **1.00pm to 6.00pm** is open for all to join in the joyous atmosphere. There will be up to 60 exhibitors, arts and events, so you are sure to find lots to interest you. Do plan to come – it's for everyone! For updates, subscribe at the website: <http://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/home>.

## Rosyth's heritage



The annual Rosyth Garden City Association (RGCA) exhibition takes place from **Monday 13 May until Saturday 19 May** in the Parish Church.

This is now RGCA's 16th year promoting Rosyth's heritage - particularly its Garden City origins and its Royal Naval Dockyard.

During this time, working in particular with the local Primary Schools to provide educational opportunities, annual exhibitions have been held in May and November. The May exhibitions are normally attended by all the Primary School children and visitor totals average 1,700 to 1,800 a week.

St John's School is celebrating its centenary this year and will use their display at the exhibition. Kings Road, Park Road and Camdean Schools will concentrate on their changes over the years they have been open. The RGCA display will concentrate on years ending '09 and on what was happening locally in those years (1909–2019).

Times of opening to the public will be announced later. Please do come along as this annual exhibition, always so thoughtfully laid out and so knowledgeable, presents a great opportunity to make the community aware of Rosyth's historic, architectural and environmental heritage.





## Invitations and requests – 2



### Farewell to David Easton

It is hard to believe that, when he 'sits down' in the summer after many years in the ministry, David Easton will have been six years with us in Scotland (see page 26). A farewell service, to which all are invited to come and say goodbye to David and wish him all the best for the future, will be held on **Saturday 11 May at 2.30pm** in Perth Methodist Church, Scott Street, PH 2 8JN. The service will be followed by tea and cake. Please do come – you will be most welcome.

### GLEN 19

The annual Glenalmond Youth Camp 2019 takes place from **21–27 July** at Glenalmond College, Perthshire. With the title this year of 'Stories and Songs', the Youth Week is open to anyone in secondary education up to and including July 2019 and also those under 18 who have left full-time education. If you want to do something different this summer, come and join a week filled with fun, fellowship, learning, and sharing – not to mention the great activities and workshops! The days are also made up of activities, worship and evening events. There is plenty time to relax, make good friends, and generally have a great week.

If you know any young person interested, there are application forms on the Crush Hall table, or for more information visit <https://tinyurl.com/SEC-PYC>.

### Our bookshelves

A big thank you to those who keep donating paperbacks. We have a good selection of current fiction, mystery and romance, all in excellent condition, which helps us to change around and spring-clean the shelves. Please keep them coming as there is a fast turnover at present which is encouraging. Ask your friends to donate as well! The books are 50p each and all proceeds are split evenly between both church's funds. Last year we raised £130, a bit down on the previous year – but our most regular reader left the area at the beginning of 2018!

### Christmas Angels

It may seem strange to be asking to prepare for Christmas when we haven't reached Easter yet, but the Parish Church are looking for some people to knit/crochet Christmas Angels to a specific pattern! It's easy and any yarn can be used. The aim of the Angels is to share God's love and to bless the community in public and community spaces with a Christmas message. This is done by collecting the knitted Angels, attaching a tag and leaving them near the Nativity Scene, halls and Church.

These would need to be ready by early December (details later) and the Angels would then be blessed at a service in the Parish Church before being left for others to take.

If you are willing/able to make some Angels– it only takes small amounts of wool and any colour can be used – copies of the patterns are available on the Crush Hall table.



This angel was knitted in sparkly cream, with sparkly mohair wings!





## Invitations and requests – 3

### Messy Church

Gwyneth Kirby invites families with younger children to get wonderfully messy!

In February we got messy learning about Jonah and the whale, with multi-coloured whales swimming in hand-print seas, fish-shaped biscuits with lots of decorations, fish mobiles and boats made out of geometric shapes. One of our Messy Churchers was reported to have travelled all the way up to Aberdeen still clutching his whale!

This month, a week early, we talked about how much we love our Mums and made lovely gifts for them in anticipation of Mothering Sunday. I hope all the Mums enjoyed their chocolate truffles and hand- and finger-printed cards and will enjoy waiting for their flowers to appear from the bulbs we planted.

We have a very young group coming along to Messy Church at the moment and it is a great joy and privilege to work with both the children and their families. If you know of any young families who might enjoy this experience, please encourage them to come along – or, better still, bring them along yourself and help them to see that Church is fun.

Our March theme was a week early so, to compensate, our April theme will be a week late! On **Sunday 28 April**, the week after Easter Sunday, we will be learning that Easter means so much more than chocolate and bunnies, and getting wonderfully messy again. We look forward to seeing you at **10.30am**.

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### Sunday@Six

Two invitations for the whole Rosyth community

Do come and join us for a devotional service for Holy Week:

**Were you there?**

**6.00pm**

**Sunday 14 April 2019**

Led by the Rev Dr Michael Paterson.

“Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me.” Lamentations 1:12

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An important part of these Sundays@Six is the opportunity they give for fellowship after the services. So, when you read the invitation to stay behind for tea/coffee and refreshments, please *don't* rush away!

Come and help us celebrate

**Creation and Enlightenment**

**6.00pm**

**Sunday 5 May 2019**

The Age of Enlightenment covered the period from the late 17th century to the early 19th century and was a time when there was significant activity in the fields of natural science and philosophy. Our service will briefly examine the contribution of four people from this period whose work left a lasting legacy and our worship will be enriched by music from this period supported by the choir and the praise band. Do come and invite your friends to join us for what we hope will be an interesting and uplifting service.



## Other practical ways to help



### Rosyth Foodbank

Another thank you to the congregations for their generosity. From mid-February to mid-March the churches including clergy donated 90 kilograms, just short of 20 stone by a couple of pounds! Well done!

Your donations of food, toiletries, cleaning products, pet food and special requests (like Easter eggs) make a big difference, because you often give what the supply depot is short of, and Rosyth needs do vary from week to week. We are blessed too by regular monetary gifts from one or two members with which one of the leaders buys necessities overlooked in our stock orders.

One of the pleasures of volunteering is the variety of clients and volunteers. We have been fortunate recently in some new volunteers joining to increase our numbers and to renew the old hands' enthusiasm with their own. Please consider joining us for a couple of hours a week if you have some spare time, but most of all thank you for keeping your gifts flowing in.

Erica Lock

### Filling the plate

During January the Sunday tea-bar money collected was for Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) the last Sunday of that month being "Homeless Sunday". This year we collected £80.18 for SCHA, which will be sent within the next few days.

For any of you who may have forgotten, envelopes are still available for your Church Anniversary gifts ...

Dave Ward

### Bishop's Lent Appeal

The Bishop's annual Lent Appeal this year supports two worthy causes:

- Aberlour "The clock is ticking ... stop children suffering before it is too late" *and*
- St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group "Saving Sight, Changing Lives".

**Aberlour** is helping to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people. Each year they support over 7,500 children and families across Scotland by providing a wide range of services including residential care and fostering, early year care, disability help, and recovery from drug and alcohol misuse and domestic abuse to parents. Find out more at [www.aberlour.org.uk](http://www.aberlour.org.uk).

**St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group** delivers the only expert charitable eye care in the occupied Palestine territories. Thanks to investment in local doctors, their flagship East Jerusalem Hospital now provides care for almost every sub-speciality of ophthalmology. There are satellite hospitals in Hebron and Gaza, and clinics in the Old City and Anabta, and Mobile outreach programmes in the West Bank and Gaza exist to ensure no person in the Holy Land unnecessarily lives their life without sight. In 2018, they saw almost 147,600 patients across their services and performed over 5,200 major operations. To learn more about their work visit [www.stjohnseyehospital.org](http://www.stjohnseyehospital.org).

In previous years we have always been generous in our support for the Lent Appeal and there will be a retiring collection at St Margaret's services on **Palm Sunday** and **Maundy Thursday**. Gordon has Gift Aid envelopes. Please support this work as generously as you can. The proceeds which the diocese collects will be shared equally between the two charities.



# Christian Aid 2019

Jan Benvie reports



Although Christian Aid Week this year is 12–18 May, many of our events in Rosyth will be happening earlier. Below are listed the planned events:

**Wednesday 3 April:** Christian Aid Lunch at the Parish Church Hub cafe 12noon–1.30pm (last orders for food 1.00pm)

**Saturday 4 May:** ‘Big Brekkie’ Parish Church open 10.00am–12noon Tea and coffee and bacon/sausage rolls will be served.

**Tuesday 7 May:** “Rosyth’s Got Talent” Concert to be held in the Parish Church at 7.00pm. Concert Tickets will be £3. A notice will be put on the notice board and in the weekly sheet when these are available.

**Saturday 11 May:** Christian Aid “Walk the Forth Road Bridge”. If you are interested please speak to Jan. Hopefully we could manage a ‘team’ from Rosyth. There will be refreshments in the Parish Church after the walk. Times to be confirmed.

**Sunday 12 May:** Parish Church Lunch after the service.

There will not be a door-to-door collection this year, but Christian Aid envelopes will be available in church. Why not take a few for neighbours and friends then you can return them to church?

This year the country focus for Christian Aid Week is Sierra Leone, and in particular on maternity care to make childbirth safe for mums and babies.



Photo: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Jebbeh Konneh is heavily pregnant. Her sister recently died in childbirth and Jebbeh fears she may be next: “I’m afraid. I pray, when that day comes, God will help me to deliver safely, so that I can have a bouncing baby and I’ll be healthy.”

## Sign up, please!

When Ebola struck Sierra Leone, its government had little choice but to accept loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help it cope with the crisis. Debt repayments mean that the country has little money to provide healthcare. The country lacks funds for proper health clinics, health training and enough ambulances, which makes it the most dangerous place in the world to become a mum.

At <https://tinyurl.com/y6n359t6> there is an on-line petition calling on the Chancellor to use the UK government’s influence to persuade the IMF to write off Sierra Leone’s debts on loans it received for fighting the Ebola outbreak.

# Christian Aid Book Sale and Festival at CEMC



**Saturday 11 – Friday 17 May**

The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church in Nicolson Square will host a book sale and showcase local authors at their annual Christian Aid Book Sale and Festival. With the help of volunteers from other Edinburgh churches, this event raises money for the work of Christian Aid, the official relief, development and advocacy agency of 41 sponsoring churches in Britain and Ireland, and which works amongst some of the poorest people in the world. Last year, thousands of books were sold and the event raised £2,500 for Christian Aid. This work complements the two original book sales that have been held in the city during Christian Aid Week in May every year for more than 40 years – at St Andrew's and St George's West on George Street and at Holy Corner. These have raised well over £2M for the work of Christian Aid.

The CEMC mini book festival this year features:

**Saturday 11 May, 2.00pm**

Rosemary Goring, writer and journalist -  
*Writing Her Story*

**Saturday 11 May, 7.00pm**

Lin Anderson crime writer (creator of forensic scientist Dr Rhona MacLeod)  
*Forensics – Fact Meets Fiction*

**Sunday 12 May, 2.00pm**

Richard Frazer – *Rediscovering Pilgrimage in the 21st Century* (featuring a new book about pilgrimage)

**Monday 13 May, 7.00pm**

Lesley Glaister, young adult author -  
*Aphra's Child*

**Tuesday 14 May, 7.00pm**

Claire Askew, poet, novelist and Writer in Residence at the University of Edinburgh  
– *Exploring Hidden Truths*

For further information visit the Christian Aid Book Festival and Sale website at <https://tinyurl.com/y2gnkrm3>.

**Reminder:** If you have good quality second-hand books at home on any subject and would like to pass them on, why not donate them to CEMC for their Christian Aid book sale? The last official book collection dates to hand in books to CEMC are **Friday 12 April 1.00–3.00pm**; and **Saturday 13 April 10.30am–12.30pm**.

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## One minute, please

As Eddie Sykes says on page 29, Jack was “one who encouraged learning about the Christian faith – note the bookcase in the Crush-Hall”. When your Editor first came across Jack ‘professionally’ he had since about 2005 been contributing a regular feature ‘The Bookcase’, in which he reviewed ‘old’ books from that bookcase.

This continued until Jack was persuaded that the books were too dated! However,

he remained very keen that Contact should contain some spiritual content, and not be just a series of reports and invitations.

So Jack had the idea of “One minute, please”, which started in the Feb/Mar 2011 edition. Jack was our most faithful contributor, continuing until the Nov/Dec 2018 edition.

Our last issue used a quotation of your Editor's choice. Jack approved ... and we'll be continuing the tradition in his memory.

## Abundant gifts of Steadfast Love

Extracted from the sermon preached by Louise Gilchrist at Morning Worship on 20 January 2019. We've included this because its theme is just as appropriate for Easter as for January, as we were reminded at our March joint service, when Julia Reid preached on the topic of Abundant Grace.

The readings to which Louise refers are  
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalms 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

Before Christmas I had read the gospel reading for today and, though I have always liked the story, I had been wondering what on earth new (or at least vaguely interesting) I was going to say about it. My doubts were not helped by husband's comment along the lines of how he couldn't see the point of this miracle, it didn't seem to serve a purpose except to help people get more drunk, and how turning water into wine was more of a natural process than a miracle anyway. But, leaving all that aside, I did two helpful things next, that finally set me on the right course. First, I responded to Keith Pearce's casual enquiry re how things were going with the service prep, and explained my dilemma to him. He made some helpful comments about the abundance of God, which took root in my mind. Then I finally got round to reading the other lectionary readings for today and – eureka! – like a bolt from the blue, everything suddenly seemed to make sense.

You have probably heard before the groushings of preachers that lectionary readings so rarely seem to have a common thread. It certainly can make life difficult if you want to treat the passages fairly, to give them due weight, and include more than one in a meaningful way. But today it wasn't difficult. Today they all seemed to speak to me, as it were, with one accord. And the theme was the generosity of God. How God, from ancient time, has been recognised as a God of abundance, of life in all its fullness, whose *chesed* – a Hebrew term usually rendered 'faithful' or 'steadfast' love – is for all people.

Take for example the passage from Isaiah. Despite bearing witness to the destruction of Jerusalem, and the desperate plight of those left behind, when the cream of society were taken away to exile in Babylon, Isaiah refuses to believe that the God he knows and loves will abandon his people forever. He cannot conceive that this God, full of *chesed*, will allow this situation to endure – and instead imagines a brighter future, when Jerusalem will be as happy and fulfilled as a bride on her wedding day, when she knows she is marrying the right man.

Then witness the excitement of the psalmist, whose words we prayed as a prayer of adoration. "Your steadfast love", he says "extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord." I can think of one or two theologians I have encountered who would take issue with the latter statement ... But undeterred, our psalmist continues: "How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings." What a wonderful image of the all-encompassing love of God.

Looking back for a moment at my experience of Christmas, it is a truism to say that it is better to give than to receive. Yet even then, with a few notable exceptions, so much of our human giving, however well-intentioned, seems empty, shallow, bereft of meaning. The generosity of God is not like this. His abundant gifts of steadfast love are freely given from an open heart; and



when we choose to accept them – for they are not forced upon us – what we receive is not only a blessing, but a communion with the divine; a connection to the Ground of Being, to what is really real both within us, and beyond us, beyond what we see in the everyday world of appearances. To Life, in all its fullness.

But before I get accused of being ‘too mystical’ let me bring this back to what all this means to – and for – me.

Sometimes – often if I’m honest – I question why I feel called to preach. This may be in response to the frightening conclusions drawn by my questioning mind. For example, how can it be right that those who have never had a chance to hear the gospel message should be damned? Or have heard it, but don’t have the capacity to understand it? Or are so full of self-loathing that they cannot accept it? Or, even worse, why would God need Jesus to die in order to be able to forgive our sins? This commonly-promulgated belief makes no sense to me. It **can’t** be right. These passages we’ve heard today affirm what I know in my heart – that God is love; so this understanding of how salvation works must be flawed. This is **not** the faith I’m called to preach.

And that’s all before you start in on the Church, capital ‘C’. The Church, with its insane hierarchies of power-hungry careerists and paedophiles; with its abuses from time immemorial; from the medieval sale of indulgences to the televangelists, and from the marginalisation of women and indigenous peoples, to the shaming of unwed mothers and gay people. When people point to these things and ask me why I would want to perpetuate something so manifestly evil, it makes me want to scream “I don’t!” I **don’t** want to support that and have never! So what am I doing here??

I’m here because although the Church capital ‘C’ may be massively flawed on every level, the church small ‘c’ is not. The vast majority of Christians the world over are largely decent people, striving to do the work of Christ and to live in his way the best that they can. I’m here because where other people see so-called “hypocritical Christians” sitting in church pews on Sunday and otherwise having complete disregard for the faith they claim to profess, **I** see a charitable sector in this country which would utterly collapse without the tireless efforts of Christians trying to live out the Gospel through their voluntary efforts, giving of themselves again and again because – because what? Because why? Because they know in their hearts the steadfast love of God, in the shadow of whose wings **all** people may take refuge. Who invites us to dine at the great Messianic feast, where the water of life will be turned not only to wine but to the **best** wine, which He has kept for last; and who pours out the gifts of the Spirit abundantly to all, each according to his or her own inclination, inviting us all to share that love with the world.

Because **that** is our calling. Whatever hurts we may carry, whatever pain we endure, however obstructed or empty our lives may seem to be at times, we know deep down that we have a generous God, by whose **radical** grace we are invited to share in life in all its fullness, and to share that invitation with all the world. **This** is the faith I affirm. This is the Church I uphold. And this – this is **my** God.



# Diary for April 2019

Monday 1 Apr	12.15pm	Funeral service for the late Dorothy Wilson (see page 11)	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church "Finding a Voice", Week 4 (see page 5)	
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	12noon to 1.30pm	Lunch for Christian Aid, Rosyth Parish Church Hub Café. Last orders for food 1.00pm	
	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Lou Davidson – Haiti Help update	
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study on John 12.1–8 in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 5)	
Thursday 4 Apr	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group in Room 5, based on "Talking Jesus", led by Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 5)	
Friday 5 Apr	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	
<b>Sunday 7 April</b>			
Lent 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes
Monday 8 Apr	7.30pm	Final week of Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church, "Finding a Voice" (see page 5)	
Wednesday 10 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Willie Hershaw	
	7.30pm	Lent Bible Study on Luke 19.28–40, Luke 22.14–23.56, in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 5)	
Thursday 11 Apr	9.00am onwards	Work Day at RMC Volunteers welcome (see page 12)	
	10.30am	Methodist Lenten Study Group in Room 5, based on "Talking Jesus", led by Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 5)	
Friday 12 Apr	9.30am onwards	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

# Diary for Holy Week

## Sunday 14 April

- Palm Sunday**
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband  
and blessing and distribution of palms  
Retiring collection for Bishop's Lent Appeal (see page 15)
- 11.00am Local worship Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
- 4.30pm Taizé-inspired service with the theme of Palm Sunday  
and Entering Holy Week at St Finnian's Church,  
Lochgelly, refreshments at 3.45pm (see page 33)
- 6.00pm Sunday@Six: "Were you there?" a devotional service for  
Holy Week led by Rev Dr Michael Paterson (see page 14)

## During the week

- Monday 15 Apr 7.30pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group shared Passover  
Celebration at Rosyth Parish Church
- Tuesday 16 Apr 9.45am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  
Rosyth Parish Church will be open for a time of reflection:  
Tuesday 1.30pm–4.00pm  
Wednesday 12noon–3.00pm
- Wednesday 17 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:  
Holy Week Communion in the church  
led by Rev Eddie Sykes
- 7.00pm Stations of the Cross  
St John & St Columba RC Church, Rosyth
- Maundy Thursday** 10.30am Methodist Lenten Study Group in Room 5, based on  
"Talking Jesus", led by Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 5)
- 7.00pm The Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, the Washing of  
Hands, the Stripping of the Altar and the Watching  
with Christ in Gethsemane, presided by Rev Dr Michael  
Paterson. All welcome from both churches.  
Retiring collection for Bishop's Lent Appeal (see page 15)
- Good Friday** 2.00pm Devotional service for Good Friday  
to 3.00pm led by the Very Rev Kenny Rathband  
followed by refreshments and hot cross buns.  
All invited from local churches.
- Note:** There will be no Triangle Coffee Shop today
- 7.00pm Good Friday Reflective Service at Rosyth Parish Church

# Holy Week and Easter in Dunfermline

## at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

Monday 15 Apr	7:00pm	Friendship Group Holy Week service
Tuesday 16 Apr	7:00pm	Taizé service
Wednesday 17 Apr	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross and Compline
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	7:00pm	Stripping the Altar and Sung Eucharist
<b>Good Friday</b>	11:00am	Good Friday Happening – for the whole family, with a range of food, fellowship, fun, craft and games
<b>Easter Eve</b>	7:00pm	Lighting of the Easter Fire

## in Dunfermline's Kingsgate Centre



You may remember from our April 2018 edition that we were invited to a Holy Week exhibition in Viewfield Baptist Church. The recent very exciting news is that this year the idea is going out into the world, to meet the public where they are!

“**Experience Easter**” is a joint church initiative including Viewfield Baptist, West Baptist, Gillespie Memorial and Rosyth Baptist. It will include some exciting events including interactive displays. The main one will be at the Kingsgate Centre, but Rosyth Baptist will have its own version of the display open all day on Good Friday.

From **Monday 15 April to Good Friday 19 April** everyone will be invited to discover the real events behind Easter through art, and to explore the Easter story at their own pace through interactive displays suitable for all the family.

Look out for the purple leaflets with the “Experience Easter” logo, and use them to encourage folk to go, to take others, and to pray for this work of witness. There is a prayer meeting for the whole of “Experience Easter” at the Viewfield Centre at **7.00pm** on **1 April**.

More information as it becomes available at <http://easter.westfife.church/> and a promotional video by Anthony Luxton at <https://tinyurl.com/yxulnoye>.

## Celtic Worship in aid of Tearfund Scotland

If you are free on the evening of **Easter Day** and fancy hearing Steph Macleod and some of Scotland's most talented folk musicians playing worship music with a Celtic twist, head for Viewfield Baptist Church. **Doors open 7.00pm, event starts 7.30pm.**

Tickets available for a donation online via [www.tearfund.org/celticworship](http://www.tearfund.org/celticworship). There will also be an opportunity to make a donation at the event.

# Diary for April/May 2019

## Sunday 21 April

### On Easter Day we give thanks to our Risen Lord

9.30am Festival Eucharist and blessing of the Paschal Candle:  
celebrant and preacher Very Rev Kenny Rathband

10.00am Easter Breakfast (see page 5)

11.00am Easter Service with Holy Communion  
led by Miss Anne Baird and Ms Julia Reid

Wednesday 24 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speakers  
John and Irene Houston, Dunfermline Salvation Army

Friday 26 Apr 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 28 April

Easter 2 10.30am Messy Church  
11.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Kenny Rathband  
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Monday 29 Apr 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 30 Apr 9.45am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

Wednesday 1 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:  
Guest speaker – Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

7.00pm Church Council meeting in Room 4

Friday 3 May 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall  
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 4 May 10.00am Tea and coffee and bacon/sausage rolls will be served in  
to 12noon Rosyth Parish Church for Christian Aid (see page 16)

## Sunday 5 May

Easter 3 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Val Nellist  
11.00am Morning Worship Ms Julia Reid  
6.00pm Sunday@Six: "Creation and Enlightenment" (see page 14)

Monday 6 May 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 7 May 7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club  
run by Jean Hall and friends



# Diary for May 2019

Tuesday 7 May	7.00pm	“Rosyth’s Got Talent” Christian Aid Concert (tickets £3) Primary Schools Annual Concert, Rosyth Parish Church. Details later (see page 16).
Wednesday 8 May	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker from Air Ambulance
	7.00pm	Circuit Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC
Friday 10 May	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 11 May to Friday 17 May	11.00am	Christian Aid Book and Festival at CEMC
	4.00pm	(see page 17)
Saturday 11 May	tba	Walk the Forth Road for Christian Aid. Refreshments in Rosyth Parish Church after walk. Times to be confirmed. (see page 16)
	2.30pm	Farewell Service to Rev Dr David Easton Perth Methodist Church (see page 13)

## Christian Aid Week 12–18 May

### Sunday 12 May

Easter 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Café Church	Rev Eddie Sykes
		<i>incorporating</i> the AGM (see page 12)	
	from 11.30am	Lunch for Christian Aid in Rosyth Parish Church	

Monday 13 May to Saturday 18 May	tba	Rosyth Garden City Annual Exhibition Rosyth Parish Church (see page 12)	
Monday 13 May	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 14 May	9.45am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd’s house at Limekilns	
Wednesday 15 May	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: AGM, Tea and Close of Session	
	7.00pm	Joint Vestry/Council Meeting in Room 4	
Friday 17 May	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

# Diary for May 2019

## Sunday 19 May

Easter 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
Aldersgate Sunday	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Lyn Smalridge and Mr Ebenezer Quarm
	1.00pm	"Heart and Soul" 2019, Church of Scotland celebration of	
	to 6.00pm	the whole church in Princes Street Gardens (see page 12)	
	4.30pm	Choral Evensong at St Ninian's Cathedral	
		for Perth Festival of Arts, followed by tea and	
	6.00pm	Organ Recital by Geoff Bolton (see page 34)	
Monday 20 May	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Wednesday 22 May	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship Afternoon Tea	
		at the Antique Centre, Inverkeithing	

**Note:** Autumn session begins on **Wednesday 4 September**

Thursday 23 May	7.30pm	Kingdom Singers Annual Springtime Serenade Concert	
and Friday 24 May		Gillespie Church, Dunfermline. See Ann Duly for details.	
Thursday 23 May	7.30pm	St Andrews West Area Council meeting, St Columba's	
		Aberdour. Guest speaker, Bishop Ian Paton (see page 35)	
Friday 24 May	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

## Sunday 26 May

Easter 6	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Eddie Sykes Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
Monday 27 May	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	
Tuesday 28 May	9.45am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
	7.00pm	St Margaret Vestry meets in Room 5	
Thursday 30 May	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day	
		Very Rev Kenny Rathband	
Friday 31 May	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

# Farewell to David Easton, our District Chair

How quickly the years fly by! Our Issue 68 gave details of a Welcome Service to the Rev Dr David Easton at Perth Methodist Church, in August 2013. The article went on to say that David is a native of Cornwall who began his ministry as a probationer in the then Motherwell and Wishaw Circuit. This is where he fell in love with Scotland, its people and places, and has felt this way ever since. Then he moved back to Cornwall to serve in Tintagel and Boscastle, and to Falmouth as Superintendent in Falmouth. From there he went to the Scilly Isles; he will be long remembered as the 'first' in the BBC-TV series *An Island Parish*.

From there, David went to Aberystwyth, where he learned to speak the Welsh language. Then he came back to Scotland to be the new Chair of Scotland District Synod.

His first visit to Rosyth was in April the following year for the Joint Service of Holy Communion, following Easter. I remember his saying that we were a welcoming church – I know we still are! Other memorable occasions were his visit during our Centenary year 2016, and the Joint Service of Covenant and Holy Communion, shared with Bishop David Chillingworth, in 2017.

His six years in the appointment have gone by very quickly. (I wonder how many miles he has travelled in that time). His most recent visit was to lead us in our worship for the celebration of 103 years of Methodism in Rosyth. (I hope that those who were there have done their homework with the sachet of salt!)



In May we say farewell to David as he retires from full-time ministry, or 'sits down' in Methodist language. On the afternoon of Spring Synod, **11 May**, we are all invited to Perth Methodist Church at **2.30pm**. Come and share in a farewell service as we say 'goodbye' and wish him all the best for his future as a supernumerary. The service will be followed by refreshments.

We hope this won't be a final farewell, David, and that you will come back to Rosyth and see us again. You are assured there will be a warm Rosyth welcome!

Mary Kidd

## Looking to the future

Our friend Annie Hughes has been in touch with Sandra and is very happy to share her good news with us. Bishop Ian will be ordaining her within the Scottish Episcopal Church in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth at **12noon on Saturday 28 September 2019**, with her curacy to be served at St John's Perth. It is still some way off, but Annie would love if any of St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodists could be there as we have all been such a hugely important part of her

journeying, for which she will be eternally grateful. She has very fond memories of her time with us and has asked for her loving greetings to be passed on to you all.

It would be good if some of us could be there on 28 September to support Annie, so please put the date in your diary.

Also please remember Annie in your thoughts and prayers as she enters her final months of study and prepares for her remaining exams and assessments.

## New beginnings for Margaret Dineley

Margaret will be moving to Edinburgh at the end of April, so her final service at St Finnian's will be on Sunday 21 April, which is highly appropriate, seeing that Easter Sunday marks new beginnings! Margaret writes:

I will miss my little church family at St Finnian's and also my connection with St Margaret's in Rosyth. I have fond memories of that relationship, starting with my answering a plea for help from members of Holy Trinity choir to help swell numbers in St Margaret's choir. Being a member of St Margaret's choir was pure joy: there was much challenge, much laughter and much sheer pleasure. I was also delighted to be asked to submit articles to Contact magazine and gradually I became more involved and was very touched to be asked to be your Lay Rep whilst acting as Chairperson of the Area Council. Even when I moved to serve St Finnian's the contact continued, with St Margaret's choir singing at my licensing as a Lay Reader and then my ordination to the Diaconate. Supporting each other's special services has been a wonderful experience and I hope that connection between St Finnian's and St Margaret's will continue through Edith and Ross.

Sandra Young responded on behalf of St Margaret's:

We too will miss Margaret a great deal. Although she had 'guested' with the choir and we knew who she was, it was only when she was elected our Lay Representative in 2012, that we got to know Margaret well and from then on regarded her as 'one of us'. This friendship developed and we were delighted to support her at all the important landmarks in her ministry – licensing as a Lay Reader in 2013, followed by her ordinations to the diaconate and then priesthood in 2015. With Lochgelly being nearby (and on the 19 bus route!)

our relationship has continued and, indeed, flourished. Some of us attended many of Margaret's special services, especially her monthly Taizé worship, and she, in turn, was a regular worshipper at Sunday@Six. In 2018, Margaret led a very moving Taizé service here to start our Holy Week devotions. On a sadder note she also conducted Betty Terry's funeral service in St Margaret's and those of Jim and Jean Oliver at St Finnian's – all within the space of a few months.

Thank you Margaret for your friendship and your involvement with St Margaret's over the last few years. We shall miss you very much but life doesn't stand still and we wish you every joy and happiness in your future life with Ian in Edinburgh.





# Exploring church together

An invitation from Howard and Val

Looking back, we can see how far we have moved forward. In the October/November 2018 issue, under the title 'Growing the faith' we posed the question "What should we be doing for our church to become more meaningful in the community?", and reported some ideas from the small (two-person) joint strategy group. An appeal to the congregations for others to join the group met with no response, perhaps put off by the formal and uninspiring name! So at the November Joint Council/Vestry meeting it was resolved that the name become 'Exploring church together'; and to open up the discussion about the future church to a wider group, including those with experience of fresh expressions of church, and those in the organisations that we host.

Happily the group has grown accordingly and got off to a lively new start. New members include Jan Benvie, Adele Borrowman, Louise Cox, Jenni Gill, Alan Taylor and (ex-officio) Very Rev Kenny Rathband and Rev Eddie Sykes.

At our first meeting (on 18 March), attention focused on the need to promote what we do more effectively. Passers-by need to be able to see when monthly or irregular events are happening. Bunting (e.g. as used by Triangle Coffee Shop) or balloons or billboards could be used to highlight when an event is on; temporary signs on sticks in the grass could also be helpful. (An immediate outcome was bringing the external notice-board back into use with a short-lived A2-sized poster that announced in very large type that Messy Church was to take place the following Sunday)

It was exciting to hear some of the suggestions that Messy Church members brought to the table, particularly as they have a far better grasp of how social media works and could become a vital means of letting others know what is happening and exchanging views. We look forward to discussions being undertaken as to how to progress that.

Exploring church together as an ecumenical partnership means that what we do may have significance well beyond our local community of Rosyth, so we should take note of what is happening in Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline's Eastern expansion and beyond. After all, some of our families come regularly from Burntisland and Markinch. As Bishop Ian stated in his recent address to Synod, we need to look where God is doing mission and join in. We are looking at ways which could allow far more families to join in family worship.

Through such engagement we hope to understand more what people's likes and dislikes are about church, the barriers to becoming involved, and what can be done to reduce those barriers and make the church more of a focal point in people's lives. If you too want to contribute, whether by email or through discussion, please contact one of us. Our next meeting will be from **10.45–11.45 on Monday 8 April**.

Valerie Leslie (01383 733269)  
and Howard Kirby (01383 624779)

**Ed:** In his accompanying email, Howard pointed out that they had deliberately chosen to use a lower-case c for church. In harmony with the point that Louise makes on page 19!

# Reginald Herbert John (Jack) Fowell

11 March 1923 – 23 February 2019

This is an extract from Eddie Sykes' reflection at the Service of Thanksgiving for Jack's life held on Thursday 14 March. It complements the stories shared by Stuart, Ian and the family, as well as the biography given on the service booklet, which we have printed after this reflection. There is also more about Jack in an interview in our February 2011 issue, which you can read in our archive on both websites.

Although I have only known Jack these past six months it has been a joy for me to get to know him – albeit too, too briefly – and more recently to hear the many stories people have shared. These are stories where their lives were simply enhanced because of Jack.

Our minds are full of a variety of memories – shared experiences, joys and sorrows, and we remember the person he will always be for us.

For us in the church, we remember one who was always an encourager, and one who was caring and compassionate. I heard of an occasion when some young people were playing outside when a service was going on. Instead of going out and shooing them away, he went to talk to them and invited them to Sunday School, which they accepted. Those young people came to Sunday School for over a year.

He was one who has been called a wonderful and reliable friend, one who had a wonderful influence on people's lives, and one who encouraged learning about the Christian faith – note the bookcase in the Crush-Hall – and at home I can tell you that some of his reading, both in terms of physical weight and content, was not at the lighter end of the spectrum.



This photograph of Jack was taken at Fordell Firs in 2004

Jack enjoyed the fellowship of prayer and study groups – in particular the “Every Day with Jesus” Group – even when in hospital he would call at the appropriate time of meeting assuring them he was with them in spirit. He was one who reached out to others, either visiting or finding ways for them to keep in touch with the church.

He was one who loved the traditions of the church, and found one or two of these new-fangled worship ideas

somewhat baffling. I knew when this topic would come up because he would begin a sentence on such a subject, with something like, “I don't know about you, Eddie, but ...”

Jack served the church he loved well – be it as a Senior Steward, on more than one occasion, I understand. Anything he did, he did it properly in a meticulous and caring way. Indeed, as persons have commented – he was a hard act to follow – he set a high standard. And he was very proud and fond of his family – he told me so.

In visiting him this past while when he was in hospital, I have enjoyed listening to his reflections on his life, always tinged with thanks for his family and friends, a sense of how fortunate he has been in his life, and an awareness of the wonder and mystery of God.



## Jack's story

An example of this was shared with me of a time when he used to go regularly, for some 35+ years to Orchardhead Care Home. Apparently when he walked into the home someone would say "Church is here". Present at the service would be a lady who had dementia, but would always stay very quiet, seemingly not responding to the worship. This would happen visit after visit. Then, on one occasion during worship, much to his surprise, this lady stood up and sang the hymn "I need Thee every hour", all the verses unaccompanied. The mystery and wonder of God witnessed!

In his faith, Jack saw life as a journey – a journey that he has now travelled beyond the horizon we call death – believing – knowing that his guide was God.

So we remember Jack that he was and continues to be for us and say – thank you.

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The service of thanksgiving was memorable. The church was almost full, with friends coming from across the Circuit, and the congregation enjoyed an uplifting service, with some rousing singing.

Eddie Sykes' words of tribute also contained a message of hope and inspiration, and Stuart Fowell contributed an amusing eulogy – a son remembering his father.

At the very enjoyable reception which followed the service many friendships were renewed, and Martin Rogers prepared a display in the Crush Hall with photos and the 2011 Contact interview.

As someone commented: "It was a very good service for Jack. He would have been humbled by both what was said and the excellent turnout."

Jack was born to Reg and Daisy Fowell at their home in Backmarch Crescent, Rosyth. The second of three children, Gerald, Jack and May, he never knew his brother as Gerald died in an accident before he was born. The son of a machinist in Rosyth Dockyard, Jack moved with his family to Plymouth in 1926 when his father was transferred back to Devonport. Although he spent only his childhood and teenage years in Plymouth, he never quite lost his Devon 'twang'.

Here, a player in the Plymouth Argyle football team lodged with his family for a while, and Jack became his bag-carrier and regularly accompanied him to matches. So he acquired a passion for the game and became a lasting supporter of his home team.

Jack left school at the age of 14 years, and took up an apprenticeship as a motor engineer. When war broke out and Plymouth was devastated in the blitz, Jack, as he later recounted, would travel to work on his bicycle picking his way through the debris of the war-torn city. One day he arrived to find the garage at which he worked completely destroyed, so in May 1941 he resolved to follow his parents to Rosyth, where they had again been posted, and he completed the final months of his apprenticeship in Dunfermline.

Here he joined a local unit of the Air Training Corps, which inspired him to volunteer for service in the RAF. Still living in Rosyth and participating in the vibrant war-time social scene at the Methodist Church, he met and fell in love with Marjorie and they courted and became engaged to be married. But the RAF posted him overseas to Haifa in Palestine, and the forced separation delayed their marriage.

Towards the end of his tour of duty, he, with a group of other service men and women, was sent on a "Moral Leadership" course, which enabled him to visit many of the sights of the Holy Land, and he was deeply inspired by what he saw and felt. He returned home to Rosyth, was discharged from the RAF in September 1947 and married Marjorie one month later on 11 October.

He took employment as an Engine Fitter in Rosyth Dockyard and set up home, first in Dunfermline and then in Rosyth. His interests at that time were mainly football, as he was a good amateur player, and singing. Jack had a strong and deep bass voice; he enjoyed performing solo and in amateur dramatics, and he took leading parts in Gilbert and Sullivan productions. He sang in the church choir, and was later to become its conductor and also to lead the junior choir. His sons, Stuart and Ian, were born in 1948 and 1953, and he and Marjorie provided a loving home environment for their upbringing. Family life was important and close links with the children's grandparents and many aunts, uncles and cousins enabled happy reunions and the creation of many fond memories.

As Stuart and Ian grew and became involved in the Scouts and church youth clubs, Jack became Chairman of the Scout Group Parents Committee, his service being recognised with the award of the "Thanks Badge" from the Chief Scout. As Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years, he became well respected and is still fondly remembered in that capacity by people today both inside and outside the church. His love of singing continued throughout this period of his life and he was active in several male voice choirs and choral unions.

Much of Jack's working life was as a Recorder of Work in the naval dockyard; a job which required a sound rapport with the men with whom he worked. Here, he was mainly known as Reg, and was respected by many for his integrity and fairness.

When Jack retired from work in 1987, he acquired new interests. He enjoyed reading Scottish history and he and Marjorie became volunteer guides with the National Trust for Scotland at Falkland Palace and Culross. He helped set up the West Fife Members' Centre and became their first Chairman, and in recognition of their service he and Marjorie received an invitation to a Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace.

Engagement in church life had always been an important part of Jack's life and Christian service, and when he lost Marjorie in 1992, this provided enormous support for him. He felt passionately about the church's role in society and the service he considered it should provide. He became an ardent visitor of people whom he thought might welcome a call and his mild manner and personal qualities endeared him to so many. As growing infirmity took its toll in his final years, Jack very much appreciated the fellowship and visits he in turn received from friends in both the Methodist and Episcopal congregations. Throughout his life he remained determined to participate and to contribute what he could, and his deep faith proved to be an unfailing strength to the last.

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The service booklet containing this article had a wide circulation. Rev Deborah Cornish responded to her copy: "I have very fond memories of Jack. He was a huge support when I arrived in Rosyth, and took his duties as steward and pastoral visitor very seriously."

# Dorothy Helen (Dot) Wilson

24 January 1931 – 15 March 2019

The congregation of Rosyth Methodist Church has been saddened by the death on 15 March 2019 of Dorothy Helen Wilson, fondly known as Dot.

Dorothy was born, four days after the birth of the late Joan Sowerby, on 24 January 1931. She and Joan were to become classmates at school in Rosyth and later, after going their separate ways, they resumed that friendship in retirement at church in Rosyth.

Dorothy was proud to say that she had lived all her life at Trewey in Norval Place until being admitted to hospital in September last year. She chose that name for her home because her mother was a native of Trewey near St Ives in Cornwall, although her father came from Edinburgh. She kept in close touch with extended family in Cornwall and visited every summer. While there in July 2012 she was pleased to attend the service at Gwennap Pit when Deacon Sarah McDowall was received into full membership of the Methodist Diaconal Order.

All of her working life was spent transporting munitions at the Ministry of Defence depot at Crombie. This was arduous work being out from 6.00am till 6.00pm. A workmate there was Doris Collier, Mandy Ward's mother.

Blessed with a fine singing voice, Dorothy enjoyed her time with the Rosyth Dockyard Gilbert and Sullivan Society and she was



a keen dancer. In latter years it was no surprise that she became an avid fan of *Strictly Come Dancing*. It was a "must" at home and in hospital.

She is survived by her sister Irene, her nephew Keith, his wife Gillian and their children Ellen, Fraser and Amy. She looked forward to their regular visits and was always well prepared with birthday and Christmas

presents. Until frailty hindered her she spent Christmas with them at Motherwell. There are also the three children Ewan, Fiona and Calum of her second sister, Audrey, who died some years ago.

Having to be in hospital for almost six months was a challenge for Dorothy. However she was usually cheerful despite all the tests and treatments and kept a close eye on her fellow patients. She very much appreciated the care received from the staff and gratitude was always expressed to those who visited including her former, loyal taxidriver, Colin. Gladdened by Eddie's ministerial visits, she referred to him as "a real gem of a fella".

Her wish was to return to her beloved Trewey. Also noted on a board above her bed was her desire to get back to church. Her faith and church attendance meant a great deal to her. Neither of these wishes was to be fulfilled.

Adieu, Dot. We will miss you. We give thanks that after a very useful life you have now entered your well-earned rest.

Olive Lee



## New Canon Christine

I am sure you will be very pleased to hear that Rev Christine Fraser, Rector of St Peter's, Kirkcaldy has been appointed a Canon of the Cathedral by Bishop Ian. At the Eucharist at the start of the Diocesan Synod at St Ninian's on Saturday 9 March, Bishop Ian licensed Christine and Rev Graham Taylor, Rector of St John's, Perth, who has been appointed a Canon by the Diocesan clergy, and invited the Provost to install them as two new members of the Cathedral Chapter.

Christine, who comes from Perth, was ordained in 2002 and served at the Cathedral until 2014 when she became Rector of St Peter's. For those of you who know her, Christine has been a faithful member (currently secretary) of the Area Council since she came to St Peter's and is very much involved in the West Fife Youth Cluster. It is good news that a local lass and someone we know has become a Canon. I knew her family well, especially her mother, one of her aunts (who still attends the Cathedral) and her uncles – we were among the youth and young adults of the Cathedral in the late 1950s and 60s!

We congratulate Christine on this well-deserved recognition of her ministry in the Diocese.

Sandra Young

## Taizé at Lochgelly

Margaret Dineley is holding her final monthly Taizé service, this time with "Palm Sunday and Entering Holy Week" as its theme, on **Sunday 14 April at 4.30pm** in St Finnian's, Lochgelly. This is a quiet reflective service – an ideal way to start Holy Week. The worship will be preceded by fellowship and refreshments from **3.45pm**. Everyone is welcome.

## Farewell to

## Rev Dr Margaret Dineley

Doesn't the title of this short article sound rather too official and impersonal? I don't see Margaret just as my Priest, I don't see Margaret just as a PhD achiever, but to me (and most importantly) I see Margaret as a trusted friend whom I shall miss dearly. Of course, it's not going to be goodbye really, as we have already reassured one another we will continue our friendship regardless of her moving to Auld Reekie!

I first met Margaret when we both attended Holy Trinity in Dunfermline. Soon after, she commenced her training to become a Lay Reader. Time passed and due to personal circumstances both Ray and I began to worship at St Finnian's in Lochgelly. Fortunately for us Margaret was also soon to join St Finnian's, as Lay Reader, then as Deacon and latterly as our Priest.

The congregation at St Finnian's have some wonderful memories of the time Margaret has spent leading us forward. From annual summer outings, to Christmas meals out, from regular community concerts to our monthly house study groups.

On a personal note, I would like to share my heartfelt thanksgiving for all that Margaret has done to support Ray and I as a couple. Through cancer she has stood by us and offered us prayer, through our eagerness to be accepted and married as a couple in the house of God, she voted, accepted and officiated. After 15 years of sharing our love for one another, it was a special honour that Margaret personally solemnised our marriage.

The congregation of St Finnian's as well as Ray and I wish you a happy and healthy future together with Ian.

May grace and blessings be in your path,

Love, Ross (Lay Rep, St Finnian's)



# Diocesan Synod

Val Leslie reports



I attended the Synod held at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth on 9 March. Thanks to my husband who took pity on me and drove me there, I was on time to have a coffee and say hi to a lot of well-kent faces. The Synod began with Eucharist, and I was overjoyed to see several junior choristers in the choir: all around 8 or 9 years old. I was thinking of Sophie when I saw them and thought she would be inspired to hear that other youngsters her age were donning the choir robes just like her. [I have pinned the order of service on the notice board in the Crush Hall if anyone is interested in seeing it]

It was Bishop Ian's first Diocesan Synod, and may I say I was impressed. He chaired the meeting with love, and brought Jesus into the very heart of the meeting. So often one can get bogged down by the nitty-gritty of church business such as the finances and reports, (often a real mystery to me, who is useless with balance sheets). However, Bishop Ian gave to the whole process a humility and a caring feel to what was definitely not stuffy or mystifying.

The cathedral looked stunning, with the interior renovation showing off just how lovely our cathedral is. The Provost of the Cathedral, Hunter Farquharson, thanked the Bishop for the lovely service that had been held in the Cathedral to thank all the workmen who had laboured to improve the beauty of the Cathedral both inside and out.

The Bishop also thanked so many of the clergy and laity who work so hard in the day-to-day running of the charges in the diocese. Bishop Ian reminded us all that we should be looking at where God is doing mission and joining in. This is such an inspirational statement and has spurred me on to look at how we can do this at St Margaret's and RMC.

After lunch (which was as always delicious – *and I managed to avoid all the sweet cakes, opting for fruit instead!*) we voted on Canons 35 and 52 – dissolution of the Provincial Information and Communications Board.

It is difficult to mention all that was discussed – so much is spoken about that my scribbles become quite indecipherable! However, it is great that overseas mission is still so exciting. There was much talk of overseas partnerships and the Overseas Committee's change of name to Diocesan Global Partnership Committee. Links with the Diocese of the Amazon and with Canada will create exciting opportunities to learn and share from one another.

I do feel very grateful and thankful to the Vestry and congregation for placing their trust in me and allowing me to attend the Diocesan Synod for another year. It is a privilege to see and hear all the exciting things that are planned for the future. It is also gratifying to know that the diocese is in such safe hands.

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## The Sound of St Ninian's

During Perth Festival of Arts (16–25 May), with both its building and organ fully restored to their former glory, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth is proud to present a recital of fantastic organ music performed by its recently-appointed Cathedral organist Geoff Bolton at **6.00pm on Sunday 19 May**.

The organ recital will be preceded at **4.30pm** by a traditional Choral Evensong of music, psalms and prayers let by the choir and choristers of the Cathedral.

Refreshments will be served after Evensong and before the recital. All are very welcome to attend one or both of these events. There will be a retiring collection for the Cathedral/Festival of the Arts.





# Area Council Meeting

Val Leslie reports



On 19 February I went to the Area Council meeting held in St Peter's, Kirkcaldy. This meeting was, as usual, full of information and love. A member from the Street Pastors gave a terrific presentation on the work that they do. I did not realise what long hours they worked keeping people safe on the streets, particularly those who have perhaps had too much alcohol whilst out on the town.

Apart from providing slippers to young women wearing high heels, they sit with people in the Bus Station when they have missed their bus and, if that bus happens to be the last bus, they will pay for a taxi to get them home.

These amazing Street Pastors listen and pray for people who are often at their lowest ebb, drinking to forget an event in their lives which has brought them low. Many of the people helped by Street Pastors write to them to say how grateful they are for the help given by the Street Pastors: they have even had people reimburse them for the taxi fares!

I was so impressed by the presentation and enjoyed the lollipop handed out. This is one of the 'treats' that are handed to revellers out on the town. Apparently a lolly comes in handy if someone is a bit 'gobby', because you can't shout the odds and suck a lollipop at the same time!

Something else I didn't know was that, as well as Street Pastors, there are also Train Pastors. They ride the last trains to ensure folks get on and off the correct train so they can get home. If you have ever been on the last train from Edinburgh on a Friday or Saturday night, then you will know how rowdy this train can be. I am in awe of these amazing Christians who support and give comfort to those who need it in the early hours of the morning.

Lastly, I had no idea that the Street Pastors have colleagues praying for them back at base, who offer them hot drinks and food at the end of the shift. The Street Pastor is in contact with those back at base, asking them to pray for individuals they meet out on the street so the strength of prayer is utilized as well as the hands-on support. The Street Pastors also safeguard the streets by picking up empty alcohol bottles and disposing of them safely. This may sound like a trivial task, but it could just be this action which could stop a serious injury! A broken bottle can do a great deal of damage during a fight. This is just another example of how foresight and experience can save a vulnerable individual from danger on the street.

Pray for these amazing Christians who come from various churches in the area. Dunfermline also has Street Pastors who offer love, compassion and practical support, much needed when someone is a little worse for wear and out on the town.

The next Area Council meeting will be at **7.30pm on 23 May** at St Columba's, Aberdour, when we look forward to hearing what our guest speaker Bishop Ian has to tell us and also to meeting him. All are very welcome to attend.

Ed: Val started her report with a big thank you to those from St Margaret's who are always so supportive when it comes to getting her to Area Council meetings. As she said: "Without this kindness I would have been stuck!"





# World Day of Prayer 2019

Lesley Yellowlees writes:

The World Day of Prayer service was hosted by St Margaret's on Friday 1 March. We were blessed with fine weather this year.

The content was written by the Christian women of Slovenia. The title was "Come – all is ready". The church was designed with a table set for a meal on which were bread, wine and water. A vase of flowers containing red carnations and rosemary was placed in the middle. We had placards at each setting denoting people of importance during the first half of the service and, at the halfway points, the placards were replaced with ones depicting disadvantaged people. That completed the table. Two Slovenian flags were attached to the A frame at the front of the church.

As the congregation entered, each person was presented with a red paper carnation – the national flower of Slovenia.

The Very Reverend Kenny Rathband gave the address ably assisted by Mary Kidd and Myra Tarr played the organ.

Representatives from most of the churches in Rosyth, Inverkeithing and North Queensferry took part in the service.

A total of 44 people attended and the total collection, including Gift Aid, amounted to £293.65 for World Day of Prayer funds.

Refreshments were served after the service when the congregation were able to meet together and enjoy a time of fellowship.

My very grateful thanks go to all who assisted in any way with this most enjoyable afternoon.

**Ed:** Our sincere thanks to Lesley, whose commitment, inspiration and tireless work ensured that the occasion was a success.

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## Spotted in the Dunfermline Press

The 14 March issue of our local paper ran this article.

**Warmest congratulations to Thelma and David!**

A group of Rosyth dancers have tapped up £1,000 for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Big-hearted members of the Rosyth Sequence Dancing Club raised the cash through a charity dance as well as raffles at their weekly get-togethers.

The golden oldie dancers are led by Thelma Couch, 84, who, along with husband David, 89, has raised thousands of pounds for charity over the years, something which saw them rewarded with MBEs back in 2010.

Thelma told the Press: "We are still at it. We sent them £1,000 in October and this is another £1,000. We also sent £500 to the Paget's Disease charity. A lot of people don't know about that charity but every so often we send to them as well because that is one of the complaints my husband has got."

Around 30 senior citizens attend the dance group every week at the Rosyth Institute and Thelma added: "We run raffles and dances and what have you.

"Some of the members just come along for the company now because they are at an age when they are not dancing so come for a cup of tea and a cake."

# Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living

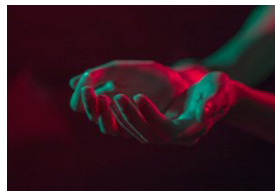
A recommendation from Ross Stirling-Young of St Finnian's

In October of last year I was feeling rather lost in life, my mind becoming crowded with thoughts of anxiety and early signs of depression. I'm sure some of you have experienced this at some point or another in this hectic world we live in. I came across the possibility of attending a course called Growth in Prayer and Reflective Living led by the Epiphany Group and rooted in the Ignatian Tradition.

I emailed the leader making some enquiries, but some weeks passed and I felt a little nervous about joining such a course. What if my style of prayer wasn't suitable? What if I wasn't the "right" type of Christian they were looking for? These types of questions continued to impede me from taking it further when, out of the blue, the leader asked to meet for a coffee and tell me more about the course.

Arriving at Dobbie's Garden Centre one weekday evening feeling somewhat nervous, I met with the leader to discuss what the course would entail. Having received so much rejection and hurt from churches in the past due to being in a same-sex relationship, I felt it necessary to declare this before commencing the course. I was reassured that this was not a concern, and that the course was for every one of God's children.

Since that meeting I haven't looked back and the course has changed me in many ways for the better. By taking part I have found it easier to pray and live reflectively, to explore my faith, discover meaning and come into a deeper relationship with God. I have found my approach and form of prayer to have changed positively in many ways, creating a deeper sense of my relationship with God. I'm also able to incorporate this learning into my intercessions at St Finnian's (But perhaps sometimes a bit too liberal for the congregation!)



Every week I attend the course at the Link Church in Dunfermline, joining with fellow-Christians from the East Neuk of Fife to the centre of Edinburgh, each representing a different denomination and varying beliefs. But the one thing we all seem to have is an eagerness to share the love and compassion that Jesus taught, as well as to discern what God calls each of us to during our earthly lives.

For me, I would say it's too premature to share openly what I feel God is calling me to. I feel those conversations continue to rest through prayer with God. Ultimately, this course has enabled me to reach this stage, to make serious lifestyle changes, and to put Jesus first and allowing him to do the leading.

I felt lost for a long time, but I seem to be me again, perhaps a new form of me but at least it's been founded on the power of prayer and faith.

If anyone is considering a course such as this, I would recommend it without doubt. I would be more than happy to meet with anyone over coffee (and cake!) to tell you more, to share my experiences, or simply to discuss the approaches to prayer I've found most helpful in my relationship with our Lord.

"Act as if everything depended on you;  
trust as if everything depended on God."

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

**Ed:** More information on the course  
on-line at [www.epiphanygroup.org.uk](http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk)

# God and Me

Sabine Forsyth

Sabine is Dorissia Forsyth's younger daughter, and her article is also being published in Holy Trinity's magazine in what Andrew Wedge hopes will become a regular series of contributions from others for whom Holy Trinity has played a part in their journey through faith.

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I remember the Reverend Rongong warning me that most students who read theology at university tend to lose their faith entirely, or come out as a modern day prophet spreading the word of Jesus to everyone and anyone who will listen. I must say that, after four years of studying, I count myself as the one that got away from that almost certain fate. I did however, experience similar phases along the journey. I found that the only way to avoid regular existential crises was to bypass all biblical courses and stick to religious studies and philosophy. My senior lecturer did not agree with my newfound approach.

"It is impossible to ignore the Bible in a theology degree", she shrieked. "It is central to our studies and it is where we find God!"

I felt almost bad for her. If she only finds God in the Bible, then she isn't looking very far. And no, I'm not talking about teleology and witnessing God's wonder

in the perfect curve of the waves or the intricacy of a fingerprint. I'm talking about acknowledging God's presence in our everyday lives, experiencing God's love and peace in the things that make us happy, and whilst listening for his guidance when we feel lost.

Nevertheless, I took her advice and visited many different churches in order to restore my faith. At first I thought I should find a church like Holy Trinity. After all, I love a traditional hymn and, if the service doesn't include the Nicene Creed, then I'm simply not interested. After much research and chatting to friends, I had found a church to visit. It turns out that the church (that shall not be named) was a little too traditional for me. Upon entrance, I was given a hat to cover my hair, nobody spoke to me and the whole service was in Latin. Not quite what I was looking for. OK – I had gone too traditional. Holy Trinity was nothing like that, what was I thinking?!

My next approach was to find a church with a little more youth. I'd found a church that seemed to fit the bill. The church was packed with people my age, everyone was super-friendly and I felt like this could be it! The service wasn't quite what I was used to, but I felt welcomed and that was important. However, after a few weeks' attendance they started to question my life choices and suggested I attended some extra classes to "bring me closer to Christ." Suffice to say, it wasn't for me.

Nothing quite seemed to resonate with me quite like Holy Trinity did. After all, I had been a member of HT since my baptism in 1995. Holy Trinity was and is a part of family. My mum had married there, my sister baptised and confirmed, and sadly my father's funeral all took place at the very church where I would later confirm my own faith at the age of fifteen.

I chose my confirmation then because I actually knew what I believed. It wasn't a given rite of passage that I was pressured into, but a choice I made after a visit to Glenalmond youth camp, which in my opinion is one of the single greatest things the Scottish Episcopal Church has given to the world. You may think I am exaggerating, but I'm not. Once a year for a week, young people from around Scotland come together in faith. Regardless of gender, race or background; we are all one. We are taught to love unconditionally, but have self-respect. We are shown compassion and patience that we later mirror in our relationships. We laugh, play, tell stories and dance together but most importantly we learn to see God in the small things.

**Ed:** See page 13 for an invitation to GLEN 2019.

Upon leaving camp, it is common to feel full of the Holy Spirit, to pray every day and to pledge loyalty to the 9.00am church service. But life gets in the way. Priorities change, and soon the prayer book becomes a distant memory. I must admit, I have not yet found a church that feels like home and I should also admit that the occasional lie-in and events of a busy weekend tend to prevent me from finding, and yes, attending church.

However, the message of faith and of seeing God in the small things remains. God is in the moments of laughter with our friends that make our bellies ache. God is there when I watch a film that makes me cry, or when I listen to music on the way to work.



I'm now in my second year of teaching religious education and I have just become a panel member for Children's Hearings Scotland where I regularly attend court and make life-changing decisions for young people and their families. Personal faith does not interfere with either of these roles, but the presence of God helps me to keep balanced and to work on my skills needed for the job. I am grateful for the part God plays, however big or small that may be. My story is a small part of Holy Trinity's history and Holy Trinity is a small church in the world-wide congregation. But I find comfort in the small things, and it's in the small things where we find God.



## Prayer for stewardship of God's Creation

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter ...

If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter, floating a few feet above a field somewhere, people would come from' everywhere to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvelling at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water flowing between the pools. People would marvel at the bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the very thin layer of gas surrounding it and the water suspended in the gas. The people would marvel at all the creatures walking around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in the water. The people would declare it as sacred because it was the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain knowledge, to know beauty and to wonder how it could be. People would come to love it, and defend it with their lives, because they would somehow know that their lives, their own roundness, could be nothing without it. If the Earth were only a few feet in diameter.

Source unknown.

Found in a Mother's Union publication by Dorissia Forsyth

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## Reduce packaging *and* spread the Good News

Ever complained that (a) commercial Easter eggs don't say anything about Christ and (b) are totally over-packaged?

To tackle the first complaint you may previously have bought Easter eggs that explain the story of Jesus' death and resurrection in the packaging.

For the second, this year the faith-based Real Easter Egg will be available to buy *without* plastic seals, stickers or packaging. Plus, the card and foil used is 100% recyclable, and the chocolate is certified Fairtrade, so growers get a fair price.

More at <https://tinyurl.com/y5o5ftx3>.

# Shanti Daan – ‘Offering Peace’



Ross Stirling-Young reports on his project in North India

Some of you may have noticed that in the last issue of Contact I was unable to provide an update on the Arunima Hospice. There have been some major changes in the hierarchy in the Church of North India, changes that I do not feel qualified or properly informed to comment upon. However, what I can say is that I feel deeply hurt that my trusted ‘Prayer Partner’ and dear friend Mr Suvabrota Das (‘Suvo’) was required to leave his position of managing the hospice. This has been a heart-breaking and traumatic time for Suvo, his wife Bijoya and the children. Suvo was regarded as more than an employee, but rather their guardian and fatherly figure.

Suvo has now moved to the village of Binodpur in rural West Bengal and in which he was called by God to help the people of this region, one of the poorest parts in the Sundarban Bay of Bengal. This has been possible through the setting up of a new charity called Shanti Daan which translates as ‘Offering Peace’.

The charity has been set up officially with a group of trustees forming the board. Its purpose is to minister to the elderly, and construct a children’s orphanage, a new school and medical facilities and a new church to help spread the Gospel message. Its main aim is to bring the peace and love of Jesus into an area where people have otherwise been forgotten and left to fend for themselves no matter what challenges they face. Several of the older children from the Arunima Hospice have joined Suvabrota, becoming adopted by him; otherwise they would be required to fend for themselves on reaching the age of 18.

To date I have sent approximately £500 for the purchase of land as well as paying educational fees for one of the recent orphans to join Shanti Daan. Future

initiatives will be undertaken to continue raising funds for the charity, and I hope Ray and I will be able to visit in person at some point this year (health permitting). I currently have the profiles of four children who require monthly sponsorship to enable their care, medical costs and education. The hope is that I can find sponsors who are able to pay £15/month to support at least one of the children.

Leaving the Arunima Hospice was never what I had planned, but perhaps God is also calling me to help others who need it more. I rest in the knowledge that through the help of many (including members of St Margaret’s), just under £20,000 was raised for the needs of these children. What that has done is something quite extraordinary, providing a safe place to live, a clean and comfortable space to sleep and a usable area externally for safe outside playtime with affordable LED lighting throughout.

As a member of the Diocesan Overseas Committee, I know that there will be changes afoot in relation to our future links with Anglican Dioceses throughout the world so watch this space. I personally look forward to where God and the leadership of Bishop Ian guide us.

My friendship with Suvo has never been about money or any other such expectation. It’s far deeper than that, it’s what I would coin the term “Jesus driven”. If you take time for stillness, time for silence, it’s amazing how God may interact and guide during that time of calmness when in the eye of a storm.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for Suvo, Bijoya and the people of Arunima Hospice and Shanti Daan.

In Christian love, Ross



# Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

## New puzzles

### 1 Decimal fractions!

65% can be written as a fraction  $\frac{13}{20}$  (with the lowest possible denominator).

**How would you write  $58\frac{1}{3}\%$  (58 and a third per cent) as a simplified fraction with the lowest possible denominator?**

### 2 Crossing paths

Abigail and Agnes have confused their diaries. Abigail thinks she is visiting Agnes today, while Agnes thinks she is visiting Abigail. They both set off on foot for each other's house at 11am. Abigail walks at 3km/hr; Agnes ambles along at 2km/hr. **Which of the two is nearer to Abigail's house when they meet on the road?**

### 3 Cricket on Grumpius

On Planet Earth, cricket fans get upset when a batsman scores 49 and then gets out, having missed a half-century. The inhabitants of the distant world Grumpius also play cricket. Whenever a Grumpian 'batsthing' scores what we would write as 49, the crowd goes wild, and the batsthing raises his bat and bobs his tentacles in the Grumpian equivalent of a punched fist. **Why?**

### 4 Anchors A-weigh

Clive has taken Matilda out for a romantic boat trip. When they get to an appropriate spot, Clive drops the anchor out of the boat. **Does the water level go up, go down or stay the same when he does this?**

### 5 Upside-down dating

**Which year in the future is the next one that reads the same when you turn it upside down?**

## December/January answers

### 1 Fair shares!

As there were 8 bottles of lemonade to share between three, each drank  $2\frac{2}{3}$  bottles. So the boy who had 3 bottles kept  $2\frac{2}{3}$  for himself and gave  $\frac{2}{3}$  to the girl, whereas the boy who had 5 bottles kept  $2\frac{2}{3}$  for himself and gave  $2\frac{1}{3}$  bottles to the girl, who then also had  $2\frac{2}{3}$  bottles. This means that the ratio in which the boys gave was  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{7}{3}$  i.e. 1 to 7. As the lemonade was split 1 to 7, then the 8 packets of sweets should also be split **7 to 1**.

### 2 A record distance

The needle only travels **10cm**.

### 3 Sharing the load

**Tim had 7 sacks and Tom had 5 sacks.**

### 4 Here is a tough one!

The answer to this question has to be worked out by writing down the numbers that are missing, you will then notice that all the missing numbers either contain a 3 or 5 or can be divided by 3 or 5. Based on that knowledge **the next two numbers are 44 and 46**.

### 5 Nail that plate

The **total number of nails used is 96**, as each corner nail counts along as well as up or down.

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

## A grain of ash

During March we had two “Thoughts for the Month”. After Ash Wednesday we reported on an inspirational service from Michael Paterson, which used a poetic reflection that ended:

Who would have thought  
a grain of ash  
could start such a revolution?



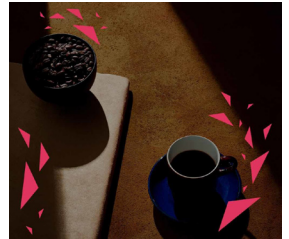
His message will be there long after the ash has washed away.

## Three Lenten suggestions

The previous post had three ideas to follow up for Lent. The first was ++Justin’s suggestion: “As well as stopping something, how about starting something?” Our second idea was the Church of England’s “LentPilgrim”, a discipleship journey with 40 daily reflections.

Our third idea was an 40-day fight against the slavery hidden in our supply chains, which is part of International Justice Mission’s “Make #SlaveFree Normal” campaign. IJM tell us that 25 million people are in forced labour slavery today, many making products we consume every single day—products like coffee, chocolate and makeup, and #slavefreelent asks us to:

- give up a product that often has slavery in its supply chain for the 40 days of Lent;
- donate the money we would have spent on the product we are giving up, to help IJM stop slavery at source.



That’s still a good idea, and Lent is only halfway through as we go to Press!

**Why not take a look at one of our websites, and read the full articles? If a topic really grabs you, do post a link on whatever social media platform takes your fancy.**

## 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](http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk); [www.rosythmethodist.org.uk](http://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 26 May, and its theme will be “**Set free in the world!**” Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 19 May**, preferably by email to [editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk) mailbox is always monitored,