

Rosyth
Methodist Church



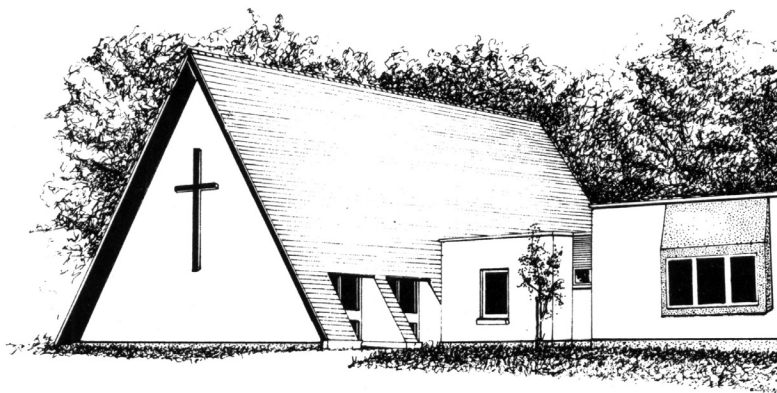
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 103

June/July 2019

Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk

in partnership

Our partnership is formally recognised as a Local Ecumenical Partnership,
with a constitution and Covenant signed on 14 June 2000

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01383 512964

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Very Rev Kenny Rathband

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01383 889212

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01383 624779

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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



Our theme – “Set free in the world” – for me combines elements of both Ascension and Pentecost, two days on the Christian calendar that occur within the first fortnight of this issue’s currency.

Ascension, when Christ’s time on Earth with his disciples finally comes to an end; Pentecost, when the disciples “saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them” and received the Holy Spirit.

Both are occasions of transition – from earth-bound to free; from terrified to confident – and together they kick-start the church from being a local, Jewish (and mostly Galilean) band of friends to a rapidly-growing group that is both outward-looking and unlimited in its appeal and scope.

We are *free*: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:31–32) And we are *in the world* (though not of the world – John 17:14-16).

Also we have a mission to that world: Christ leaves the disciples with a command to be his witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8), wherever our own personal Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, or ‘ends of the earth’ may be.

So it’s entirely appropriate that throughout this issue are scattered references to initiatives such as ‘Talking Jesus’ and ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ that seek to enable us as ordinary Christians to help the work of the Holy Spirit in growing the Kingdom.

A guide to our symbols



working together the wider world building community set free in the world

Contact contributors come in all varieties! There are those who have given their own take on the theme, reflecting on Scripture, recalling personal experience, and telling the stories of people they have known. Others have recorded how we as a linked pair of Christian fellowships are active in many and various forms of service and witness. Christ is indeed alive in Rosyth!

I’m grateful to all our contributors, without whom this issue would be thin indeed. Writing material takes time, a commodity that is in ever short supply, and I really do appreciate the commitment, and in some cases the midnight oil, that has gone into hitting our deadlines.

Do please keep the articles coming. “Getting ready for the new term” is a suitably wide topic that allows you to share plans, but equally encourages you to think about the ways in which you have been prepared for that future by holiday, by study, and by encounters with others ... or with God.

And do enjoy that time away, returning refreshed, ready for action and witness, as well as full of ideas for our next issue!

Included in this issue ...

Set free in the world pp4–7; p27
Spirituality pp14–15; p26; pp28–29

Plus our regular items:

Diary to early August pp16–20
Fellowship News pp8–11
Invitations and requests pp12–13
Music Corner pp31–33
Puzzle page p34
Reports pp22–23; p30
Sunday@Six p21
The wider world p7; p23; p27
Working together pp24–25



Ascension to Pentecost

Eddie Sykes reflects on Acts 1:1–11 and Acts 2:1–11

Perhaps the most neglected of all the special days in the Christian Year is Ascension. Maybe this is because it is always on a Thursday, some ten days before Pentecost. Luke, both in the Gospel and in the book of Acts is the only writer to include this event, which he does twice. Essentially Luke's Gospel focuses on the work of Jesus; Acts focuses on the work of the Holy Spirit.

In a sermon, Jon Walton, the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, New York City, says that this is both good news and bad news:

"The bad news is the Jesus is no longer among us bodily on earth. He has ascended to heaven, as we say in the creed, where he sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead; which is all well and good in the great by and by, but for now he is gone from our sight.

"The good news is that God is still with us in Spirit and in truth, even as we look forward to celebrating Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit to the early church, the continuation of God's presence, comfort and peace among us."

"Why are you standing looking to heaven?"
sermon preached 20 May 2007,
<http://www.fpcnyc.org/sermons.html>

What does this mean for us? The disciples weren't too sure. They even asked a couple of questions which showed that they still had pre-conceived ideas about what kind of messiah Jesus should emulate.

What Jesus does is point them, and us, not to a restoration of a time when all was glorious in the church (whenever that may have been!), nor to a picture of him that is of our deciding, but to an opportunity to be part of the continuing work of the kingdom of God. In essence to be co-workers in

God's creative presence in the world today, inspired, guided and led by the Holy Spirit.

The disciples were told not to stare into heaven because Jesus is not there. They are told to 'go' – to move and listen and then act on what God is calling them to do and be as witnesses of Jesus. They did as they were told, and some little while later the Holy Spirit came upon them, resulting in this rather motley bunch of followers having a focus, an energy, a joy, a purpose, and an understanding that enabled them to share this good news. Ascension, shortly followed by Pentecost, reminds us that our lives are caught up in something far grander than we can imagine – the kingdom of God.

It means that right now Jesus Christ is interceding for us, praying for our salvation. That is truly encouraging, as it means we are never alone and that we do not 'witness' relying on our own efforts and understanding. It means too, that we are on a terrific adventure with God – just like a young man in Uruguay who, under the jurisdiction of the military junta, was imprisoned simply for being a Methodist youth leader. On release from prison, and after getting married, he said God opened his eyes and asked him what he saw. He said he saw children who had been orphaned and damaged by the military junta's rule. So, they, and his sister became house parents for a children's home set up by the Methodist Church in the outskirts of Montevideo. It is a home I have visited, and you feel with all that is good there that you understand a little more what heaven must be like. All the children work together and help each other because of the Holy Spirit inspiring the vision, and the love shown through by Carmen, Maria and Adolfo.

I wonder what we are being inspired by the Holy Spirit to do?

“In at the deep end”



Julia Reid gets out of her comfort zone to break bread with others

Following our Easter morning services at Rosyth/St Margaret's my focus was swiftly shifted to getting myself to Queen's College in Birmingham for a six-night intensive course on “Christianity and Inter-faith Engagement” as part of my studies.

I was aware that we would be visiting a number of ‘other faith’ buildings over the course of the week – a synagogue, a couple of mosques, a gurdwara, a Buddhist temple – but, as the course started on Monday lunch-time, I expected a good few hours of lectures and discussion on what the beliefs and religious practices are of those who practice the faiths that we were to visit. And something perhaps of those faiths not on the week's visit schedule – Baha'i, Taoist, etc.

I was less than amused then when our tutors for the week announced within the opening session that that was exactly what we were not about to get! Well, how on earth was I going to interact with other faiths if I didn't know the first thing about them? Where would my point of reference be for discussing my faith if I didn't know at least something of theirs? How would I know the questions to ask and the questions to avoid?

Could it be that this felt even a little bit like those first disciples taking the message of their risen saviour to the world? When

the disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – or when it was breathed upon them by Christ himself as in John's Gospel – did they first retreat into examining the beliefs and traditions of those they were to come into contact with? Not at all!

For the world is full of people who, regardless of their faith or culture or history or whatever, share something far more basic. We all share one humanity. We are all God's creation. We are all equal before God and loved equally.

I'm happy to admit I was a little anxious to begin with. I'm pretty sure that would have been the case for the early disciples too. I imagine that receiving the Holy Spirit and witnessing its initial power and success gave them confidence to go further, to broaden their community. I imagine that, like me, the more they practiced sharing their stories and listening to others, the better they got at it and the more they glimpsed God's Kingdom.

Although the numbers joining the disciples are mentioned in scripture, I don't think it's (just) about the numbers. I think it's as much about our personal journey with God, which paradoxically improves exponentially the more we get out of our comfort zone and break bread, be in community, with others. And that too is when I see the Spirit at work in the world today.



Shared meal at a mosque



Set Free in the World

Adrian Masson reflects on the price of freedom

Thirty five years ago I visited the Falkland Islands. Not on one of those rather expensive modern-day cruises to see the wildlife but courtesy of the “Grey Funnel Line” on a six-month South Atlantic deployment, two years on from the cessation of the armed conflict with Argentina. Inevitably the situation was still tense and the deployment threw up many technical and personal challenges. But it had its upside too! – Yes, we did get to see some of the amazing wildlife and to visit South Georgia, particularly Grytviken where the conflict began and incidentally where the explorer Ernest Shackleton is buried. The point of my piece however, is to briefly relate a more humbling visit.

The Falklands (the islands of East and West Falkland) is a wild and windswept place. There are hardly any trees and storms blow up from nothing in the space of a few hours. Apart from Port Stanley, at that time the only other settlements were centred on isolated sheep farms across the two islands. I had the privilege of making a visit to one of them and being invited to stay for tea.

In our lifetime most of us have grown up seeing war at arm’s length, appalled by its atrocities, but for most of us somewhat immune to the pain and impact on those affected. Over tea that day our hosts shared their boundless thanks for what had been done for them. They explained how their lives had been turned upside down when they had been met at gunpoint at their front door and herded into a barn in which they were locked for several weeks. Out of nowhere their lives had changed with no knowledge or hope of what their future held. And then one day when hostilities concluded, they were set free to continue life as before. Except of course, that their freedom had been purchased at the cost of hundreds of lives.



Abandoned whaling boats
at Grytviken on South Georgia

I am sure that the rights and wrongs of the Falklands conflict will be debated by historians for decades to come. I am equally as sure that my simple account will reflect the experience of many who have survived armed conflict and I wonder as we come to the end of the Easter season if it isn’t in some ways a parallel for our Christian lives.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“I am the good shepherd.

The good shepherd

lays down his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11 (New International Version)



Icons are inherently small, so difficult to see in detail. This is the Ascension image that Eddie chose to go with the article on page 4.



It's gone global!



The Editor reports on an Anglican initiative that has caught on ...

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a prayer movement that invites Christians to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England, it has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer, involving churches from over 65 different denominations in 114 countries around the world.

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered together, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition, and over the past three years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come, Holy Spirit'.

Archbishop Justin Welby put his invitation this way: "Jesus prayed at the Last Supper that we, those who follow him, might 'be one that the world might believe'. We are invited to make a lasting difference in our nations and in our world, by responding to his call to find a deep unity of purpose in prayer."

The prayer is that the Spirit would inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks, so that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves, and respond and follow him.



During the 11 days between the festivals of Ascension and Pentecost – this year from **30 May to 9 June** – it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for God's spirit to work in the lives of those they know
- Come to realise that every aspect of their life is the stuff of prayer

It's not complicated – the invitation is simply for Christians to commit to pray – as a church, individually, or as a family – in whatever way they want, and wherever they can, so that others might know Jesus Christ. As with 'Talking Jesus', 'Thy Kingdom Come' invites for Christian to pray that the Holy Spirit might work in the lives of five friends who have not responded to God's call.

Many of the resources are web-based. If you have the technology, we encourage you to explore what's available and to register at <https://www.thykingdomcome.global>. For example, you can download the official Thy Kingdom Come App which has free daily Bible readings, video reflections and podcasts from world-renowned theologian, Tom Wright.

[Specifically Methodist on-line resources, which include a Methodist 'Thy Kingdom Come' service, are also available at www.methodist.org.uk/thykingdomcome]

If you prefer something in your hand, there is a Methodist 'novena' (providing material for nine days of reflection and prayer) called "I hear you differently". The booklet came with the Spring issue of *The Connexion*, but further copies are available.

Rosyth Reflections

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

At 9.30am on Friday 2 September 2016, Rev Andrew Letby, my Superintendent Minister, arrived at my manse and we set off for what was to be my first ever visit to Rosyth – and in particular, to The Triangle Coffee Shop. I will not forget that morning. The sun was shining, the Forth was a beautiful shade of blue, and I imagine the birds were singing! As we made our way along busy roads and across the old Forth Road Bridge, I remember thinking that this was such a long way to go for a cup of coffee that The Triangle Coffee Shop must indeed be something extra special.

Extra special it certainly has been and, right from my very first visit, I have continued to be impressed by the work and witness of The Triangle. There is the dedication and commitment of The Triangle team, who serve delicious drinks and produce fabulous home-made cakes and pastries each week, whilst ensuring that everything runs smoothly, from setting up and preparing the beautifully-laid tables, to tidying up at the end of the morning. There is also the loyalty of regular customers, who value the friendship and fellowship which The Triangle offers, as church and community engage with each other. Christian witness, care and hospitality are at the heart of The Triangle, in a safe space where people are welcomed and valued.

The Triangle is also a place where we 'talk about God' in all sorts of ways, from happy holiday reflections through to life's more challenging aspects – bereavement, illness and problems of all kinds. My role at The Triangle has primarily been one of presence, engaging in varied conversations, encouraging the café volunteers and offering pastoral support, especially to those who may be finding life difficult.

There is a real sense of God's presence during such encounters. Indeed, sharing and gathering around food is an earthly representation of the 'heavenly banquet' to which Jesus referred throughout his ministry (Luke 14:15) and the sharing of food as a central part of fellowship and mission has always been a feature of church life.

In the first year of my appointment, I also helped to lead a monthly afternoon worship service at the former Rosyth Resource Centre, a Day Centre for older people with a range of physical and mental health needs. I was often joined by someone from either Rosyth Methodist Church or St Margaret's and I really enjoyed this work, which effectively took 'church' to those without access to a regular worship service.

It has been a joy too, to lead Sunday worship at Rosyth, both with Circuit colleagues and occasionally on my own, when there might be an opportunity to do something a bit different or creative. Another joy has been in periodically visiting Rosyth Wednesday Fellowship. My time here has certainly been enriched as a result of members being willing to share from their own life and faith experiences.

During my time in Scotland I have witnessed the completion of the Queensferry Crossing – now my means of reaching Rosyth. You might recall that for a while, although construction looked to be well underway, the main carriageway still had some big gaps. It was definitely not suitable for driving on! Finally, the different parts were connected, enabling safe travel from one end of the bridge to another and symbolising the connecting of different communities.

Diaconal ministry in the Methodist Church is frequently referred to in terms of 'bridge building', providing a vital link between churches and communities. In fact, this is a work to which we are all called, both as individuals and through the activities in which our church shares in the life of the local community.

I will always be grateful for the kindness, support, encouragement, hospitality and generosity I have received from the church family at Rosyth, since I very first arrived. It really has been a great privilege to have worked with you. As Graham and I prepare to move to Dartford this summer to begin a new diaconal appointment, I know that saying goodbye will not be easy. However, I will be thinking of you and praying that together, we will continue to trust in our unchanging God and be strengthened in our witness and service.

Blessings!

Deacon Elizabeth



Elizabeth and Graham enjoying a visit to Edinburgh Castle in 2017. The Forth and the distant hills of Fife are visible in the background!

‘How shall I sing that majesty which angels do admire?’

This was the first of several hymns we sang during the Farewell Service for our outgoing District Chair of Scotland Synod, Rev Dr David Easton. Not a hymnbook in sight, but for those who weren't singing from memory there was the prominent screen with projected words. If you've never heard the sound of a church full of Methodists singing of their faith in their worship ... well, it was a sound not to be missed.

Gwyneth Kirby, Janet Murray and I, and our minister, were present in Perth on a glorious Saturday afternoon, and were uplifted by the tremendous sound.

In his sermon, David spoke of the “great cloud of witnesses” which had surrounded him throughout his ministerial career – many faithful people who had supported him along the way. We wished him well as he begins his retirement, but as they say in Scotland, “haste ye back” and we were reassured he will be!

Methodism is known for its ‘exceedingly good cakes’, and this occasion was no exception. The ladies of Perth Methodist Church had provided excellent refreshment to enjoy as we caught up with friends around the Circuit and the District.

Mary Kidd



Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd's President's Report to the 8th AGM on 15 May

We are now almost at the end of our 10th year of Fellowship. How quickly this year has gone and soon we begin our summer break.

When I look back over the last year there is much to be thankful for. We began the year with 30 members, and a fairly regular average attendance of 22 or 23. Sadly we lost three of our honorary members, Jock Headden, Betty Terry and Eve Denning, and there are some members who are not able to attend regularly, but we have welcomed new members during the year.

I know we all find fellowship and friendship within this group as it grows from strength to strength as a part of God's Kingdom in the church and in the community. We remain ecumenically-minded and welcome members who belong to other churches in Rosyth. We see Wednesday Fellowship as part of our commitment to outreach in Rosyth, and we are encouraged by the support we get.

During the year we have enjoyed varied and interesting programmes. We've been around the world: to Haiti, with Lou Davidson; to Vienna, with John Burrell; to Papua New Guinea with our minister, Eddie Sykes. We've been encouraged to be aware of the problems in our environment today: Climate Change, Plastic-free Society, Street Pastors, Air Ambulance, Scams in the banking system, Forest Rangers and the Fife Pilgrimage Walk, all highlighting our awareness of what goes on around us.

I want to express my personal thanks, to our Vice President, Sandra Young, an extremely busy lady who takes on the responsibility for organizing our lunches at Christmas and the tea parties at the end of the Spring Term, and also making sure we each get our copy of the church magazine.

We also say a big 'thank you' to Mary Dempster for undertaking the raffle each week, as well as 'handling' the money on behalf of Olive Lee, our Treasurer. We all appreciate the birthday cards we receive. Thank you, Mary. And we mustn't forget Erica and Lesley who undertake and serve our refreshments. Thanks to them, and to Alison for keeping the register up-to-date.

One of the 'problems', though I don't see it as a problem, is that we are growing in number, and when we have a speaker who needs a screen and projector, then the Church Lounge is not big enough. Think of last week when we were all packed in like sardines in a tin! We are welcome to use the sanctuary on these occasions, though this involves heating the church and finding someone with the technical 'know how' to set up the vision and sound.

Lastly, the committee and I say thanks to you for coming to the Fellowship week by week. Your being here keeps the whole thing in progress and makes all it worthwhile. It now remains for me to say 'keep well' and happy during the summer months ahead. Enjoy the break, whether you're going away on holiday, or not, and we'll meet up again on the first Wednesday in September.



Something special happened here on the day of the Area Council meeting. To find out what that was, read Val Leslie's report on pages 22-23.



Deacon Elizabeth

We are all very sorry that Elizabeth is leaving the Circuit shortly to begin her new ministry in the North Thanet (Kent) Circuit. She has become such a good friend and a familiar face in Rosyth over the past three years. We have appreciated Elizabeth's inspiring and sensitive worship when leading Sunday morning services and the occasional Sunday@Six. We have also had the privilege of hearing her beautiful singing voice.

In the wider community, and as part of our outreach, Elizabeth has enthralled Wednesday Fellowship members especially when introducing significant events of her life – many of them amusing anecdotes – into whatever topic she has chosen for her guest talks. As a regular attendee at Friday Triangle Café, Elizabeth has endeared herself to everyone with her listening and caring skills.

Elizabeth will be leading Sunday@Six on **2 June** (see page 21) and her final service with us will be at **11.00am** on Sunday **14 July**. Please do support her if you can.

Elizabeth – a big thank you from us all – we will miss you and pray for you and your husband, Graham, as you begin another chapter in your varied career.

Sandra Young

Farewell service for Elizabeth

The Circuit's farewell service to Deacon Elizabeth will be held on **Monday 15 July** in Central Edinburgh Methodist Church at **7.00pm**. Watch the weekly notices for further details.

Thank you

A sum of £837.00 has been sent to Cancer Research UK on behalf of Jack Fowell from the collection taken at his service of thanksgiving.

A surprise visitor

One of our members, Nessie Corbett, had to move into a care home and we try to keep in touch with her by visiting. John Cowell, who had been a neighbour of Nessie's for many years, is a regular visitor and I go with him sometimes.

The staff are very helpful and caring and one day Sarah, Nessie's carer, spoke to us, asking about the Wednesday Fellowship as Nessie had talked about it. Sarah then asked if she could bring Nessie to a meeting so John said "yes". It was all arranged for 27 April as a surprise for those who knew Nessie. She was so excited and although she couldn't remember names, Nessie recognised some folks. She had a lovely time and it was so kind of Sarah to do this on her day off. Perhaps we can do it again?

Mary Dempster

Hail and farewell

Rev Mark Slaney, currently Superintendent of the Preston Ribble Circuit in the Lancashire District, will succeed Rev Dr David Easton as the Chair of the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland on 1 September.

We said goodbye to David at the Synod on 13 May, as Mary Kidd recalls on page 9; we'll be welcoming Mark on **31 August** – the invitation is on page 20. More tea and cake!



Invitations and requests – 1



Action for Children



This year we are celebrating 150 years of this wonderful organisation, formerly the National Children's Home.

The work was begun in London in 1869 by a Methodist minister, Rev Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson, to give a place of safety, a home, food and love to orphan boys.

It quickly became very obvious that this was the tip of the iceberg. National Children's Home began opening homes all over the country, providing a safe environment for orphaned or displaced children.

The homes eventually took in girls as well. Up until the 1960s they were separate boys' and girls' homes, which were replaced with "family" units.

The Methodists have a strong tradition of supporting this charity. Indeed the Methodist diaconal order began with women who gave their lives to God and to the children, and who became known as "sisters".

Today the organisation is still there for families, working to support them in difficult times, short and long-term fostering – mother and father units, working and supporting families.

Cream Tea

A cream tea – scones, jam and cream, and bottomless cups of tea or coffee – in support of Action for Children will be held at our church from **2.00pm to 4.00pm on Saturday 15 June.**

Tickets £5.00 are available from Jean Hall and Gwyneth Kirby.

Rosyth Foodbank

The Foodbank in Rosyth continues to provide much needed support for local families and the congregations here still give very generously every week. Your donations of food, toiletries, cleaning products, etc. (and cash too), are very gratefully received as the depot cannot always supply what we are short of and either the items are in your gifts or we can buy locally as necessary.

The Easter Eggs were greeted with surprise and delight and brought a few happy tears too. It is not easy for a lot of people to use a Foodbank or admit to themselves their need to use one, and the volunteers realise this and try hard to make the process as relaxed and comfortable as possible.

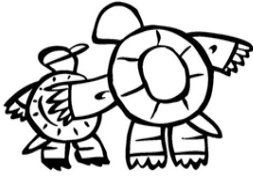
The Community Hub also offers ongoing help and access to information in conjunction with the Community Garden, visited by Messy Church one Sunday morning last year. It is good to see community involvement and awareness and experience the neighbourliness I saw when working in Rosyth for 24 years still very much in evidence helped by the two kind congregations within this church building.

Erica Lock

Invitations and requests – 2



Fathers' Day Family Service



Continuing the focus on family from the afternoon tea on Saturday for “Action for Children”, and the next day being Fathers' Day, there will be a special family service at Rosyth Methodist Church at **11:00am on Sunday 16 June**.

During the service two sets of parents, together with family and friends, will worship with us as they celebrate with us the baptism of their infant daughters. One parent of each child was also baptised at Rosyth Methodist Church, so it is good to continue the connection through the generations.

Calling all walkers

Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA) are looking for walkers to nominate SCHA as their chosen charity for the sponsored Kiltwalk. You can walk in Aberdeen on **2 June**, Dundee on **18 August** or Edinburgh on **15 September**, with a choice of distances:

- The Mighty Stride, 20+ miles
- The Big Stroll, 11–15 miles
- The Wee Wander, 5–6 miles

April's Kiltwalk in Glasgow was a colourful event with a record-breaking 13,000 people raising £3.5 million for over 700 charities. If you are interested in the challenge, don your tartan, enjoy the fresh air and views, and raise funds for SCHA! Full details and links to register at www.churches-housing.org or www.thekiltwalk.co.uk.

Quiet Garden at Gleneagles

“Be still and know ...” (Psalm 46:10)

Once again this year Petronella Haldane is opening her Quiet Garden, which offers opportunities to enjoy stillness and reflection for visitors of any faith or none in the beautiful setting of Gleneagles. The first quiet afternoon was held on Tuesday 14 May and the other dates this summer are **Tuesday 18 June** and **Tuesday 23 July** from **1.45pm to 5.00pm**.

After an introduction and welcome by one of the Rev Charles Sherlock, Sarah Hill (Buddhist) or the Rev Tracy Dowling at 2.00pm you can wander around the wild garden or walk on the grass maze and finish the afternoon with a short service in the private 16th-century chapel. Warmth, tea and coffee are provided.

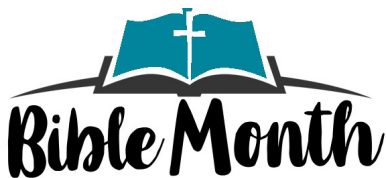
All are welcome to join in the afternoon – a donation of £3 to the Quiet Garden Trust (www.quietgarden.org) is suggested. Pam and Gordon are regular attendees at the Quiet Garden and encourage us to visit Gleneagles if we can.

“It is essential to experience all the times and moods of one good place” T. Merton

The first Quiet Garden was a dream of the Rev Philip Roderick that came true over 25 years ago. The Trust to which the Quiet Gardens are affiliated is in Buckinghamshire and has the vision of spreading a network of opportunities for stillness and reflection aided by the beauty of the garden. “Whatever our context, be it home or the workplace, let us all seek to find solitude as well as companionship, personal silence as well as good conversation.”

Studying the Bible together – 1

Eddie Sykes extends an invitation to all
to a monthly Thursday morning session on Colossians



Over the past two years, the Bible Month initiative has encouraged Methodist congregations to join in preaching/studying a single book of the Bible. In 2017 we studied James; in 2018, Jonah; this year it is the turn to study Colossians. To meet our circumstances at Rosyth, we decided to study this book over a period of four monthly sessions taking place on **Thursdays** from **10:30–11:30am**, and our first meeting was held on 9 May when we discussed Colossians 1:1–23. All are welcome to attend future studies, led by Rev Eddie Sykes:

- 13 June Colossians 1:24–2:15
- 18 July Colossians 2:16–3:17
- 15 August Colossians 3:18–4:18

Eddie has written some notes, by way of introduction to this letter from Paul:

The letter to the Colossians was written by the apostle Paul whilst under house arrest in Rome. Colossae itself lies on or close to one of the main trading routes through the region (Western Turkey). Scholars are not sure if Paul actually ever visited the church.

In this letter there are some distinctive teachings as Paul grows in his own understanding of the gospel; such as his understanding of Christ, and the idea that the future hope expected at the end of history is now a reality.

It is believed that the letter was written because of news which caused some anxiety. It would seem that there were those in the church who were sticking to an older-established philosophy that emphasised 'wisdom' and 'knowledge', probably coming from the Jewish synagogues, rather than the beliefs and practices of the Christian believers.

Colossians shows a congregation composed of a mix of Gentiles and Jews, and the challenges that the first-century Christians faced as they sought to establish themselves in such contexts.

Talking Jesus

'Talking Jesus' is clearly a course that meets needs that are being widely expressed. Since Eddie ran it during Lent, I noticed it in a Baptist Church magazine, as described on page 26. Then I found it trumpeted in the Methodist *Connexion* magazine, where you can read Paula's story in more detail on pp24–25 of the Spring 2019 issue – borrow a copy, or download one at <https://tinyurl.com/ybd7fy84>. And then it was mentioned by Bishop Ian at the Area Council meeting ...



There must be something in it! Perhaps it's because it addresses the difficulties that most of us have when sharing our faith, and gives us confidence to witness.

Studying the Bible together – 2

Ecumenical Study Group:

Alan Taylor talks about the current series on “Writing the Old Testament”

This is very difficult to write! It’s more of a brainstorming exercise! At least in brainstorming anything goes. So, here goes!

After a very challenging but satisfying Lenten Study Group, using *The King’s Speech* as base material, we decided to carry on with our weekly Monday evening sessions at the Parish Church, rather than reverting to a monthly meeting between Lent and Advent.

We decided to look at how the Old Testament was written, expecting some very surprising answers – and where better to start than with the Book of Genesis, beginning with the creation of the world, that very descriptive narrative in Chapter 1 of how God formed the world and all that is in it.

This is where the trouble started! We all agreed that in our childhood and for years afterwards we believed this narrative. But Big Bang theory, primordial slime, evolution, Darwin, Hawking and Dawkins (et al) put a spanner in the works. But where did the familiar narrative come from? Did God inspire it, or did man use his imagination? We don’t know. We don’t even know who wrote Genesis – some commentators say

Moses wrote it, others that the prophets wrote it. And if it all originated in man’s imagination, what else might be “suspect”. Where does the boundary lie between truth and imagination, between parable and myth? Dare we even challenge the virgin birth?

At the end of our first small groups session, one group concluded that “we should change the subject”! – which, as well as much laughter, provoked a few thoughtful grimaces. One thing led to another, and soon questions were asked such as “when Jews and Muslims die, where do they go? Do they go to heaven, as they don’t accept that Jesus is our Saviour, who came to save the world?” I did say it was a brainstorming session!

One of the “problems” with this sort of study, is that it can generate much questioning, which is probably what caused eminent churchmen such as the former Bishop of Edinburgh – among others - to question their faith. But, we all agreed that our faith is resolute and unshakeable, and of that we can be sure.

Oh, and we decided we would continue to look at Genesis in our next session – for better or worse. Why not join us?

Spot the singer



Third from the right is a well-kent face in an unusual (and earlier) context. Who? Where? The answers are on page 31.

One good place



On page 13 you’ll find details of where and when you can enjoy time of stillness and reflection.

Diary for May/June 2019

Sunday 26 May

Easter 6	10.30am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	Rev Eddie Sykes Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	
	12.30pm	Bring and share lunch for Deacon Elizabeth	

Monday 27 May

Note: no Ecumenical Study Group meeting

Tuesday 28 May	9.45am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns	
	7.00pm	St Margaret Vestry meeting in Room 5	

Wednesday 29 May	7.00pm	Joint Vestry/Council meeting in Room 4	
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Thursday 30 May	6.30pm	Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day Very Rev Kenny Rathband	
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Friday 31 May	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Saturday 1 June	1.45pm	RSCM Scotland "Come and Sing" at St John's Kirk, Perth (see page 32)	
	4.30pm	Concluding service, led by Rev John Murdoch, Minister of St John's (all welcome)	

Sunday 2 June

Easter 7	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Hilary Henderson Worship Leader David Salthouse
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six 'Pilgrims on a Journey' Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (see page 21)	

Monday 3 June	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church (see page 15)	
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Tuesday 4 June	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
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Note: Meetings resume on 3 September

Friday 7 June	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking	
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Note: No choir practices until 5 July

Diary for June 2019

Sunday 9 June

- Pentecost 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
- 11.00am Café Church Miss Anne Baird and Mr Allan Henderson
- 4.30pm Diocesan celebration of Choral Evensong
St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth. All welcome

- Monday 10 June 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting
- 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

- Tuesday 11 June 9.45am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

- Thursday 13 June 10.30am Studying the Bible together led by Rev Eddie Sykes
to 11.30am Paul's letter to the Colossians 1:24-2:15 (see page 14)

- Friday 14 June 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
- 7.00pm Nostalgic Moments from the 1940s
St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly (see page 32)

- Saturday 15 June 2.00pm Afternoon Teas at the Church to raise funds for
to 4.00pm Action for Children (see page 12)
- 11.00am The Big Sing practice, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh
followed at
- 4.00pm Rejoice as we worship God together in Evensong
(see page 33)
- 7.00pm Praise Gathering, Perth Concert Hall (see page 33)
- 7.30pm Dunfermline Choral Union Summer Concert,
Vine Church, Dunfermline (see page 32)
- 7.30pm Scottish Chamber Choir presents 'A Scottish Celebration'
Old St Pauls Church, Edinburgh (see page 32)

Sunday 16 June

- Trinity Sunday 9.30am Eucharist with hymns tba (Kenny on holiday)
- 11.00am Fathers' Day Family Worship with Baptism
Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 13)

- Monday 17 June 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

- Tuesday 18 June 1.45pm Quiet Garden at Gleneagles. An opportunity for
to 5.00pm stillness and reflection. Free admission but donation
of £3 suggested (see page 13)

Diary for June/July 2019

Thursday 20 June

9.30am	Sing Scotland 2019 (see page 33)
to 4.00pm	Day conference at Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh
7.30pm	Fund-raising concert in the Usher Hall

Friday 21 June	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.30pm	Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society Sing-along with <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> , St Margaret's Memorial RC Church, Dunfermline (see page 33)

Sunday 23 June

Pentecost 2	10.30am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Joint Communion Service	tba (Kenny on holiday)
		Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	

Monday 24 June 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 25 June 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Friday 28 June 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 30 June

Pentecost 3	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Mary Patterson
		Worship Leader	David Salthouse

Monday 1 July 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Friday 5 July 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Official launch of the Fife Pilgrim Way (see page 23)

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 7 July

Pentecost 4	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Professor John Sawkins

Note: No Sunday@Six

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

Tuesday 9 July 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Diary for July 2019

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

Sunday 14 July

Pentecost 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
11.00am Local service
Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet (last service)

Monday 15 July 7.00pm Circuit farewell service for Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet,
CEMC (see page 11)
7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Thursday 18 July 10.30am Studying the Bible together led by Rev Eddie Sykes
to 11.30am Paul's letter to the Colossians 2:16–3:17 (see page 14)
7.00pm Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC

Friday 19 July 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 21 July

Pentecost 6 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
11.00am Morning Worship Rev Linda McMurray

Monday 22 July 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 23 July 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns
1.45pm Quiet Garden at Gleneagles. An opportunity for
to 5.00pm stillness and reflection. Free admission but donation
of £3 suggested (see page 13)

Friday 26 July 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 28 July

Pentecost 7 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Eddie Sykes
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Note: No Messy Church during School Holidays

Diary for July/August 2019

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

Friday 2 Aug 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 4 August

Pentecost 11 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Hilary Warwick

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 5 Aug 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 6 Aug 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Friday 9 Aug 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 11 August

Pentecost 12 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband

11.00am Morning Worship Ms Julia Reid

Monday 12 Aug 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Thursday 15 Aug 10.30am Studying the Bible together led by Rev Eddie Sykes
to 11.30am Paul's letter to the Colossians 3:18–4:18 (see page 14)

Friday 16 Aug 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice



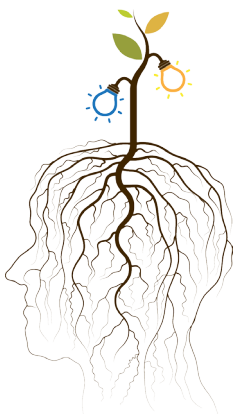
Welcome, Mark!

Rev Mark Slaney, currently Superintendent of the Preston Ribble Circuit in the Lancashire District, will succeed Rev Dr David Easton as the Chair of the Synod of the Methodist Church in Scotland on 1 September.

There will be a service of welcome, followed by tea and cake on **Saturday 31 August** at **2.30pm** in Scott Street Methodist Church, Perth. We are all warmly invited to share in this welcome.

Sunday@Six

A means of outreach, and of widening the fellowship



Now that *was* a light-bulb moment – when those present at May’s Sunday@Six found out the identity of the four Enlightenment characters whose achievements were to be celebrated during the service! The service sheet had said: “See if you can work out who they are before the service begins!”

- 1 The SI unit of force
- 2 The RBS ten-pound note
- 3 The author of tonight’s service?
- 4 He gave his name to a theatre

Pretty well everyone gave up on #3!

Ed: For the answers, you’ll have to go to page 33!

Adrian Masson had devised a most intriguing presentation for the evening’s topic of “Creation and Enlightenment”, in which he reflected on a period when discovery, philosophy and study of the natural sciences significantly advanced our knowledge and understanding of the universe and society.

The short talks were separated by readings and music from the period, a time when many famous baroque and classical composers lived and when West Gallery music flourished in English parish churches

and non-conformist chapels. So there was no shortage of good music for the choir and band to dip into.

Grateful thanks to Sue Masson and the members of our choir and praise band who enriched our worship.



At **6.00pm on Sunday 2 June**, we are all invited to join Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet for “Pilgrims on a journey” – look for the poster with the *Pilgrim’s Progress* image.

We are promised that this will be a journey with a difference, as Elizabeth explores what it means to be a pilgrim through Scripture, verse and music. Walking boots are not required!

There will be no evening service in the holiday period, so Sunday@Six returns on **1 September** for a café-church style of service entitled “Around the world in 60 minutes”.

The service will include music from the world church for choir and congregation to sing, with several ‘mini-talks’, sharing people’s memories of times spent abroad.

Further services are planned throughout the new season, so keep an eye out for the posters. Sunday@Six offers you a service with a difference to which you can invite friends of all church persuasions or none.



Area Council Meeting

Val Leslie reports



On 23 May the Area Council met at St Columba's Episcopal Church in Aberdour. Seven members from St Margaret's attended – the usual great turn-out!

Uniquely, the meeting was preceded by Bishop Ian blessing the new rectory, built next to the church. (Ed: If you've been along the A921 recently you cannot have failed to see this new building!). This was a joyous occasion: Dean and Elizabeth Norby were perfect hosts and the buffet was fantastic! Thank you, Dean and Elizabeth, for your hospitality.



Left to right: Dean and Elizabeth Norby, Bishop Ian, Alan Thornton (Aberdour Vestry secretary), Christine Fraser (being very shy!), Carol Latimer and Kenny



Area Council enjoying the buffet in the evening sunshine

Bishop Ian did a splendid job: even laryngitis could not stop him creating a loving, moving and memorable evening in the life of Area Council. He was helped with the blessing by Dean Kenny, Elizabeth and of course ourselves.

The garden, entrance, kitchen were blessed, with a group following the Bishop to each area. The order of service for "Blessing of a Home" will be put on the notice-board in the Crush Hall so you will be able to get a flavour of the blessing itself.

A particularly important and moving moment at the end of the blessing came when the Bishop asked us all to stand in a



"Living on the job" – the church adjoins the rectory drive!



After the blessing we all went into the church (which was very warm and comfortable). In spite of his failing voice, Bishop Ian gave a really excellent talk on his vision for the future. He stated that sharing ideas and finding ways of talking about Jesus was a way of growing and sharing in mission.

He went on to say that mission did not depend on theories; mission depended on people. Bishop Ian recognised the hard work done by people in congregations who regularly carry the burden! And this can be exhausting. Bishop Ian suggested that sharing people such as clergy, lay readers, worship leaders, home visitors and others who work in the church and community was very important. He talked about the need for clergy, given their special training, to devote time to leadership, allowing all of us to be 'mini-bishops', focussing on mission and ministry.

It was motivating to hear Bishop Ian say that, more than any time in the SEC's history, there was tangible evidence of growth, with ideas shared and put into practice thanks to innovation such as 'Casting the Net'.

The Questions and Answers session was illuminating and motivating.

One specific issue that Bishop Ian talked about concerned belonging and believing, stating that belonging comes first and, often much later, belief in Christ follows. The Bishop called to mind the early church, when the first Christians were welcomed and made to feel they belonged within the fellowship of the young church, and this belonging in the Christian community led to a belief in Christ that quickly spread. Bishop Ian reminded us all that to be a welcoming congregation, willing to accept people for who they are, and make them feel they belong, is our mission.

The Bishop went on to speak about the Lambeth Conference and the bishops who will be visiting Scotland in the run-up to the conference in 2020, but that is for a later copy of Contact!

I will finish by quoting Bishop Ian at the end of his talk, he said: "We are part of something big, that transcends both time and space". How amazing is that?!

I left the meeting filled with hope and enthusiasm, with words such as Mission, Growth, Sharing, Acceptance, Belonging and Belief ringing in my ears. I felt empowered and raring to go.

Fife Pilgrim Way

The Area Council Meeting on Wednesday **20 November**, which will be held at St Margaret's, will have a guest speaker talking about the Fife Pilgrim Way project.

In Medieval times, Fife attracted pilgrims from across Europe to the shrines of St Andrew and St Margaret, who followed their faith in search of miracles, cures, forgiveness and adventure. A network of ferries, bridges, wells, chapels and accommodation was built to facilitate their safe passage.

So that people are encouraged to become modern-day pilgrims, walk the ancient pathways, visit the medieval sites along the route and uncover Fife's forgotten pilgrim stories, work to improve the existing network of rights of way, paths and tracks and to construct new sections began in 2017. Path works, sign-posting and waymarking are now all but complete, with the official launch scheduled for **5 July**. Follow <https://tinyurl.com/y4vd9ds7> for updates!



Keeping the show on the road!

Property Matters

The maintenance and upkeep of our property continues week by week and we are most grateful to those who help in any way with this task. Our small but faithful band of cleaners take their turn in cleaning the sanctuary area and Mary Innes looks after the remainder of the premises. All users of the premises have their part to play and, generally speaking, they do what is required of them. However, we all need to be mindful of the need to leave the place in a clean, tidy and secure condition. There is an ongoing concern about the disappearance of items like teaspoons and mugs. Also, from time to time, some of the locked cupboards in the coffee bar have been forcibly opened. We have recently written to all the organisations in the church alerting them to these problems and asking for their co-operation in dealing with them.

During the Easter holidays we had a work day at the church and ticked off a number of jobs which required to be done. Since the trees were cut down in the neighbouring property, Elder Lea, there is a lot more light coming into that side of the building. This highlighted the dirty state of the window frames and these were given a good clean. The menfolk might have noticed that the urinal step has been given a fresh coat of paint. Catches were fitted to the inner swing doors at the front door which enables the doors to be held back and allows easier passage for those in wheelchairs or with trolleys or walking sticks. Possibly you may not have noticed these things but it is difficult not to be aware of the work which Martin Tarr had done on the boiler house doors and the adjoining fire door. He started this on our work day and almost seemed to become a permanent feature working at

Bishop's Lent Appeal

The two charities chosen for this year's Bishop's Lent Appeal were:

- Aberlour
- St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group

Aberlour helps to improve the lives of vulnerable children and young people, and each year it supports over 7,500 children and families across Scotland. Aberlour provides a wide range of services including residential care, fostering, disability and recovery services.

The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group delivers the only expert charitable eye care in the occupied Palestinian territories. The complex system and separation wall mean that people often struggle to access eye care. The St John of Jerusalem Hospital Group exist to try and ensure that no person in the Holy Land unnecessarily lives their lives without sight.

All donations are to be shared equally between these two very worthwhile charities and, inclusive of reclaimed Gift Aid, we will be remitting £210 to the Diocese for onward transmission. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to these causes.

Gordon Pryde

the boiler house doors. He manufactured new louvres for the bottom halves of the doors and filled in rotten woodwork with filler. It has all been finished off with a fresh coat of dark green paint matching the back door. Our grateful thanks to Martin for the many hours of work which he has put into this (he did volunteer!) and also to Myra for her forbearance!

Martin Rogers

Rosyth's got talent!

Alan Taylor reports



The annual Christian Aid Concert – “Rosyth’s Got Talent” – took place in the Parish Church on Tuesday 7 May, to a packed house of about 150 people, including choirs and musicians from Camdean and King’s Road Primary Schools, as well as local, invited guest singers and musicians.

Our own Marc Tempelhoff, accompanied by Myra on the piano, with Martin turning the pages, and he and Val joining in the second item – opened the show! Marc has a beautiful solo singing voice, so you can imagine the rapt attention from the audience as he sang his first number, “Bring him home” from *Les Miserables* – you could have heard a pin drop. He was then joined by Val and Martin for a rendition of “All Is well with my soul”, with Myra both playing and singing. I expect they will be invited back!!

The schools contributed big time, firstly with a massed guitar orchestra playing along with very appropriate piped music, before the choirs did likewise with very catching songs. Timing was perfect – Rosyth does indeed have talent.

After a short interval, during which refreshments could be purchased, the second half of the concert was given over entirely to a couple of local accordionists, each with modern electronic instruments. This was spirited playing, particularly as one of the accordions could replicate over 100 different musical sounds. However, the accordionist – in his solo pieces – concentrated on using the Wurlitzer organ sound, which filled the church with wonderful cinema organ music – took me right back to my childhood when cinema organs were de rigueur. I’m sure most of you will remember that!

Morag Crawford was our Master of Ceremonies. She was delighted to report afterwards that £300 had been raised for Christian Aid.

Well done, Rosyth!

There is still time to contribute to Christian Aid. Envelopes are on the table in the Crush Hall, and any donations will be gratefully received up until **2 June**. There are also copies of a quiz for you to complete.

Rosyth's got history!

A page on our website (available direct at <https://tinyurl.com/y6fjesqt>) tells the story of what happened on 27 May 1969, when the Anglican church of St Margaret of Scotland in Rosyth Royal Naval Dockyard was consecrated by the Rt Rev J T Hughes, Bishop to HM Forces.

It was those of the group of Christians worshipping there who had stayed in Rosyth after the Naval Base was closed who became what is now our St Margaret’s congregation. They were offered a place to worship by the late Rev Malcolm Trew and



the rest, as they say, is history. So the day after this issue is published St Margaret’s members will be able to wish everyone a “Happy 50th birthday!” Keep an eye out in our next issue for the plans for celebrating St Margaret’s Day in November.

‘Talking Jesus’ course gives Christians a new voice

This was the headline that the editor first saw in Upper Holloway Baptist’s magazine (but see page 14). The article went on:

“Now I feel confident talking about my walk with Jesus.” That’s the verdict of Paula, a Yorkshire mum who has been on the ‘Talking Jesus’ course and has been inspired to speak up.

She is not alone. The course is giving ordinary Christians across an extraordinary range of denominations, ethnicities and backgrounds, a new voice to share their faith.

Paula did the ‘Talking Jesus’ course at St Michael le Belfrey, an Anglican church in York. They ran ‘Talking Jesus’ for parents from the Mums and Tots group whilst their children were in a creche.

Paula is one of thousands of Christians enthused by the course to talk about Jesus to friends, family members and work colleagues. Since the launch last year, more than 4,000 copies have been distributed and 18,000 booklets have been sold.

Edinburgh church minister Gordon Kennedy said, “The response to the course has been more than I could have hoped for. One man in his 50s, a regular at Sunday church but still young as a believer, spoke of having had three conversations with people he has met while walking his dog.

“Another older man spoke of how he has taken the opportunity to speak of his faith and hope in Jesus when asked about his treatment for cancer. All those at the course have spoken of how they are praying for the five names they wrote down on week one, and many have now had opportunities to speak to some of them about Jesus.”

Roy Crowne, one of the team who made the six-part video course, says, “The course is being used by an amazing number of churches – large and small, black and white, in cities, towns and villages.”

I soon realised that this ‘Talking Jesus’ course (from hopepublishing.org.uk) was the one that Eddie Sykes had offered during Lent, and wondered what the reaction had been from our own folk. **Gwyneth Kirby** kindly responded:

Challenging, encouraging, confidence boosting. Just three of the adjectives used by those of us who attended the ‘Talk Jesus’ course during Lent. Designed to get us following the call of Jesus to share our faith, each group session gave us the opportunity to read a short Bible passage, watch a couple of short films, and then time to react to, discuss and reflect on what we had seen and heard.

Every week we were encouraged to look out for opportunities to talk to our families, friends and neighbours about Jesus, spurred on by some interesting statistics. Did you know that 43% of people in this country believe in the resurrection? Or that 67% of non-Christians already know a Christian – and that they like us, and describe us as friendly, caring and good humoured?

So what is holding us back from talking Jesus? Each week we saw people in different situations talking to others about their faith, and each week we were able to share opportunities that we had experienced – sometimes feeling we were seeing openings for the first time. In one session we were described as “brand ambassadors”, which really challenged me to think about what sort of advertisement I am for my faith.

This is a great course to get people talking. Thanks, Eddie, for introducing us to it!

At present there are no plans to re-run the course, but the materials are still available, and it would be interesting to see if this article stimulates more people to think about the nuts and bolts of witnessing.



A Franciscan in the world



Jan Benvie writes about living by Franciscan principles in the world

Many reading this will know that I am a member of The Third Order, Society of St Francis (TSSF) – a ‘tertiary’. When I read the theme for this issue of the Contact it reminded me of the opening words on the website of TSSF Province of the Americas: “The Third Order of the Society of St Francis is an Anglican/Episcopal religious order for people of all kinds ... who live by Franciscan principles *in the world*.”

The Principles of the Third Order call us to “serve God in the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience *in everyday life*.” Over the years I have had many conversations with fellow tertiaries about the challenges of living by our Franciscan principles ‘in the world’.

Poverty or living simply can be challenging when your spouse/partner or your children want something you regard as unnecessary. What if the dress code in your workplace requires a greater outlay than you feel is appropriate? I find charity shops a wonderful resource, but retirement has certainly relieved that burden! Is a computer or smart phone necessary? I personally got an iPhone when my grandchildren moved abroad so that we could easily communicate through Facetime. How we use natural resources is also a part of living simply. I’m working hard to cut out single-use plastic; I wear extra layers in the winter and turn down the thermostat; I use locally-produced food when possible. What is necessary, and how we should use the resources of our world, is something we often discuss at Franciscan meetings.

Chastity in our Rule is as much about emotional relations with others as with the physical relations with which the word is generally associated. It is about seeing “that of God in everyone”, as the Quakers often say, not seeing others as a means to an end.

At work we can be told “keep in with him/her; they can help you get on”; speaking out when we see someone badly treated can affect our chances of promotion. Humility is also important in my Franciscan Rule, so how I treat others is more important than promotion or climbing the career ladder, but it can present challenges because, living in the world, we must earn enough to keep a roof over our heads!

Our Principles tell us “Although we possess property and earn money to support ourselves and our families we ... live simply ... we avoid luxury and waste, and regard our possessions as being held in trust for God.”

Obedience to my Rule, as well as simple living and helping others, is about taking time for prayer; time to be with God, making time to attend TSSF meetings and renew my spirit. Finding time for prayer can be challenging in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the world. I often think of Jesus’ words in Mark 2:27 “The Sabbath was made for the good of human beings; they were not made for the Sabbath”. Similarly, any Rule we seek to live by is not to make life difficult. I have come to see prayer, time with God, as beyond sitting in silent contemplation or with an open bible or prayer book. Going to the park with my grandchildren; spending time with friends or family; helping out monthly at Triangle: these are all prayerful times.

This church season we are thinking of Jesus sending the disciples out. They faced many challenges ‘in the world’, very different from the ones we face today. Some paid dearly – stoning, imprisonment even crucifixion. Today many Christians in other parts of the world face the threat of imprisonment, physical punishment or even death that make the challenges I face seem unimportant.

/cont’d on page 29



Nailed right in!

An edited version of the Easter Day sermon
preached to the St Margaret's congregation by Kenny Rathband

"We had the experience but missed the meaning." So says T S Eliot in his poem *The Dry Salvages*. It is quoted on a book that I bought several years ago by the writer Margaret Hebblethwaite entitled *Motherhood and God*. It is a line of poetry amongst many, but it serves its purpose this Easter morning.

In my youth I was fortunate to have three clergy at the church I attended, the Rector, the curate and a retired priest. One thing I learned from them was the value of sharing stories about faith.

This morning I want to share a story with you. It concerns a man who I'll call Anthony, a Franciscan brother who was training for the priesthood. Brother Anthony was a wonderful man and, like most Franciscans, he managed to combine a light spirituality with a wonderful sense of humour underlined by true humility. Anthony had few possessions, so when he was ordained Deacon his friends decided to buy him a luxury gift, or at least a luxury gift in his terms – a duvet. Now Anthony was attached to a down-town church in a major Scottish city, and he lived in one of the most deprived places one might ever encounter. It may well have changed now, but at that time the area was desolate – no cars (they would have been stolen for cash); boarded-up windows; fencing ripped off; glass strewn everywhere.

Not long after he moved Anthony's flat was broken into and they stole his duvet. He was later informed that someone was selling it a few closes down and that he could buy it back if he wanted to – something he never did.



Because he always wore his Franciscan habit the local kids called him 'monkey'. On his first Easter at the church, in an encounter with some of them that had drawn attention to a crucifix, he was asked what the words INRI above Jesus' cross meant? In his eagerness to share what he had learnt, Anthony said: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The young boy who asked the question said, "Naw, it doesnae. It stands for 'I'm nailed right in!'"

I must emphasise that on this most holy and sacred day I have not shared this story to cause offence or to shock. I have shared this because I believe that it has something profound to say about the gospel, even today, several years later.

This young boy in his cheekiness was possibly saying something quite important about his own state of affairs. Remember what I have described to you, a place that from my own relatively privileged background I had never encountered. A place of real urban need – not deprivation, because there was nothing wrong with the people, many of them were ordinary good folk trying to get by in very difficult surroundings.

This young boy however made a profound theological point. He spoke from the heart and, in a sense, Jesus on the cross was 'nailed right in'.



The point is that he was nailed right in for us, not for himself. He took on our sins and the sins of the world so that love could shine through. It is that love that we are here to celebrate today.

Christ on the cross, draws the needs of the world into his suffering and his sacrifice. God in Christ is not divorced from creation, not aloof from the suffering of humanity. Instead God is at the very heart of that suffering.

Many in our society today still feel 'nailed right in' – trapped in difficult circumstances the likes of which many of us here today will never have encountered.

Today as we gather here we celebrate the fact that the cross is not the end, that Jesus rose from the dead and in doing so opened a new way of life for others to share. A way of love.

The words of T S Eliot however come to challenge us – Have “we had the experience but missed the meaning”?

Jesus suffering on the cross and his rising from the dead show us that God's love cannot be contained by wood and nails, that love cannot be bound by those who choose the way of evil.

Christ's glorious resurrection that we celebrate this day shows us that love will always conquer and, though battered and bruised, will never be beaten.

Today I am not here to give you a definitive explanation of the resurrection, for there has to be a sense of mystery, a sense of the otherness of God that enters into us and calls us to share.

As the writer Joy Cowley states, “The further we journey into the mystery of Easter, the more we know of the true meaning of love.”

Along with millions throughout the world it is this wonderful and glorious mystery that we share this day.

Today we are here to celebrate the resurrection to bear witness to this mystery, to be signs of love, to show that being 'nailed right in' is not the end, that love will always win. Nails and wood still exist today, and will no doubt exist in days to come, but such nails and wood are not the end.

God's love in Christ goes beyond suffering and pain, it is not bounded by acts of selfishness and cruelty. God's love leads to a better way.

Let us prove the words of Eliot to be wrong. Let us have the experience and understand the meaning. Let us also always remember those who are 'nailed right in' and seek to share with them the love of God that is offered to all.

/cont'd from page 27

So, I want to end on a note of joy, again quoting from the Principles:

“Tertiaries ... show in our lives the grace and beauty of divine joy. We remember that we follow the Son of Man, who came eating and drinking, who loved the birds and the flowers, who blessed little children, who was a friend to tax collectors and sinners and who sat at the tables of both the rich and the poor. ... This joy is a divine gift, coming from union with God in Christ. It is still there even in times of darkness and difficulty, giving cheerful courage in the face of disappointment, and an inward serenity and confidence through sickness and suffering.”

The message in flowers



The Easter Garden made by Mary Kidd, shown in her garden before its move to the church



"With a little help from my friends" – Leslie Yellowlees, Joan Bell and Val Leslie after their stint at flower arranging

Flowers play an important role in making the church beautiful for worship, especially at key festivals, yet the work that goes into their display and arrangement is often unappreciated or taken for granted.

Coming at the end of Lent, when having no flowers is part of the Episcopalian tradition, and after a Maundy Thursday

service at which all decoration is removed from the altar, Easter provides a welcome opportunity for an explosion of flowers, both on the empty cross and throughout the church building.

Grateful thanks to Mary Kidd and all those who made the church look beautiful.

The message in symbols

The Christian year is full of symbols, and Maundy Thursday has not only the bread and wine of communion, and the stripping of the altar, but also a symbol of service.

Originating in the act of Jesus playing the role of a servant in washing the disciples' feet, for most churches foot-washing has been replaced by washing hands, with an introduction such as: "Tonight we wash one another's hands in a deep spirit of love, preparing one another to enter into the service of God who came among us as a servant, and to love and serve one another as Christ loves and serves us."



This year, Carol Latimer conducted a very moving service, in which words and actions combined to illustrate how we are blessed by God's unconditional love for each of us, which speaks to us in a very personal way.

“All in the April evening”

Sandra Young remembers ...

Hearing the choir sing this anthem on request at the April joint communion took me back 50 years to my early adulthood. When I left Perth Academy in the early 1960s I started my long career with the Ministry of Defence locally and lived at home until I was transferred to London in 1970. This was a happy time and much of my leisure hours were spent helping my father with admin work for Perth Cathedral (what's changed?), watching cricket and singing in local choirs, including the then Perth Madrigal Society.

This was a choir of about 36 – a few tenors and basses, but mainly ladies voices – and when I was a member our conductor was Miss Isabella Spy (affectionately known as ‘I-Spy’), a music teacher at Perth Academy. Most of the choir members were mature men and women, but she was keen to have younger voices and recruited some of us when we left school.

This choir was great fun and quite light-hearted. We had a regular repertoire which came out for our concerts, visits to the BBC recording studios in Edinburgh or Glasgow for our annual radio broadcast and at the March Perth Musical Festival. This included many traditional folk songs from all parts of the British Isles and well-known madrigals – mainly English and Italian. But at every concert, irrespective of whether in a large venue or a small country church hall, we signed off with Miss Spy's favourite “All in the April Evening”. This beautiful and meaningful song of praise and worship was such an evocative ending to an evening's singing and lingered in my thoughts for many days thereafter. Fond memories!

All in the April ev'ning,
April airs were abroad;
the sheep with their little lambs
pass'd me by on the road.

All in the April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God.

The lambs were weary, and crying
with a weak human cry;
I thought on the Lamb of God
going meekly to die.

Up in the blue, blue mountains,
dewy pastures are sweet:
rest for the little bodies,
rest for the little feet.

But for the Lamb of God
up on the hill-top green;
only a cross of shame,
two stark crosses between.

All in the April ev'ning,
April airs were abroad;
I saw the sheep with their lambs,
and thought on the Lamb of God.

Katharine Tynan Hinkinson

The choir sang the choral version of the poem written in 1911 by Hugh S. Robertson for his Glasgow Orpheus Choir and immortalised by them. It is one of the most famous of the pieces he composed for the Orpheus, which had grown from a choir he had founded and gained a world-wide reputation under his direction for 45 years.

Sir Hugh (as he became in 1931) had a reputation for getting the very best from his singers, who held him in such great esteem that, when he resigned as their leader shortly before his death, the choir agreed they must disband. However, many of its members re-formed as the Glasgow Phoenix Choir, which continues to perform and tour to this day.

Music Corner – 1

RSCM “Come and Sing”

If you enjoyed last year’s “Come and Sing” in Dunfermline Abbey, St John’s Kirk, Perth is the place to be on **Saturday 1 June**, when Kevin Duggan will direct RSCM Scotland’s 2019 “Come and Sing”. The music will be taken from the 2019 RSCM Festival Service Book “Where shall wisdom be found?”

This event is suitable for all singers (though under-18s need to be accompanied by a responsible adult and have a signed parental consent form) and the final service is open to everyone.

“Come and Sing” starts with registration from 1.30pm, with singing sessions **1.45pm–3.00pm** and **3.30–4.15pm**, separated by tea/coffee and a short AGM/plenary meeting, and concluding at **4.30pm** with a service led by Rev John Murdoch, Minister of St John’s.

For more details or to order your own copy of the service book (£5), contact Lorraine Fraser (lorraine@rscmscotland.org).

Nostalgic 1940s moments

Come and be entertained at St Finnian’s Lochgelly with music from the 1940s – Benita on vocals and Ray on keyboard – on **Friday 14 June** at **7.00pm** in the church. Benita is no stranger to us as she has featured with Crosswater Band at concerts in our church.

Tickets are £5 including light refreshments, although you are invited to bring your own bottle! We recommend buying a ticket beforehand or reserving for payment on the door. Contact Ross on 07947 321687 or email rossstirling81@hotmail.co.uk.

Those of us who have attended concerts at St Finnian’s in the past know how enjoyable they are and we are always most welcome. Do support Ross and friends if you can.

Choral Union summer concert

Dunfermline Choral Union invite you to join them at the Vine Conference Centre, Garvock Hill, Dunfermline, at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 15 June** for an evening of popular classics, music from the shows and lots more!

Tickets are £12, £10 (concessions) or just £5 (under-18s), available from Gwyneth Kirby.

“A Scottish Celebration”

Join the Scottish Chamber Choir, directed by Iain McLarty, as they celebrate their 50th birthday at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 15 June** at Old St Paul’s, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.

The choir’s celebratory journey through Scottish choral music reveals a robust vernacular tradition running from early psalm settings to freshly-minted takes on traditional folksongs.

As Scotland’s composers take the stage, Carver’s effervescent Renaissance praise rubs elbows with Tom Cunningham’s lyrical vision of *Scotland at Night*, James MacMillan’s plangent *Cantos Sagrados* and the world première of Andrew Carvel’s *Summer Sun*.

Tickets £12 (students £6) and information from Martin Tarr, or you can pay at the door – plenty of room in Old St Paul’s!

Saturday 15 June is going to be a busy day! Don’t forget that you can refuel at the church **between 2.00pm and 4.00pm** at the Cream Tea in aid of Action for Children (see page 12).

Tickets £5.00 are available from Jean Hall and Gwyneth Kirby.

Music Corner – 2

The Big Sing

“Rejoice as we worship God together” is an invitation from St Mary’s Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh to join the choir to practice and sing together at a big Diocesan celebratory Evensong on **15 June**. Come and meet people from across the Edinburgh Diocese over refreshments and lunch, join in an optional workshop and browse some music resources.

The event starts at **11.00am** (coffee from 10.30am) and finishes with Evensong at 4.00pm. To book a place to sing, complete the form at <https://tinyurl.com/y6o9y8vq> by 31 May.

If singing in a choir is not your thing, everyone is invited to come to the Cathedral for afternoon tea at **3.00pm** and worship together in a joyous Evensong at **4.00pm**.

Praise Gathering 2019

Come and hear a 400-voice choir from over 150 Scottish Churches, a live band and the PG Youth Choir declare praises to God on **Saturday 15 June** at **7.00pm** in Perth Concert Hall.

The special guest is Graham Kendrick, writer of classic worship songs such as “Shine, Jesus, Shine”, “Knowing You”, “The Servant King”, and “Amazing Love”.

Tickets are £19.50 (£13.50 for children aged 12 and under) including booking fee. See <https://praisegathering.org.uk/> for further details.

Creation and Enlightenment: the characters (see page 21)

- 1 Sir Isaac Newton
- 2 Mary Somerville
- 3 Francis Masson (plant hunter)
- 4 Adam Smith

Sing Scotland 2019

Sing Scotland is a gathering of church leaders and musicians who seek to become better equipped to lead their congregations in worship.

Sing Scotland is holding a day conference at Charlotte Chapel on **Thursday 20 June** from **9.30am–4.00pm**, in which they seek to encourage one another and come to a better understanding of the kind of worship the Lord longs for from His Bride.

Everyone is invited to go to the Usher Hall that evening at **7.00pm** to enjoy a night of music with Keith and Kristyn Getty and a time of devotion with Pastor John Piper. This is a fundraising event for ‘20schemes’, a church-planting ministry that brings the light of the gospel to Scotland’s schemes.

More information and on-line booking at <https://www.singscotland.com/>.

Pirates sing-along

Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society are delighted to announce that they have a full cast of talented principals confirmed for their *Pirates of Penzance* Sing-along. They will lead the DGASS chorus and audience in a fun evening, where you can sing along (scores provided, if you haven’t got one) or just sit back and listen.

Do come along to St Margaret’s RC Memorial Church, Dunfermline at **7.30pm** on **Friday 21 June**.

Tickets are £10 from any of our Rosyth Society members: Ann Duly; Mary Kidd; Gwyneth Kirby; Martin Tarr.

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 What is the day?

When the day after tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as far from Tuesday as that day was which was today when the day before yesterday was tomorrow.

2 Does this add up?

SEVEN + SEVEN + SIX = TWENTY

Replace the letters with numerals (0–9) to make the equation work. Each letter represents a different numeral, and only one number is not used.

3 Checkmate?

In the monthly chess knockout tournament, each loser is immediately eliminated, but in the event of a draw the player with the black pieces is deemed to have won. Depending on numbers, some competitors could be given byes in the first round.

In this month's competition 55 players put their names down. **How many individual games would there be?**

4 Who's who?

Three identical triplets Anne, Betty and Carol visit David's house for tea, and sit on the sofa.

David knows that Anne always tells the truth, Betty always lies and Carol sometimes lies and sometimes tells the truth. David asks three questions:

He asks the sister on the left, "Who is sat in the middle?" She says it is Anne.

He asks the sister in the middle, "What is your name?" She says "I am Carol."

He asks the sister on the right, "Who is in the middle?" She says it is Betty.

David now knows who is who. **Do you?**

February/March answers

1 Decimal fractions!

Multiply each side by 3 and you get 175/300 which is 7/12.

2 Crossing paths

When the girls meet, they are both the same distance from each other's house.

3 Cricket on Grumpius

The Grumpians are septimists so use the base 7 in their arithmetic. So 49 in Grumpian is 100.

To explain further, Grumpians only count up to 7 (no 8 or 9) so when they get to 7 that is equivalent to 10, so 11 is 7 plus 1 = 8, and 45 in Grumpian is 4×7 plus 5 = 33, 99 in Grumpian is 6×7 plus 6 = 48. Therefore 100 in Grumpian is $7 \times 7 = 49$ ie 1 unit of 49, 0 units of 7 and 0 units up to 7.

4 Anchors A-weight

The water level actually goes down! While the anchor is in the boat it displaces an amount of water equal to its weight; when thrown overboard it only displaces water equal to its volume.

5 Upside-down dating 6009

Let Dave know if you need extra clarification!

5 Up to a hundred?

Insert a mathematical symbol between each number in place of the question mark and total 100. You will also need brackets.

1 ? 2 ? 3 ? 4 ? 5 ? 6 ? 7 ? 7 ? 8 ? 9 = 100

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



I do hope that you look at our websites occasionally, both at the noticeboard and at the “Thought for the month” page which is regularly refreshed.

Back on 16 April we posted about the grievous damage suffered by Notre Dame – “Our thoughts and prayers are with the community of Notre Dame and also with those who are working to put out the fire.”

Our next post quoted a Radio 4 “Thought for the Day” by Rev Lucy Winkett which ended with the words: “When the medieval St Paul’s Cathedral in London was burned

down in the 17th century, the architect commissioned to rebuild it, Christopher Wren, sifted through the rubble and found a large stone from the old cathedral with a word already carved on it. He picked it up in front of the assembled workmen and placed it on the ground as the cornerstone of the new cathedral. On it was carved the Latin word Resurgam; I shall rise again.”

Our post continued: That was last Tuesday; today is Easter Day; and “Resurgam” is once more a good way to start, as we reflect on the ongoing story of the One who overcame death and is alive for evermore, and as we look forward to Notre Dame rising from the ashes, and reaching towards the heavens with a new spire – whether it’s a replica of the old, or a design for the 21st century!

It’ll soon be time for our next post, and it will be one that reflects Ascension Day. The thought comes from Acts 1:8, the words of Christ immediately before he ascends into heaven: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In the post the thought will be shared that the transition that takes place at the Ascension is a launching pad for future witness. But for that you’ll have to wait until next week!



Contact on-line

You’ll find this edition, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of both the church websites – www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk; www.rosythmethodist.org.uk – where you’ll get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost!

To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue – we are pleased that we’ve received items from people who haven’t previously submitted an article. Our next Contact will be published on 3 August, and its theme will be “**Getting ready for the new term**” Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 28 July**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

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