

Rosyth
Methodist Church



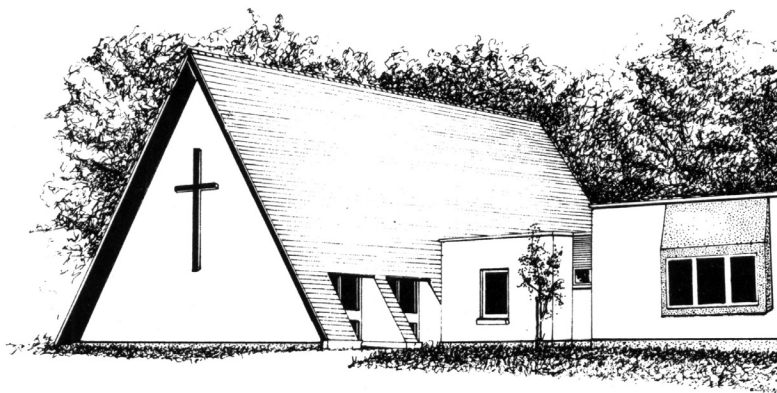
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 105

October/November 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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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



Having a theme is a “useful discipline” – to me a very Gilbertian phrase – because it seems to concentrate the minds of contributors, and to stimulate and direct their thoughts.

In this issue, however, although a number of items directly reflect the suggested “Remember, remember ...” theme, you’ll find perhaps a more serious tone reflecting a call from the pulpit for greater engagement with the Gospel. You’ll find these articles under ‘Spirituality’ in the index.

Do read all those items slowly and with care and, as you do this, try to recreate the live sermon and the phrasing of the speaker, much of which is inevitably lost in the compressed form needed for publication. By engaging with their thoughts in this way, and asking yourself how the message might apply to you, you can re-experience and respond to the challenges posed.

I commend the sermon given by Rev Liz Crumlish at last week’s joint Harvest Festival service. [Liz preached at our June service, and we introduced her work on page 30 of the last Contact] It’s not comfortable reading: it involves us re-evaluating our relationships, and it invites us to “wake up to the crises all around and to be courageously creative in seeking and in implementing how we might be shrewd managers of all of God’s gifts today.”

A second item worth thinking and praying about is Jenni Gill’s report “Outcomes from the All-Church Vision Service” that you’ll find on page 16. That service will long be

remembered for the real sense of warmth and family unity that prevailed, but the work it started will only come to fruition as we take on board the final question: “What is God calling me/us to do?”

Both items are illuminated by Michael Paterson’s recounting of how he has heard God’s call through others (page 4) and by the sermon that we’ve printed on pages 18/19. It was a difficult topic – as Michael put it: “Thanks very much, Kenny. You’ve been here ten months, and the first time you ask me to preach ... you give me this text. No wonder you wanted a Sunday off!” But the result was a clear question to each of us. “Can you hack it? Are you in, or are you out?”

For our Christmas issue – the last with the current editorial team, as we then hand over to Howard – Sandra and I have suggested the theme “A new decade is coming!” We hope this will allow you to explore where God is leading us. The editor@ mailbox is always open for suggestions ...

Included in this issue ...

Remember, remember ...

p4; pp8–9; pp38–40

Spirituality pp5–7; pp18–19; pp26–27

Plus our regular items:

Diary to early December pp20–23

Diocese and Circuit pp27–28; pp30–33

Fellowship News pp13–15; p25

Invitations and requests
pp10–12; p24; p33

Keeping the show on the road p29

Music corner p37

Puzzle page p42

Reports pp16–17; p28; pp30–32

Sunday@Six p11; pp34–36

The wider world pp34–36; p41

A guide to our symbols



working the wider building remember,
together world community remember



Remember, remember ...

Michael Paterson tells how he has heard God's call through others

I have felt called to the priesthood since I was a teenager. A Christian family, a vibrant parish, the teaching and fellowship of a weekly prayer group all nurtured my faith and commitment to serve. At 18 I left Scotland for seminary expecting to serve the rest of my days in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow.

But if it was my own sense of call that started me off in ministry, then it has been hearing God's call through the invitations of others that has steered me these last forty years. My vocation, as Bishop Ian is fond of saying, has been continuously discerned for me by others!

A visit for lunch to an AIDS hospice in 1993 resulted in eleven years in chaplaincy to the dying. A one-off workshop in a Cambridge theological college led to a full-time teaching post there. And offering a listening ear to clergy in trouble has led to a full-time post supporting 55 clergy across the world. Nothing in my life has been planned. At least, not by me! With the psalmist my prayer has been: "My part I have resolved, O Lord, is to do your will." (*Psalms 119*). God's people have taken over from there.

And that's how I came to find myself at eleven conferences in fifteen days across Australia this summer. Underpinning the very different contexts and audiences my message was that God has called us to abundant life not to spiritual austerity; to live within His promiscuous grace rather than within the institutional anxiety that currently besets the church; to show up wholeheartedly in God's world with absolutely no control over the outcome and to worry far more about being faithful rather than about being successful.

The participants were counsellors, spiritual directors, healthcare chaplains, theology teachers, congregational leaders, rabbis, and bishops. Between them every shade of Christianity was represented from Uniting Church to Seventh Day Adventists, with a small group of Buddhists, Sufis and Jews thrown in for good measure.

The experience was both amazing and exhausting in equal measure and has sparked a series of further invitations: to Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane in February and to Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington, New Zealand in September.

Who would have thought that one little YES offered to God's nudgings forty years ago would take me about as far from being a parish priest in Glasgow as you could possibly get.

And so: "Glory be to Him whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we could ever hope, dream or imagine. Glory be to Him in the Church and in Christ Jesus, Amen." (*Ephesians 3:21*)



Waking up to crisis

The reflection shared by Rev Liz Crumlish

at our joint Harvest communion on 22 September 2019

Our Gospel reading was Luke 16:1-13 – The parable of the dishonest manager

One of the frustrating things about written communication is that it's often hard to grasp the tenor of a letter or an email or a text – even when we employ devices like emojis to give some kind of clue about whether we're being humorous or sarcastic or deadly serious.

Anyone scrolling through my texts or Facebook or Twitter conversations might form a very different opinion of me to the judgement they'd make from a face-to-face meeting – maybe!

There are lots of passages in the Gospels, especially those so-called red-letter passages that are full of Jesus' words, that I'd love to have been able to see Jesus' face as he spoke. I want to see that tilt of his head, the glint in his eye or the tongue in his cheek.

Jesus was a wind-up merchant. He saw right through the piety and the practices of those around him – and he called them out on it constantly and, while, when Jesus wanted to, he cut to the chase and took no prisoners, there were other times when, it seems, he enjoyed letting folk sift through his words, work things out; times when he allowed his message to sink in, bit by bit – because there was a lot, then and now, for folk to take in.

With this parable today, we are invited, not to gloss over it because it seems difficult, but to engage with it and discover how it might speak into our lives and into the life of the world we inhabit. Never, in any of Jesus' parables, are we allowed to be bystanders. We are always implicated.

So what are we to do with today's gospel? How might we allow it to speak into our lives here as we celebrate the signs of harvest all around us?

Well, in the absence of those facial expressions or body language or even emojis, one of the things we have to rely on is the context of Jesus' words as the Gospel writers located them.

Today's Gospel is placed between the Parable of the prodigal son and the Parable of the rich man and the poor man, Lazarus. Two parables either side of today's, about gifts that have been squandered, about opportunities that have been missed.

And in the parable we read today, about the dishonest manager, we're told that the charges brought against the manager were also charges of squandering – he was accused of squandering the rich man's property.

But it's not just property that has been squandered – relationships have been squandered too. Relationships have been squandered in all three of these parables – the prodigal son wrote off his family, the manager exploited those he did business with, and the rich man barely noticed the poor man at his gate.

Relationships are really important to Luke as he frames his Gospel. Throughout it there's an emphasis on relationship, particularly Jesus' relationships with those he encountered. At every turn, Luke portrays Jesus as hanging out with those who were considered to be at the bottom of the heap, those deemed by others to be beyond the pale.

Jesus was the talk of the steamie – or the synagogue – because of the company he kept. The Pharisees in particular didn't like the company Jesus kept and constantly criticised him for it. And Luke, through his emphasis on relationships, gives us a glimpse into the social divisions of the day.





There's also a whole economic divide highlighted by Luke in the parables he chooses to share. He shares stories of folk in positions of relative prosperity and status having to rely on those much further down the food chain to bale them out in their hour of need.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, we find the guy beaten up on the road to Jericho desperate for help, any help, just grateful for anyone who won't pass him by – even a Samaritan.

In the story of the prodigal son, we find the son wishing that he could be as well off as the hired hands back at home, the ones he'd taken for granted all his life. And the prodigal's elder brother finds that he can't join the party until he makes friends with the prodigal.

In today's parable, the manager who lorded it over others, in his time of crisis sees those others as his way out of a life of penury. Maybe, just maybe, that's why he is commended. Because, when the chips are down, when we're backed into a corner, we are forced to get creative.

This man, in his hour of need, displays the same kind of desperation as the woman who had haemorrhaged for twelve years and worked up the courage to touch Jesus's cloak. He found the same kind of courage that Jacob found when he stayed up all night to wrestle with God, in order to extract God's blessing. Desperate times call for desperate measures!

Today's Gospel shines a light on socio-economic, on political and on ethnic divisions that surrounded Jesus, with Jesus in the midst of all that, focusing on relationship and modelling for us a way of being in relationship with one another that is compassionate, that is restorative and that invites creativity.

Here, surprise, surprise, we have a Gospel that speaks right into our world today. This is a Gospel that invites us to approach the celebration of Harvest with compassion, with an eye to what is restorative and that invokes our creativity as we relate to all around us. This is a parable in which we are implicated as we wrestle with all of our socio-economic, our political and our ethnic divisions.

So let's, just for a moment, consider three of those divisions with which we wrestle today – let's talk about Brexit, let's talk about austerity measures, and let's talk about climate change.

Wherever you stand on the question of Brexit, we cannot deny that, in the name of Brexit, many have grasped an excuse to exclude and discriminate against others. And the categories of those whom we consider 'other' continue to grow, fuelled by the lies told and perpetrated in Brexit debates.

Whatever your political persuasion, no party seems able to address or redress years of austerity measures. And the gap between rich and poor becomes an ever-widening chasm.

Every weekend, we see our town and city centres filled with activists, protesting government policies and calling for justice for the citizens of the world, for those not yet born and for the earth itself. For the truth is that we're not simply dealing with the economies of today, but with the deficits of the future, the things that, by the way we live and the choices we make, we are denying those who follow us into the future.

So what can we do? We who claim to live by a different rhythm, we who are influenced by a totally different set of economics, the economy of the Kingdom of God. How can we follow Jesus, modelling relationships that are compassionate, that are restorative and that are creative?

As we celebrate Harvest today, we're encouraged to confront those economies in which we operate and to assess the relationships we value. We're encouraged to question the ethics of where our food comes from and how it reaches our tables. We're encouraged to consider the conditions of those who labour. We're encouraged to call out sharp practice. We're encouraged to wake up to crisis today.

Because it is by waking up to crisis, like the dishonest manager, that we will find creative ways not to save the church, not even to save ourselves, but to listen and learn from those outside our normal circles; to listen and learn from those outside of our religious circles; to listen and learn from those outside of our social circles; to listen and learn from those we consider poor; to listen and learn from those we consider 'other'; to listen and learn how we might survive the crises that assail us – and not just survive but flourish, making it possible for all of creation to know and to share in the abundance that God promises and longs for us to know.

Waking up to crisis involves us re-evaluating our relationships. *Creativity* for us might come through listening to a 16-year-old Swedish schoolgirl who invites us to wake up to the crisis of climate change. *Transformation* might come from hanging out at the food bank, listening to the stories of those whose benefits have been sanctioned with no safety net. *Restoration* might come from recognising that the economy of the Kingdom of God is so far removed from the economy in which the world operates.

Relationships matter much more than prosperity. And everyone counts. Instead of scarcity, there is abundance in God's kingdom. An abundance that transforms.

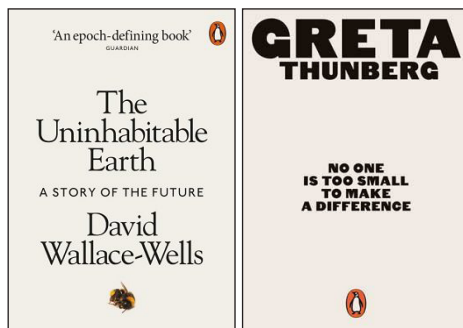
We are not bystanders. Jesus's parable implicates us. But the good news is that still God invites us to be co-creators. Still, God invites us to bring about transformation in our neighbourhood and in our world. Still God invites us to be involved in the restoration of individuals and of communities, locally and globally. Beginning first by listening to others, recognising how much we have to learn and receive from others, not just what we are able to give.

And, so, in this place, as we celebrate Harvest, as we take stock of the abundance and the ravages of the earth all around us, God invites us to be imaginative and creative in our relationships, with God, with one another and with the earth.

We are invited, with the God of the harvest, to wake up to the crises all around and to be courageously creative in seeking and in implementing how we might be shrewd managers of all of God's gifts today. For the glory of God. Amen.

Liz's powerful sermon will be appearing in a cut-down version as our October "Thought for the Month" on the church web-sites.

Apart from praying and acting about Brexit, the issue that will be dominating our media during the period that this Contact is current, you might like to think about climate change ...



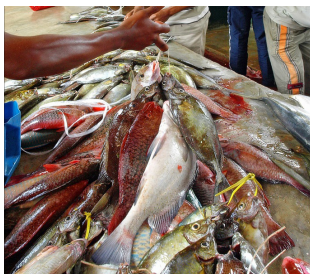


Remembering Harvest

Dorissia Forsyth remembers competitive Harvest celebrations 'back home'

Whenever we celebrate harvest, it always brings back memories of Harvest Festival in my country Seychelles. In the Anglican Church there Harvest is celebrated in October.

Like us, Seychellois moan about the weather! From May to August the weather is changeable due to the trade winds from the Atlantic as well as the effect of the tail-end of cyclones from neighbouring Mauritius and Madagascar. The sea can get very choppy, with high waves, so fishermen have to rely on a day-to-day forecast before heading out for the day's catch, and inter-island ferries are often disrupted for those who go to work on the other islands.



By mid-September the weather has calmed down a bit. Everyone gets rather excited as the talk is about preparing for Harvest Festival. We have good periods of sunshine with rain to water the land for cultivation – the bougainvillea, frangipane and hibiscus all blossoming. These are the flowers we use to decorate the church for Harvest Sunday. It also turns into a competition between the neighbours as to who can harvest the best plantain, cassava or avocado. During that time, if anyone came to our house to buy vegetables, my mother would reply that we were preparing for Harvest Festival! Other families would rear chickens or goats as offerings to the church. You could say it was competitive – after all, harvest was the greatest festival in our church calendar.

The day before, everyone joined in the church decoration. Palm leaves and tropical flowers adorned the church. The offerings were brought in and laid around the altar. It resembled a mini-market.



The next day, Harvest Sunday, you had to get up at 5.30am to ensure you got a seat for the 9.00am service. And everyone had a new dress for the occasion. Even the goats and chickens were brought into church and blessed along with the vegetables and fruits. After the service, these were auctioned, with money raised going towards the upkeep of the church. Celebrations went on throughout the day in the grounds of the church as well as the nearby beach. Visitors would even sit in the church to eat their lunch. The day would end with country dancing in the local parish church.

The last Harvest Festival I attended was in 1984 shortly before I left for the UK. John couldn't believe seeing the sight of plantains, breadfruits, cassava and even sugarcane at that Festival.

I will always remember Harvest Festival back home. However, as the generations have moved to the capital, very few of my generation cultivate the land. Health and safety has also had an effect on what people can take into the church, but it is still a major festival in the Anglican Church's calendar. All being well, I hope to be there next year in time for Harvest – even after 35 years I miss it immensely.

Remember, remember ...



Memory

Memory. What a wonderful gift is our memory. I am constantly amazed at what mine produces and how it changes over the years, but also how far back it stretches. However, with age has come a quirk afflicting many of us, that what happened years ago is as fresh as yesterday, but yesterday is forgotten, and unless what is to be done tomorrow or next week is in the diary, it won't happen.

A far cry from working days when apparently I not only remembered things from the year dot but also plans for the next year and who had drawn whom in the Secret Santa. Well that's the story, but the last was my annual job and entered in the diary, but that was my secret!

Memory helps us recall the registration of our first car – 445 DAA – but the current one? I only remember mine because I call 'her' Lucifer for LCF. I also had a red one called Peony for PEO. So memory allows us to develop tricks to get by. And where would we be without the computer memory which I've often forgotten how to operate despite the memory key which I once had to write down long-hand (oh dear!).

The 'muscle memory' of learnt motor skills like writing are another memory gift we take for granted as they are part and parcel of our physical development and a treasured joy of parents watching their children grow. Another miraculous aspect of being human.

As Remembrance Day draws ever closer, and we give thanks and remember the efforts and sacrifice of so many, let's also give thanks not just "for the memory" but also for Memory.

Erica Lock

'We will remember them'

I'm writing this on Sunday evening, 22 September. Social media brought to my attention that, 30 years ago this morning, eleven members of the Royal Marines Band Service were killed by a bomb in Deal where they lived and served.

For those serving at the time it was a shocking and emotional time. I remember it well because I had a personal friend, a Band Sergeant who, although not physically injured, became a victim of mental trauma caused by this atrocity.

The Royal Marine Band FOSNI is based at Rosyth, and not long after the tragedy my friend was appointed to Rosyth and moved here with his young family. The Band performed regular concerts at the Carnegie Hall, and a Christmas Concert was one of the highlights of St Margaret's church year, when the church was filled to the rafters with families and friends from around the Naval Base. Musical Directors Peter Rutterford, followed by Barrie Mills, were members of our congregation. Peter became MD of our Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society, and some musicians followed him and played in the orchestra.

In the early 90s, I remember the ladies of the congregation were invited to make cross-stitched kneelers for the altar rail, each one with a service or religious motif. I chose, with the approval of the Band, to make one in memory of those eleven young men who lost their lives on 22 September 1989. When the Naval Base closed in 1996 we were invited to take our kneelers with us to our new home here at Rosyth Methodist Church. They really are a lovely addition to the furnishings of the sanctuary. I'm sure that all those RM musicians are making fine music in heaven. May they also rest in peace, and rise in glory!

Mary Kidd



Invitations and requests – 1



Christmas Angels

Thank you to everyone for knitting Angels. The Parish Church is delighted with the huge response so far of several hundred. Please keep knitting as the Parish Church need lots! Tagging has already started and there will be a further get together at the Tuesday Café in the Parish Church on **1 October from 1.30pm–3.30pm** if anyone would like to attend. In the meantime please hand your completed angels into the Parish Church.

Origin Scotland – Symphonic Praise

A fully symphonic concert of praise and worship in the beautiful surroundings of Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh (across the street from St Mary's Cathedral) will take place on **Sunday 6 October at 7.30pm until 9.00pm**. Origin Scotland works to deepen the fellowship of Christian believers with God and each other, and to reach out to those outside the Church. The event will be led by Origin's Exile Choir and Chamber Orchestra.

There is no charge for the tickets, but there will be a collection on the night. Suggested donation is at least £10 per ticket.

Wednesday Café at Rosyth Parish Church

Since we advertised the Hub Café in the last edition of Contact it has been renamed the Wednesday Café as there was some confusion with the other Hub in Rosyth. It is open serving food between 12noon and 1.00pm on a Wednesday. In addition to the menu of freshly-made soup, a variety of filled rolls, toasties and cake there is a cooked 'special' each week. If you are in the area on a Wednesday, a warm welcome await you at the Parish Church.

Area Council meeting

The autumn meeting of the St Andrews West Area Council will be held here in Room 4 on **Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm**. The guest speaker, Lou Davidson, will talk about Haiti Help, the charity she and two nursing colleagues found to help towards specific projects they are involved with in small island of La Gonave. Haiti. Lou talks regularly to Wednesday Fellowship and she also took part in Sunday@Six in May 2018. St Margaret's has supported Haiti Help through our annual charitable giving, so anyone who would like to come along on 20 November is most welcome to join us. Tea and coffee will be served beforehand.

St Margaret's AGM

St Margaret's Annual General Meeting will take place at **9.15am on Sunday 24 November** and will finish by 10.15am latest to allow for plenty time before the 11.00am joint service which Kenny will be leading.

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

Put your Christmas greetings in Contact

As usual, our December/January issue will provide you with an opportunity to broadcast your greetings to readers, in exchange for a donation to a charity of your choice. Copy – just your name and a very few words to decorate our Christmas tree – must reach the Editor by **Sunday 24 November**.



Invitations and requests – 2

Memorial Service

Readers will recall from the last issue of Contact, that there is to be an afternoon service at **4.00pm on Sunday 3 November**, to remember those loved ones who have gone before us, and whose names are recorded in the Memorial Book.



Members and friends of both congregations in our Local Ecumenical Partnership are asked to consider names of people who have been associated with our church over the years who are living locally, or may have moved away from the area, who may like to come to this service. This invitation is open to all. The event will be publicised, and more details given a bit nearer the time – hopefully we will get a good response. It may well be a re-union for many friends. During the service there will be an opportunity for them to light a candle in memory of their loved one.

The service will be led by Rev Alan Anderson, a former Chair of the Scotland Methodist Synod, whose late father-in-law was our Methodist Minister at Rosyth during the 1950s.

If you think of anyone you think should be notified and invited, please do let me know.

Mary Kidd

Rosyth Foodbank

Many, many thanks to both congregations for the Harvest Festival offering of 63.5kg (10 stone) of food plus lots of toiletries and home care products (not weighed).



This was a wonderful and much-needed boost to the shelves after the session on Friday 20 September provided food and necessities for 30 people.

The care and thought behind all the regular offerings is greatly appreciated by the recipients, and the volunteers too are touched by the kindness shown by you through the year.

Erica Lock

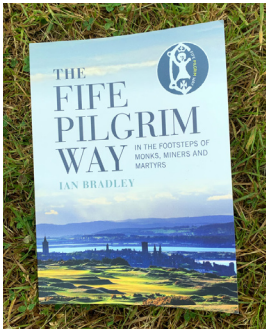
Sale of books

We were delighted that £160 was raised for the churches' funds from the sale of paperbacks in the open bookcase in the Crush Hall for the year ending 31 August. Thank you to our readers and donators. We continue to receive a steady flow of books and are able to change the shelves regularly. Any less popular ones that don't seem to move quickly are passed on to Lou Davidson of Haiti Help to enhance the sale of books in Limekilns Surgery for her charity. Please keep the paperbacks coming – they are much appreciated.

Invitations and requests – 3

The Fife Pilgrim Way

We have featured articles regularly about the new Fife Pilgrim Way. Now there is the chance to read about it in the footsteps of monks, miners and martyrs. Ian Bradley, the author and theologian, has recently written a book *The Fife Pilgrim Way* which he is talking about and signing copies on **Thursday 3 October at 7.00pm** in Dunfermline Carnegie Library.



There is a focus on the religious origins of the Fife Pilgrim Way and the book describes the travels of the pilgrims who made their way through the Kingdom of Fife to some of Scotland's most historic and interesting sites. It brings to life the fascinating communities and the characters along the route in whose footsteps modern pilgrims are treading.

Setting off with Celtic saints from Culross and North Queensferry, marching with miners through the West Fife coalfields, continuing on with Covenanters and Communists and ending among the martyrs, relics and ghosts of the haunted city of St Andrews, this gripping narrative presents a journey through Scottish history, ancient and modern, with spiritual reflections along the way. Each chapter is accompanied by beautifully-shot and carefully-selected photographs and illustrations.

Ed: It would be nice to have a review in our next edition of Contact ...

Bruce Lectures

As part of Dunfermline Abbey's bi-centenary celebrations 2018–21, throughout the month of November there will be a series of five afternoon talks in the Abbey from historians with a particular interest in Robert the Bruce. These begin on the anniversary of the re-interment of the Bruce Bones and end on St Andrew's Day.



Tuesday 5 November: Dr Michael Penman (Stirling University) – Finding and reintering the Bruce bones: marking the anniversary of the reinterment.

Tuesday 12 November: Dr Iain Fraser (Archives Manager, HES) – The lost tomb.

Tuesday 19 November: Dr Martin Macgregor (Glasgow University) – The identity of the incumbent of the tomb.

Tuesday 26 November: Dr Michael Penman – A long-anticipated talk on the radar studies and findings in Dunfermline Abbey.

Saturday 30 November: Dr Lucinda Dean (University of the Highlands and Islands) – Bruce's funeral ceremony and other similar burials.

All the lectures are currently timed at 2.00pm–3.00pm. Tickets are £5 for individual lectures (£20 for all five) and will be available soon on the Abbey website or at the door.

Ed: The face of Robert the Bruce above is a reconstruction by forensic sculptor Christian Corbet.



Lesley at 80!



Congratulations to Lesley Yellowlees who reached that landmark on 24 September. Lesley is our longest-serving member of St Margaret's, having started coming to the Naval Base Church in 1974 when she arrived from London to work as the senior occupational nurse in the Dockyard. She felt at home straight away and has remained faithful ever since.

Later on Lesley became a District Nurse in the Rosyth/Dunfermline area, a job that she loved.

Lesley works tirelessly for the church – she is a church reader, sidesperson, flower arranger, a Vestry member, involved in the cleaning rota, in Triangles café, and the teas for Wednesday Fellowship, and has been our main refreshments organiser for more years than she cares to remember.

Lesley has also been a faithful servant behind the scenes and helped many elderly people along the way. Thank you Lesley for your love and dedication to St Margaret's. We appreciate all you have done over the years.

Rev Annie Hughes

Annie is being ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Ian in St Ninian's Cathedral on Saturday 28 September in front of a large congregation of family, friends, clergy, lecturers and fellow students from the Scottish Episcopal Institute, members of the Cathedral (her home church), St John's, Princes Street, Perth, where she will serve her curacy, and the churches where she was in placement, including here at Rosyth. We wish Annie joy, happiness and fulfilment in her ministry.

Congratulations

As we go to press, **Dave and Mandy Ward** will be celebrating 50 years of married life. We learned about this at the Harvest service, but too late to take photographs. Hopefully we'll be able to rectify this in our next issue. Meanwhile, many congratulations!

Howard Kirby

At the Circuit meeting on 17 September, Howard was appointed as a Circuit Steward. What does his new role entail?

"Circuit Stewards are responsible for supporting ministerial and lay employees of the Circuit, including the invitations and stationing of ministers. They also oversee finance and property issues affecting the Circuit, and support local churches. Together with presbyters, deacons and probationers as a Leadership team, they take responsibility for the spiritual direction and well-being of the churches in the Circuit."

Wow! We wish Howard well, and pray that he may have time and energy for this task.

Don't forget that we can only print the news we get to hear about, and material for Fellowship News is particularly welcome



Volunteer of the Year

Who else could it be than our very own Martin Rogers!



Volunteer of the Year Award being presented to Martin Rogers
by Kenny Murphy, CEO Fife Voluntary Action

Fife Voluntary Action's Annual Awards Ceremony for the voluntary sector in Fife took place on 5 June 2019 at the beautiful Keavil House Hotel in Crossford, which saw more than 200 guests gather to celebrate and recognise the efforts of volunteers and the organisations operating in the Kingdom. This year a record number of nominations were received again, meaning the judging panel had a tough time selecting finalists and winners.

The Ceremony was hosted by Stephen Adamson, Head of Volunteering, who has been a key driving force behind the annual awards event for the 11 years he has worked with FVA. In his role he works with volunteers, volunteer managers, organisations and partners, supporting and developing lots of volunteering and good practice across the whole of Fife.

Fife Voluntary Action believes the efforts of the thousands of volunteers and organisations operating daily and across the Kingdom are worth celebrating. In all, thirteen individuals and organisations received recognition at the Ceremony.

Martin Rogers was presented with the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award having been nominated by Rosyth District Scouts. His win was chiefly for his Scouting work but also reflected his involvement with other community organisations.

As the subsequent report in the Dunfermline Press put it:

"Martin has been Cub Scout Leader at the 13th Fife Scout Group for 54 years and has led, supported and nurtured around 700 young people through the section, helping them to achieve numerous badges and awards, to become more confident, resilient and ambitious citizens.

"He also volunteers as the property manager for Rosyth Methodist Church and as a trustee with Gothenburg Trust dispensing grants to worthy causes."

Martin is also secretary of the "Take a Pride in Rosyth" group, and a member of the Rosyth Garden City Association.

Well done, Martin! And what an example to us all!

George Docherty

19 October 1935 – 21 August 2019

George was born in Lochgelly, and as a boy he attended West Side Primary and then Lochgelly High. On leaving school George worked as a yard boy with the rivet gang and then undertook an apprenticeship as a ship pattern-maker in Rosyth Dockyard.

From 1956–1959 he served with the Royal Scots Greys, something that he was extremely proud of. In latter years social gatherings with army comrades and friends were special events much cherished by George. Having served with the 'Greys', George then went to the naval dockyard at Devonport where again he worked as a pattern-maker.

George met his wife Margaret at the dancing and they were married on 15 August 1957. The family grew to include Elaine, Graham and Morag.

In 1967 the family returned to Rosyth, where George worked as a PTOIV Recorder. In 1986 George's service was honoured when he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

What has been said so far is in a sense a timeline but, as with anyone, George was far more than that. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A man who happily gave of his time and skill to help his family and others. I gather that his grandchildren have many happy memories of helping George in his shed at the bottom of the garden where they all served their apprenticeships to him by hammering nails into bits of wood with lots of laughter. Pan drops in the car were another favourite memory.



Sunday morning walks with family members were greatly enjoyed where the younger generations were introduced to George's love of nature, each walk giving an opportunity to learn new things about trees and birds.

Sport was another keen interest for George, particularly football, a game that he not only enjoyed watching but refereed, coached and even ran buses for other supporters. At one point George was a scout for Plymouth Argyll. He was a

cricket umpire and enjoyed watching other sport such as Pot Black.

Other TV favourites such as Columbo, Harry Worth and MASH were also greatly enjoyed. Often accompanied by enjoying a poke of sweets shared by the family.

Reading historical novels was another favourite pastime for George along with writing some witty poems.

George loved music, and played the accordion and mouth organ. He was particularly fond of Country and Western where he was known as "The Doc", even using guns in Wild West country shoot outs, though I gather he had to surrender the guns to the pilot of the plane after being stopped at Customs!

As I have already said my own knowledge of George comes from my recent time at St Margaret's. On first meeting him it was clear to see that George's faith meant a great deal to him. Although in recent times George worshipped at St Margaret's, he was for many years a devoted and regular member of St Finnian's, Lochgelly.

Adapted from the eulogy given
by Kenny Rathband

Outcomes from the All-Church Vision Service

Jenni Gill tells us what happened on 18 August ...



Since the start of the year, a small group of us have been meeting as an 'Exploring Church Together' team to think about the future of our two congregations. As part of these discussions, we felt it essential to reach out to the wider church to gather your views on the subject.

Accordingly, on 18 August, our two congregations came together for a one-off 'Café Church' service to reflect on our shared vision for the future.

As part of the service, each table discussed some questions, and this article is to feed back the wisdom gathered and to keep you up to date about how we will progress from here.

The first question was: **"What do we love about our church?"**

There were many answers to this, which was brilliant – there's a lot of love for different aspects of our community, worship and facilities. The different answers are all in the diagram above – the larger the word, the more frequently it cropped up in people's responses.

Off to an encouraging start, then! The next question we considered was: **"What should we grow?"**

Here there was a lot of enthusiasm expressed for the two congregations doing more things together – primarily activities and projects; to a lesser extent worship. There was also a keenness to develop work with young people and families – we have a nucleus of younger families coming along now and several people wanted to see this grown.

Community outreach more generally was also mentioned – opening our church and its worship and work up to the Rosyth and wider Fife community more effectively. However, several people also realistically stated the need for more volunteers to help with current and future initiatives – projects need people! Given the age profile of the congregation and the heavy commitment many current members already offer the church this is definitely one for our small team to ponder.



The church family gather for the service with a difference

The last findings here were a simultaneous wish from some folk to focus on more 'traditional' worship styles and from some different people a desire to see more 'modern' worship. There's a tension there that we will consider how to address.

Our third question was trickier: **"What should we stop doing?"**

This is always a tough ask, as no-one wishes to offend anyone or imply that any of the current activities don't have value. However, one clear theme did emerge – the church wants to stop being split into 'us and them'. Let's all bear this in mind as we relate to each other in the future – we may be two congregations, but we are one Christian family, and should relate to each other as such. As a small group we will think about how to support this too – we already have a great start in joint projects like Messy Church, the Triangle Café and Wednesday Fellowship, upon which we could look to build.

Our final question was: **"What is God calling me/us to do?"**

There was a plethora of different answers here, as befits a church made up of so many distinct individual people, but one commonality emerged – such a good one I'm led to use capitals! "WORK TOGETHER". That's something that the small group will continue to do as we discuss our findings in the coming months.

Thank you all again for participating in the service – your thoughts and reflections are wonderful and will be so helpful to us. Our next steps as a small group will be to continue to hold regular meetings to make sure we make progress. We plan to build upon all the successful work and worship the congregations (together and separately) are already doing, and we will continue to report back through Contact. Watch this space for more news!

If you have any further feedback or ideas, do please let one of the small group know and they will bring it to our future meetings on your behalf. The group members are: Howard Kirby, Val Leslie, Alan Taylor, Jenni Gill, Louise Cox, Jan Benvie, Adele Borrowman and our two clergy – Eddie and Kenny.

Are you in, or are you out?

A sermon preached at St Margaret's and Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
on 8 September 2019 by Rev Dr Michael Paterson

The readings were Jeremiah 18.1–11, Philemon 1–21 and Luke 14.25–33

“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14.25)

Let's face it folks, this is not exactly the passage you want to hear if you have dragged your teenage grandchildren out of bed to come to church with you this morning. Nor is it the first text that comes to mind for 'bring a friend to church' Sunday. On first hearing, today's Gospel sounds like the hate speech of a fundamentalist – some tinpot dictator demanding total allegiance and total control. But it's exactly the opposite. Dictators command; Jesus invites. Dictators engender fear; Jesus awakens love. Dictators require compliance; Jesus fosters generosity.

Today's passage comes as things are hotting up for Jesus. He is on his final journey towards Jerusalem. The authorities are baying for his blood. And the clock is ticking.

For three years Jesus has been inviting people to join him. To follow him. To share his life. But, as we heard last week, his invitations have been repeatedly met with excuses. “I'd love to follow you Lord, but I've just bought some real estate”. “Sounds great, Lord, but I've just ploughed money into my farm.” “Bad timing, Lord, I've just got married.”

And it's in that context of refused invitations that Jesus speaks today.

“If you want to build a tower: ask first, can you complete it? If you want to seize power: ask first, can you achieve it. And, if you want to be a disciple: ask first, can you hack it?

“Because I don't need admirers; I don't need fair weather friends; I don't need groupies chasing my next miracle. I need people who will walk beside me; people who are in it for the long haul; people I can count on; people who won't slink off when the going gets tough. And, if that's you? Then come follow me.

“But if you can't hack it, then it's better that you stay at home, developing your land, ploughing your fields, and building up your families.”

No prizes for guessing what happens next. The crowds thin out; the admirers slink off; the miracle-chasers head home – leaving only the outcasts and the rejected, the very people whom Jesus calls family, to hear the great stories that follow about the lost coin, the lost sheep and the lost son. And how apt that is, since it's they – the outcast and the rejected – who know only too well just how lost they are and just how much they need to be found.

But what about us? Where does this passage leave us – the card-carrying members of the Jesus party? Are we about to be ejected and cast out because we love our families? Are we about to be relegated to second-division Christianity because we can't drop everything and do some amazing thing for God?

I don't think so. Speaking personally, my discomfort with today's Gospel is not that it offers a clear set of instructions for my life, so much as that it invites me to stop, take stock, and ask what my relationship with Jesus really is. Am I an acquaintance? am I an admirer? am I a miracle chaser? a Jesus groupie?

Or am I a close friend? Do I keep in touch, or do I only get in touch when I need something? And, when keeping company with Jesus starts to cost me, do I make excuses, and slink away, or do I stick by him?

The message of today's Gospel is that discipleship is not for the faint-hearted. It costs, and it costs dearly. "Buy now with nought percent interest" says the world of retail; "Never knowingly undersold" says the world of grace.

At the end of the day, we will know we are walking with Jesus towards Jerusalem, not when we hate our families or shirk our responsibilities, but when we redefine family and run out of excuses for not seeing others as our sisters and brothers, our own kith and kin. Because, when our hearts are stretched wide, wide open, when our care extends to people we would rather have nothing to do with, and when we no longer curse but pray for our enemies, then we will know that the Jerusalem Road has become our address and that we are living under the shadow of the Cross.

"If you want to build a tower: ask first, can you complete it? If you want to seize power: ask first, can you achieve it. And, if you want to be a disciple: ask first, can you hack it?"

In baptism and confirmation we've started. Sunday by Sunday we continue the journey. But whether we will finish remains to be seen. The world is littered with churchgoers who never became Christians, and Christians who never became disciples. People who started out on a journey that they later abandoned. People for whom the cross was too much.

But the Good News is that, right now, right here, Jesus offers us a new start, and says to each one of us:

"I am inviting you to be my disciple. I am inviting you to find your life by giving it away. I know it's costly, but I promise you it's worth it. The clock is ticking. I'm heading for Jerusalem. Are you in, or are you out?"

Let's pause in silence and make our own response.

Silence

And now, I invite those who wish to do so to stand and renew their commitment in the words of the hymn: "O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end!"



In his blog, Bill Lynch added to that hymn the image above, entitled "Stand with Jesus", and this prayer:

"Lord, you call us to make decisions.
I choose to stand with you ... today ...
tomorrow ... and for ever. Amen."

Diary for September/October 2019

Sunday 29 September

Pentecost 16	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Lyn Smalridge Mr David Salthouse (Worship Leader)

Monday 30 Sep 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 1 Oct	9.45am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns
	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends

Wednesday 2 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker: Alan Taylor – Travels with a donkey
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Friday 4 Oct	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 6 October

Pentecost 17	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Margaret Freeman
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six 'Running home'	Mark Calder, Regional Director, Scotland, for Embrace (see page 36)
	7.30pm	Origin Scotland's Symphonic Praise	Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh (see page 10)

Monday 7 Oct 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 8 Oct	9.30am	Methodist Church 'Homegrown' Conference
	until 2.30pm	Lanthorn Community Centre (see page 27)

Wednesday 9 Oct	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker – Richard Lloyd, Mary's Meals update
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Friday 11 Oct	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice

Sunday 13 October

Pentecost 18	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Café Church	Rev Hilda Warwick

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

Tuesday 15 Oct	9.45am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns
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Diary for October/November 2019

Wednesday 16 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker:
Aimee Ellis from British Heart Foundation

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

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 20 October

Pentecost 19 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband

11.00am Morning Worship Mr Ian Paterson

1.30pm Diocesan Gathering 2019 at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth
to 5.30pm (see page 33 for details)

Monday 21 Oct 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 22 Oct 7.00pm Church Council Meeting in Room 4

Wednesday 23 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker: Ruth Rathband

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

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 27 October

Pentecost 20 10.30am Messy Church

11.00am Joint Communion Service
Rev Eddie Sykes and Rev Mark Slaney

Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

Monday 28 Oct 7.00pm Property Committee meeting

7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 29 Oct 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meets in Room 5

Wednesday 30 Oct 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Susan Sykes – "With great pleasure"

Friday 1 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Diary for November 2019

Saturday 2 Nov 1.30pm RSCM Dunblane Singing Day.
 5.30pm “Come and sing Faure’s *Requiem*”
Dunblane Cathedral (see page 37 for details)

Sunday 3 November

All Saints & Souls	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Miss Julia Reid
		Mr David Salthouse (Worship Leader)	

4.00pm Sunday@Four Memorial Service
led by Rev Alan Anderson (see page 11)

Monday 4 Nov 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 5 Nov 7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club
run by Jean Hall and friends

Wednesday 6 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker – Tom Russell

Friday 8 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 10 November

Remembrance **9.15am** Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband

10.50am Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson

Monday 11 Nov 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 12 Nov 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Wednesday 13 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker – Rev Brian Dobby

7.00pm Joint Council/Vestry meeting in Room 4

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

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 17 November

St Margaret	9.30am	50th Anniversary Dedication Very Rev Kenny Rathband and Rev Dr Michael Paterson
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11.00am Morning Worship Rev Eddie Sykes

12.30pm St Margaret's anniversary lunch, Garvock House Hotel

Diary for November/December 2019

- Monday 18 Nov 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
- Wednesday 20 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker – Edward Idle 'Biodiversity'
- 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting
in Rosyth Methodist Church
Guest Speaker: Lou Davidson – Haiti Help (see page 10)
- Friday 22 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
- 7.00pm Choir practice
- Saturday 23 Nov 7.30pm Scottish Chamber Choir concert
Old St Paul's, Edinburgh (see page 37)

Sunday 24 November

- Christ the King 9.15am St Margaret's AGM of the congregation (see page 10)
- 10.30am Messy Church
- 11.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 Traidcraft goods after the service
- Monday 25 Nov 7.00pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
(tbc)
- Tuesday 26 Nov 10.15am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's house in Limekilns
- Wednesday 27 Nov 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speakers:
Majors John and Irene Houston of the Salvation Army
- Friday 29 Nov 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
- 7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 1 December

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

Note: No Sunday@Six

- Monday 2 Dec 7.00pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
- Tuesday 3 Dec (tbc) 7.00pm Christmas Nativity Event, Rosyth Parish Church
Ticket only event (details later)
- 7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club
run by Jean Hall and friends



Diary for December 2019

Wednesday 4 Dec	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Speaker: Another walk in London with Dennis Cook
Friday 6 Dec	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice
Saturday 7 Dec	3.00pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concerts and 7.30pm at the Vine Church, Dunfermline (see page 37)

St Margaret's 50th anniversary!

Sandra Young and Alan Taylor provide a further update

Our celebration of the 50th anniversary of St Margaret's draws nearer and plans are well advanced for what we hope will be a memorable day.

We will start the day with a joyful festive Eucharist that will include our Easter settings of the service, an introit, anthem, and communion anthem – the choir have been practising hard to make the occasion special! Kenny and Michael are both taking part in the service and we are expecting former members of St Margaret's to join us in thanksgiving for 50 joyous years. Please do all come if you can.

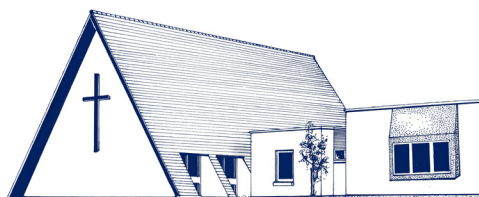
We expect up to 50 to attend the celebratory lunch in the Garvock House Hotel afterwards. This is a splendid response, and Garvock House will pull out the stops to help us mark the occasion.

Our 50th Anniversary bone china mugs will be on display at lunch – one on each table, to catch your eye – and they will be available to purchase afterwards, especially for those travelling from afar (the hotel will provide a display table). Several of you have indicated that you want several mugs each, so we may need to up our order from the 80 currently on order, at £6.50 each. And there will be a souvenir menu to take away, and a slice of birthday cake to eat with your tea or coffee!

The mug design incorporates drawings of the two buildings, as you'll see below. For our current church it was easy enough to remove the foliage backing – the trees on the Elderlea tree site having been cut down – but the tree in front of the notice-board has grown since Ruth Roxburgh drew it in 1984!



1969 – The Anglican Church, HM Naval Base



2019 – worshipping at Rosyth Methodist Church

Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd gives us an update



The Fellowship began their Autumn session with the church lounge being filled to capacity (standing room only, really!) with members gathering for a reunion after the long summer break. As always, the first meeting of the year was a devotional one, and on this occasion was led by our student Methodist Minister, Julia Reid. We learned a lot about the training involved today in fulfilling this call.

The following week we were in the church with the benefit of our visual and sound technology. Our friends, Martin Rogers and Sandy Masterton were welcomed back and gave a photographic and video presentation on the earliest times of life in the Rosyth community. I don't think any one recognised themselves, but many remembered the events taking place.

Last week we welcomed back Alison Pendlowski who came to talk about Accessible Entertainment – not just a ramp at the theatre entrance, but which involved sign language, hearing, sight loss, TV subtitles, audio description, and so on. I never knew what the AD button meant on a TV remote control!

The rest of the Autumn syllabus is printed below, and displayed on notice boards around the church. There are very interesting afternoons for us to look forward to. Readers, if there is something which appeals to you – please come and join us. We have a welcome cuppa and cake afterwards. We would love to see you.

2 October	Travels with a donkey	Alan Taylor
9 October	Mary's Meals update	Richard Lloyd
16 October	British Heart Foundation	Aimee Ellis
23 October	Guest speaker	Ruth Rathband
30 October	With great pleasure	Susan Sykes
6 November	Guest speaker	Tom Russell
13 November	Guest speaker	Rev Brian Dobby
20 November	Biodiversity	Edward Idle
27 November	Guest speakers	Majors John and Irene Houston
4 December	Another walk in London	Dennis Cook
11 December	Christmas with the Tarrs	
18 December	Christmas Lunch at the Woodside Hotel	

It changes the pray-er

Some extracts from the sermon on Prayer preached by Rev Eddie Sykes at our Joint Communion Service on 28 July 2019. His text was Luke 11:1–13.

- How do you pray?
- How often do you pray?
- Who taught you to pray?
- What do you pray for?
- What are your earliest memories of praying?

Think about it for a moment.

One fellow, who went to a Christian School, said that he learned four reasons to pray:

- To praise God.
- To thank God.
- To ask God's pardon.
- To ask God for what one needed or wanted, provided it ended with, *"However, not my will but yours be done."*

Ann Lamott wrote that she had two basic prayers: *"Thank you, thank you, thank you"* and *"Help me, help me, help me"*.

Thomas Merton spoke of prayer as *"the communion of our freedom with God's ultimate freedom."*

I discovered this prayer for preachers: *"Lord, fill my mouth with worthwhile stuff and nudge me when I've said enough."*

Corrie ten Boom asked: *"Is prayer your steering wheel or spare wheel?"*

The Gospel reading relates more than a story on how we came to have the Lord's Prayer. It is more than a story of how to pray and what to pray for. It is actually taking us back to the beginning of praying with Jesus and in Jesus.

It is about how integral prayer was to Jesus' life – something that is mentioned several times, be it Jesus

- going away to pray in a deserted place,
- going to pray on a mountain,
- spending the whole night in prayer.

Jesus prayed

- before he chose the disciples,
- when he fed the 5,000,
- on the night before he died,
- even on the cross itself.

Prayer was part of Jesus' life all the way to his death. So, when asked by the disciples how to pray, he gave them words to address God, words to praise God, and only then, words to petition God. The prayer acknowledges deeply our relationship with God – words that flow with the very being of God, who sustains, forgives and is ever faithful to us.

Any understanding of prayer must begin with God, and how we understand God being active in the world. The parable, I believe, is *not* about hounding God until God does what we want God to do. However, if we keep asking, seeking and knocking, it is only because God has done so first – and we discover, very clearly, as illustrated in the following verses that God is good, and that God is eager to give not just the good things we might ask for.

When we say 'your kingdom come' – this leads us to be led by the Spirit, to be sent out as agents of this kingdom – that is the ultimate that anyone could receive. This is totally counter-culture to any assumptions that we can use prayer in order to get the material prosperity our culture idolizes.

Around the Circuit

Methodist Church 'Homegrown' conference

Maybe, as the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, they were aware that there is something at work in the world that doesn't want God's will to happen. At times this can be obvious – as in countries and places where Christians are persecuted for simply being Christian. But there are the less obvious times where the issues are not so clearly drawn, and the enemy is not so visible and identifiable.

When things don't go well and bad things happen, and simply say "It is God's will" is, to my mind, a cop out. Easy answers are not offered – but Jesus teaches us to pray: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."

In essence, God's will happens as God's people work, love, give and pray to make it happen.

So, another question. Knowing that God's way of giving exceeds that of all else, by gifting all who ask with the Holy Spirit: where does your prayer life take you?

One of the most important aspects of prayer is the way it changes the pray-er. The discipline of prayer changes our outlook on the world how we relate to those around us, as we pray for them. So you are encouraged to be thankful for and mirror those who taught you and nurtured you on the path of prayer.

If you want to share this sermon, it's still available:

- 1 In print on the web at <https://tinyurl.com/y3mzjkqd>
- 2 As a recording on CD or as an MP3 file, by asking Howard Kirby

If you find yourself in the Livingston area on **Tuesday 8 October**, you may wish to meet at the Lanthorn Community Centre for a gathering to engage with the Methodist Church 'Homegrown' conference. The gathering will run from **9.30am to 2.30pm**. 'Homegrown' is a new conference exploring how faith is grown at home. How can we encourage families and households to nurture faith together, and to spur each other on as they encounter Jesus and faith in everyday life? This event offers opportunities for both theological reflection and practical equipping.

If you are interested please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6qkqgzl> for further details.

New neighbours

On 24 September, Scottish Churches Housing Action moved to new premises at 25 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh EH8 9BX to a room on the lower floor of the Edinburgh Methodist Church. Although SCHA have been happy in Hanover Street, the rent is going up beyond their means, so they are very pleased to be moving to the church centre that is becoming quite a hub for the third sector. As we know the ground and upper floors of the church have undergone redevelopment recently: there is a lovely cafe on the ground floor and a number of meeting rooms – it is a popular conference venue. The church space itself has been renewed, and is often used for concerts.

Welcoming Mark

Howard Kirby reports

Perth Methodist Church in the afternoon of Saturday 31 August 2019 was packed, to give a welcome to Rev Mark Slaney as the new Chair of the Scotland District of the Methodist Church. It was a joyous and even humorous occasion, as befits an otherwise formal Welcome Service. Hymns included “Teach me to dance in the beat of your heart” (StF 477) and “Have you heard God’s voice, has your heart been stirred” (StF 662). The sermon by Mrs Jill Baker (former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference) had a thought-provoking theme of “Holding on and letting go”, and after a prayerful silence came the Presentation and Promises of Mark to the people present. Led by Rev Jonathan Hustler (Secretary of the Conference), the people were told:

“The prime duty of a Chair of District is to further the work of God in the District. To this end he or she will use all the gifts and graces they have received, being especially diligent to be a pastor to the ministers and probationers and to lead the people of the District in the work of preaching and worship, evangelism, pastoral care, teaching and administration.

“With the members of the District Synod, a District Chair is to uphold Methodist order and discipline within the District and to oversee the character and fidelity of the presbyters and presbyteral probationers in the District.”



There followed a question and answer session by the Secretary of the Conference with the newly-appointed Chair of District. After this, the actual welcomes could begin! Led by Rev Helen Jenkins (Secretary of the Synod), the people were first invited to welcome Mark and to offer him their friendship, support and prayers in being joined together in the work to which God has called us all.

It was then the turn of Scotland District, ecumenical and other representatives to greet and welcome Mark individually.

In his reply he thanked all for their welcome and undertook to work with and pray for all. He remarked on how he looked forward to finding out what each church and organisation was doing, and Rosyth got a mention when he said how pleasing it was to see both parties to the ecumenical partnership sharing the one table with both chalice and small cups offered for people to choose between; an example of celebrating their differences.

Ed: We look forward to welcoming Mark again at our Joint Service on 27 October. An interview with Mark has been arranged, so there’ll be a feature about him in our next issue.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

John 16:33 (NIV)

Keeping the show on the road



Giving to others

St Margaret's has a long-standing practice where we tithe each year approximately 10% of our income to charitable causes. It is normal that at the final Vestry meeting of our financial year in August that we agree who should be the recipients of these donations.

During this year, following the appalling destruction that was caused by **Hurricane Idai**, Vestry agreed that a donation of £345 be made to this desperately-needed appeal.

At the August Vestry meeting additional donations were agreed and these have now been forwarded to the respective charities. In making these donations Vestry felt it was appropriate that some should go to charities that operate in our local area. Donations of £250 have now been made to the following charities:

- **Scottish Hospices Association Scotland (CHAS):** St Margaret's has been a long-standing supporter of the fantastic work that CHAS do.
- **Shiresmill Therapy Riding Centre:** This charity operates near Blairhall and provides therapy riding and related activities to children and people of all ages with physical disabilities, medical conditions, learning difficulties and youngsters on the autistic spectrum.
- **Choices:** This charity has a local presence in the Liberty Centre and aims to provide specialist support to the victims of domestic abuse.
- **Scottish Bible Society:** Their work involves encouraging Bible engagement in Scotland and supporting projects beyond Scotland.

Now standing tall!

You will probably have noticed that our brass candlesticks haven't been on the altar for the past four months. This is because they went to Hamilton and Inch in Edinburgh for repair and refurbishment. This involved straightening out the edges bent from being dropped occasionally on the floor, and reattaching the legs that had come unstuck in the same falls! As a consequence of earlier damage and repairs, the saucer on each stick had also been displaced from the true horizontal – which meant the candles were no longer vertical – and this has also been corrected.

The work done has returned these historic candlesticks – given to St Margaret's by Captain M S Drewett RN, HMS Caledonia, in 1972 – to pristine condition. Before they are brought back into use, I aim to lacquer them to prevent discolouration of the brasswork and obviate the need for recurrent polishing. They will certainly be back on the altar for our 50th Anniversary celebrations!

Alan Taylor

-
- **Arunima Appeal:** Ross Stirling-Young from St Finnian's in Lochgelly has an involvement with this project in Kolkata, India. Ross has arranged to visit this hospice later this year which supports children who are infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS and he will pass on our donation during his visit.

On behalf of the Vestry may I, as Treasurer, thank the congregation for their regular donations which allows us to support these very worthwhile causes.

Gordon Pryde

What's happening at St Finnian's, Lochgelly

Ross Stirling-Young reports ...

Although we've now been without a Priest-in-charge since Margaret left St Finnian's on Easter Sunday, we've been managing well, despite the congregation missing her ministry and friendship. As reported before, we're very grateful to both Gerry and Gareth from St Luke's for visiting us two Sundays per month offering Eucharistic ministry. The alternate Sundays continue to be lay-led with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, led by Edith and me. Despite our current vacancy, congregational numbers have remained steady and we've started to see new people coming through our doors, which is so encouraging, even if they are visiting for only a short while.

Our Friday Friendship group is now in its 7th week of the venture and we are seeing a slow but reassuring increase in people from our community access this group. The past few weeks have seen us welcoming eight visitors, some whom belong to St Finnian's and others from different denominations or none.

Bishop Ian is due to visit St Finnian's on Sunday 22 September to lead us in worship as well as admitting Leeanne officially into the Scottish Guild of Servers. Leeanne and I attended the recent 90th Anniversary and Annual Festival Day for the Guild at St John's Church in Edinburgh on Saturday 7 September. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with fellow-servers from all parts of the Province as well as those from the Catholic Church.

Last but not least, we are progressing in our planning stages to become partnered with the Church Army. Bishop Ian is leading forward on this exciting venture and the vestries of St Luke's and St Finnian's will be meeting early in October to discuss progress and to organise the Priest-ecumenist advertisement.

Margaret's induction

Edith and I were invited to join in worship at St Cuthbert's in Colinton on Sunday 25 August which included Margaret's induction into her new role as Non-Stipendiary Minister. We were warmly welcomed by members of the congregation and it was a joy to sit next to Barbara Hand whom we used to worship alongside Peter during our time at Holy Trinity Dunfermline.

Ed: more about Barbara and Peter in the Fellowship News section of our April/ May 2019 issue



After the service ended, we were invited into the church hall to enjoy a slice of delicious cake and a glass of wine (or juice in my case being the driver!) to help celebrate Margaret's new ministry at St Cuthbert's.

The day ended beautifully with Edith and I being taken for lunch with Margaret and Ian to their favourite restaurant in Edinburgh.

We all miss Margaret at St Finnian's, but we move forward in our journey happily knowing that Margaret is well settled in both her ministry and personal life in Edinburgh.

Churches join together on day retreat

Ross Stirling-Young tells us about a recent ecumenical venture

Two local churches joined together on Saturday 14 September to lead members of their congregations on a Led Retreat Day at the Willie Clarke Centre in Lochore Country Meadows. As part of strengthening ecumenical links, Salvation Army Cowdenbeath in partnership with St Finnian's Scottish Episcopal Church Lochgelly joined together to offer this free retreat event.

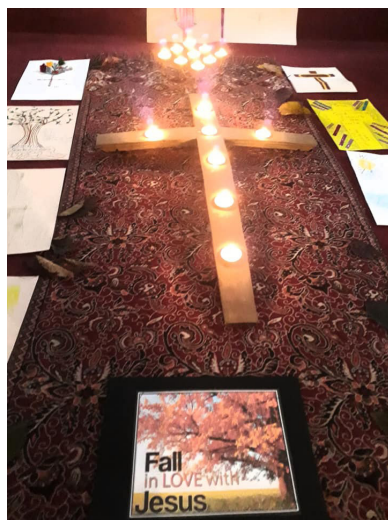
Members of both congregations were invited to escape daily routines from the hustle and bustle and pressures of daily life. Many of the group who attended had never experienced the calmness and relaxation of being on a retreat.



The retreatants were led through several activities, under the autumnal theme of "Changing Seasons". These activities offered individuals the opportunity to use stillness, prayerfulness and fellowship to ponder and reflect on their own lives as they too change, just as the seasons do.

The benefits of leading a retreat day at the Willie Clarke Centre were aplenty. From the spectacular panoramic views from the meeting room to the many different walking routes on offer close by. The centre staff could not have been more helpful and were keen to ensure we all felt welcomed and at home, all of the course adding to the ability to unwind and find a safe space in which to truly escape.

The retreat day was organised and led by Lieutenant Karen Thomas from Cowdenbeath Salvation Army and Ross Stirling-Young, Lay Worship Leader from St Finnian's Lochgelly. To bring the day to a close, retreatants were welcomed back to St Finnian's for refreshments before joining together in a Taize-inspired service, allowing time for reflection and to consider the ways in which God worked with us on this special day. This was also an opportunity for our friends from St Margaret's Rosyth to join us for worship.



We are now busy planning our next led retreat day which will take place in the season of Advent, which will be particularly important for those who wish to escape the busy-ness of Christmas and reflect on its true meaning.

Ed: Ross's report was quoted by the Central Fife Times in an article entitled "Churches join together in successful venture" which you can read online at <https://tinyurl.com/y48wlfab>.



Area Council News

Val Leslie reports

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone from Rosyth who came along to the the Area Council annual church service on 15 September at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. The young people of the Youth Fellowship as usual did a splendid job of leading a very relaxed service. The first hymn was "Amazing Grace", which was sung unaccompanied as there was no organist present. It doesn't really need an organ playing for this hymn as everyone knows it so well and it was sung with feeling by all concerned.

The Gospel reading was Luke 15:1-10 – the lost sheep and the lost coins. The YF invited members of the congregation to speak to those sitting near them about an experience when they had been lost and about who found them or helped them get back on the right track. This was a really interesting way of getting everyone to think about the Gospel reading. I was a bit disappointed that we were asked to stop half way through Gordon Pryde's story of getting lost as I never got to hear the end of the story. Some other time perhaps, Gordon? The YF then asked several people to share their stories with everyone. Some were really quite adventurous!

The singing of "Shine, Jesus, shine" had an interesting twist to it as everyone who had a smartphone was asked to switch on the torch setting and hold it up during the chorus. I didn't even know I had a torch setting on my phone (I learn something new every time I am in the company of these young adults. They are amazing!)

We started to sing Alan Taylor's favourite hymn a tad on the high side ... no, it wasn't me! However, if you sing something loud enough, I always find you get there in the end! The light of the phones, I thought was a clever idea. It is amazing what time at

the GLEN does for young people's creative and spiritual thinking! The fact that they can share this creativity with all ages in a service is truly inspiring.

The famous SqueazyPeace worked pretty well, only stopping briefly around the middle. It was lovely as everyone held hands and enjoyed the fellowship the peace brings to a service.

The last hymn – "We shall go out with joy" – was great, and amazingly everyone finished together even although it went at 100 miles an hour towards the end.

After the service a fantastic spread was laid out, with sandwiches, cakes and biscuits, along with tea and coffee. The YF and Holy Trinity pulled out all the stops! A BIG thank you to them for putting together such a lovely service and tea treats afterwards.

The next Area Council meeting will be at **7.30pm on Wednesday 20 November** at Rosyth when our guest speaker will be Lou Davidson of Haiti Help. Details are on page 10.



The Provincial Youth week debating major issues of the day

GLEN is an amazing event for young people, and we'd encourage everyone to read Christine Fraser's account of GLEN 2019 at <https://tinyurl.com/y6hmyaxd>.



The Gathering 2019

Get fresh ideas and inspiration in Perth!

This year's Gathering takes on a new format with people from around the Diocese invited to gather for the afternoon of **Sunday 20 October** at **St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth**, and finish with an Evensong to celebrate Bishop Ian's first year in the Diocese.

Arrivals are **from 1.30pm** – bring a packed lunch if you wish – tea and coffee will be provided. Between 1.30 and 2.30pm we have the opportunity to eat our lunches, take a guided tour of the newly-refurbished Cathedral, browse and buy books from Cornerstone Bookshop, Edinburgh (please bring cash if you would like to make purchases) or walk the indoor labyrinth.

We will be welcomed at 2.30pm by Bishop Ian and then get short tasters of a variety of projects and experiences that are being offered in churches around our Diocese. These include:

- Young and old together
- Finding new resources
- Worship that inspires
- Engaging with our communities
- Lay ministries

To ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to hear about each topic, booking is not required for this year's Gathering and we will rotate through the topics in turn.

Each congregation has been asked to bring something to display in the cathedral (a banner, a poster, a collage of photos, some leaflets ...) about something good (or challenging) that they are doing, which people could look at as they move between activities.

We will also learn new music for Evensong and hear Bishop Ian and a guest in conversation on a topical subject. And we will make room for tea and scones! We expect to **depart by 5.30pm**.

Advance booking is not required, but the Diocesan Office would like to know of the likely numbers attending from our Partnership, so could you **please let Sandra Young know by 13 October** if you plan to go.



Round the world in 60 minutes

Sandra Young reports on September's Sunday@Six

What a delightful way to start Autumn! A large and appreciative congregation gathered café-style in the church to travel round the world in 60 (actually 75) minutes. The inspired service was thoughtfully devised by Sue Masson during which six members from both congregations shared their memories of times spent abroad, interspersed with music from the world church.

The service started with a welcome: "Sing with me", a first solo from Sophie, the choir's junior member, with harmony from the choir, which put us on the mood to enjoy the journey.



Sheila Lee spent many happy years as a teacher in the Loreto Convent School in Gibraltar. There was a special atmosphere in the school where the teachers worked to make the children aware of their self-worth and dignity as people and to develop their sense of responsibility in an atmosphere of trust, openness and Christian values. Sheila had some heart-warming stories to tell about the children.

Sandra Young shared the history of St Paul's Anglican Church of Ceylon in Kandy, its link with the British Garrison there and its present role as a remarkable example of religious harmony and tolerance between Buddhists and Christians in this predominantly Buddhist country.

Alan Taylor took us to China where he had visited the No 5 Institute in Luoyang in Central China in the 1980s, to give a short series of technical lectures. He was also taken from Beijing to the Great Wall of China. The most amusing part was flying in an old ex-British Airways Trident 2, to be told "of course, if anything goes wrong, that's it!"



Dorissia Forsyth, suitably attired in local costume and straw hat, told us of her school days in the Seychelles, and how the Anglican-only school she attended decided to admit pupils from all faiths. The parents protested against this and threatened to visit the Governor and Queen Elizabeth (as head of the Commonwealth). But they could not, because then there was no airport and a journey to the UK by ship took weeks. Instead an ecumenical service was held in St Paul's Anglican Cathedral to which all faiths were invited, and the following year the school was opened to all faiths.



Val Leslie talked enthusiastically about North Island New Zealand, especially around Auckland where her son, his wife and their two young daughters live. Val captured her love of the forest areas, the trees, vegetation, and wildlife as she sold to us the beauty and wonder of nature of the country.



Finally Susan Sykes gave us a snapshot of the Bahamas where she was brought up in a devout Methodist family in Nassau and trained as a primary teacher in Florida. She met and married Eddie when he worked with the Methodist Church in the Caribbean as a youth worker for a District that covered the Bahamas. Susan ended on a poignant and sombre note when asking us to pray for those on the islands, including some of her family, devastated by hurricane Dorian which was sweeping the Bahamas that day, we now know with catastrophic effects:



In between talks, the choir, who were in excellent voice throughout, sang a negro spiritual; one of their favourites – Sizohamba nye (“We will walk with God”) with congregational accompaniment; a Brazilian song; a liturgical text of Chinese origin; a traditional New Zealand song, written in Maori; and words set to a Caribbean folk tune – such a varied collection. The congregation, not to be outdone sang hymns lustily to well known tunes finishing on a high with “You shall go out with joy”.

We were joined by friends from other churches locally, Lochgelly, Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh and were especially pleased to welcome our young friends from the West Fife Youth Cluster, who had programmed the event into their autumn syllabus.

A retiring collection raised £91 for Leading Change Uganda and will go to Linda Mitchell to send dresses, blankets, books etc. to her contact in Uganda.



Our grateful thanks to all who took part to make this evening so enjoyable but especially to Sue for her huge contribution and also the delicious cakes and pastries on the tables.

Ed: Sorry that Susan had disappeared before I was able to take the picture of our speakers.



St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church
Scottish Charity SC028426

“Running home”
for ‘Embrace the Middle East’

6.00pm

Sunday 6 October 2019

Mark is coming to the end a series of ultra-marathons along pilgrim routes to raise awareness of and funds for a Christian-led project in Iraq. He will be talking about an exciting project that is bringing hope of a new beginning to a people who have lost so much. Refreshments after the service and an opportunity to donate.

At **6.00pm on 6 October** we welcome Mark Calder of 'Embrace the Middle East', who will be talking about an exciting project that, together with the local Christian community, is bringing hope of a new beginning to people in Iraq who have lost so much. Refreshments, including some with an Eastern flavour, will be served after the service, and you will also have **an opportunity to donate to Embrace's Iraq project**. Please support this – and bring your friends.



Family connections

Music for families, about families, by families, families of instruments. That is Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society in a nutshell for 2019/20, with Auld Lang Syne as an appropriate connecting thread.

The first concert is on **Tuesday 1 October** at **7.30pm** in Kirkcaldy's Old Kirk, the orchestra's home.

Music to be performed includes West Side Story, a selection from The Sound of Music, and some regal family music with the overture to Mikado, the Procession of the Sardar and Walton's Crown Imperial march.

A very special part of the concert will be the first performance of *Concerto di famiglia* by John Gourlay with five soloists from the Randall Family of Glenrothes.

Tickets (£9 or £4 for children/students) from Adrian Masson (St Margaret's congregation – 01383 824887).

More crew members needed!

It always used to be said of St Margaret's that we were the Dunfermline G&S Society at prayer – those were the days!

But the Society continues its mission of performing the Gilbert and Sullivan canon, and next February we stage *HMS Pinafore* at Carnegie Hall. It's still not too late to join the team, as potential crew members or one of Sir Joseph's sisters, cousins and aunts.

Production rehearsals start on **Wednesday 14 October**, so *now* would be a good time to express an interest, or persuade someone you know who might be swithering! Talk to Gwyneth Kirby, Ann Duly, Joan Bell or Martin Tarr to get the low-down ...

Dunblane Singing Day

RSCM Scotland are arranging a 'Come and Sing' event suitable for all singers, at which Matthew Beetschen and Kevin Duggan (conductor and organist) will take us through the well-loved Fauré *Requiem*.

The date is **Saturday 2 November**, and the venue is Dunblane Cathedral No other details yet, but 1:30–5:30pm is the likely timing. See Myra Tarr to book your place.

Two modern masses

The next concert by the Scottish Chamber Choir under MD Iain McLarty is at **7.30pm** on **Saturday 23 November**, in the splendid surroundings of Old St Paul's SE Church, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh.

We welcome you to enjoy two liturgical settings for double choir – the Mass in G Minor by Vaughan Williams and the Mass by Kenneth Leighton, Op 44 – with organ interludes.

Tickets are £12, with £10 student concessions and free entry for under-16s, from Martin Tarr (01383 723989).

Dunfermline Choral Union

Our friends in "the Choral" are busy rehearsing for their spring concert (7 March) which features the Scottish première of Rebecca Dale's "Requiem for my Mother" and also Fauré's *Requiem*.

Meanwhile, you can enjoy their much-loved Christmas performances on **Saturday 7 December** at **3.00pm** and **7.30pm** at the Vine Conference Centre in Dunfermline. Tickets from Mary Kidd, Gwyneth Kirby or Myra Tarr.

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



Ben Nevis Race

Gordon Pryde tells of the continuing effect of an early-life inspiration

At the service on 15 September Kenny mentioned in the notices that on the previous Saturday I had completed my 21st Ben Nevis Race. Following the service there were a few questions, so I thought I would write a small piece about the day and about the trip that Pam and I had to the beautiful area of Moidart.

Particular days in the calendar will mean different things to different people and the first Saturday in September is a day for me which has particular significance. The first Saturday in September is of course the day on which the annual “Ben Race” is held.

My contact with the “Ben Race” goes back for 56 years. Fort William was a town my family lived in for a year and it was there that I started Primary School and where I also attended the local Church of Scotland Sunday School. From that time in the Fort I have a recollection of being with my Mum and Dad and watching runners as they finished the Ben Race in the George V Park. At that young age of 5 I recall being inspired by these runners coming into the park after having left it such a short time before and then ascending and descending the Ben.

Those runners that complete the race 21 times receive what is known as a Connochie Plaque. This award was inaugurated by a local Fort William GP whose daughter (Kathleen) refused to accept that running was an inappropriate activity for a woman. Kathleen Connochie took the Ben Nevis Race

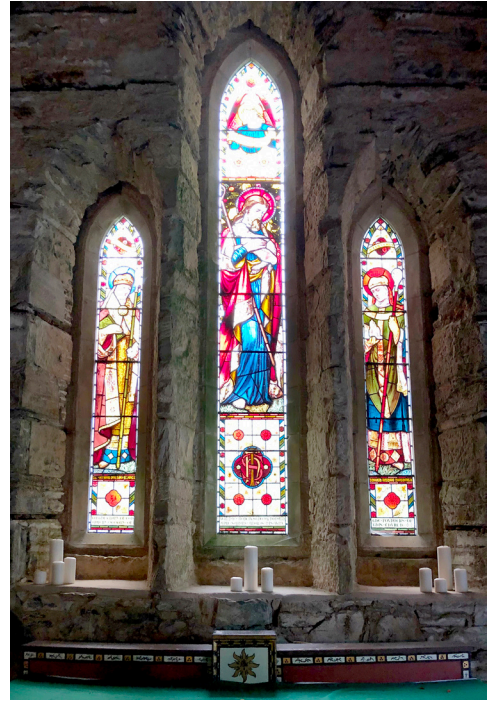


Association (BNRA) to task, refused to accept their refusal to include her in the starting list of runners, and in 1955 became the first woman to complete the race.

My own involvement in competing in the race started in 1986, but for me it did not become a regular annual occurrence until much later.

During the 1980s and 1990s I did it three times but since 2002 the only year I have missed was 2016. This year then was to be the occasion of my own 21st running of the “Ben Race”, so the only thing left was to get up and down.

Pam and I had decided to have a week’s holiday this year during the Race and we had booked a cottage in Moidart, which is about an hour’s drive from Fort William. Race day this year was a glorious day and indeed the best day weather-wise of our holiday week. My own personal best for doing the race was 1 hour 49 mins which was way back in 1989. Whilst it is unreasonable to do as a 61-year-old what you could do as a 31-year-old, I was rather disappointed in my time this year of 2 hours 32 mins. Nevertheless, I completed and duly received my Connochie Plaque at the prize giving that evening. Three of us this year received the award, and I now belong to a select band of about 100 individuals who have been recipients of the award since it was inaugurated.



Following the race Pam and I had a very pleasant few days in Moidart. There is a small Episcopal church at Kinlochmoidart (St Finan). Before our visit I had made contact, hoping there would be a service during our visit. However, there are only now occasional services at the church, though there is a regular fortnightly Episcopal service held about 25 miles away in Strontian in Ardgour. Our holiday week happened to be the gap week, so on the Sunday we were made very welcome at the local Church of Scotland in Acharacle. However, you can visit St Finan's as it is left open. It is a beautiful little church with stained-glass windows that were designed by Jemima Wedderburn, one of the most popular illustrators in Victorian Britain who became one of the leading bird painters of the day. Beatrix Potter was a big fan of Wedderburn and Sir Edwin Landseer said of her: "In portraying animals, I have nothing to teach her". Wedderburn died at Roshven in Moidart in 1909 (aged 86).

Whilst Moidart is only about an hour's drive from Fort William, it has a remote and isolated feel and is almost surrounded by bodies of water. Loch Shiel to the east, Loch Moidart to the south, Lochs Morar and Ailort to the north, and of course the sea to the west. The wild seascape views from our cottage, where you could see Skye, Rum and the Sgurr of Eigg were breathtaking.

St Finan's isn't the easiest of churches to get to, but you can find full directions (and some lovely photographs) on the Undiscovered Scotland website at <https://tinyurl.com/y6fjh7bq>



People I remember

Alan Taylor looks back on Service life

When our Editor asked for articles on “Remember, remember” it set me thinking. When I joined the RAF (Queen’s UAS) in November 1959, it was just 14 years after the end of WW2. I didn’t think about it at the time, but it should have been obvious that a lot of the people I would meet in those early years would have served in WW2, and, as it happened, in the Malayan Emergency. People like my Flying Instructors, my Station Commanders, even fellow pilots on the squadrons on which I served. Four people in particular spring to mind.

Major-General David Lloyd-Owen:

When I was ADC in Cyprus in the late-60s to the AOCinC Near East Air Force and Commander British Forces Near East, Air Marshal Sir Edward Gordon-Jones, the senior army man at HQ, in command of all army units on the island and in Libya, was David Lloyd-Owen, a most charming and unassuming man with a lovely wife. What I was to learn was that David was a founding member of the Desert Rats who had such a major influence in the North African war. David had six very imposing Sudanese servants, black as the ace of spades, who went from posting to posting with him. It was a privilege to know him.

Rt Hon Sir Winston Churchill: I never met Churchill, but I had the honour to be one of the Officers guarding his catafalque during the Lying-in-State in Westminster Hall in January 1965. It was a most solemn occasion, lasting from Tuesday to Friday, all day and all night, of that most sombre week, when London was a very subdued and reverent capital city. The atmosphere was unique, honouring a man who led us to victory in WW2 and who was later acknowledged as the greatest Briton of the 20th Century. A very special memory.

Group Captain Douglas Bader: I never met Bader when he was serving in the RAF as he left soon after the end of the war, but his exploits as a legless fighter pilot are legendary. I was privileged to meet him later, in quite unusual circumstances. When I was Area Commander of RAF Recruiting in Scotland in the mid-70s, my Edinburgh Office supported an Open Day at Glenrothes Airfield at which Group Captain Bader was to be Guest of Honour, performing the opening ceremony. After the ceremony, he was left to his own devices, so he stomped off around the airfield, getting a bit tired and fed-up. He came upon our recruiting caravan and asked if he could come in and rest his weary legs. We were all delighted and honoured, as you can imagine, and he was most grateful for a cup of tea!

Group Captain Leonard Cheshire VC:

I was Duty Officer at the National Defence College one weekend in 1981 when I had the place almost to myself, but not quite, as a weekend conference was being held on the Saturday. At lunch, sitting in splendid isolation in the dining room, I was approached by Group Captain Cheshire – who was running the conference, with his wife, Sue Ryder – who asked if he might join my table. What a humble man, who had served in the Pathfinder Force, was an airborne RAF observer when the first atom bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, went on to found the Cheshire Homes, and yet thought it appropriate to ask if he might join me at lunch! I was in awe of him.

Memories are made of this, particularly in this season of remembrance!

Arunima Hospice

Ross Stirling-Young gives an update ...



Some of you may remember from my update in the August/September issue, that I was unable to provide clear details because of the uncertain situation within the Diocese of Kolkata (Calcutta). Without getting into too much detail, I can confirm that our own diocese is remaining partnered with the Diocese of Kolkata (Church of North India). Bishop Ian shared this welcome news at the Diocesan Global Partnerships Committee meeting I attended in August. A new Bishop is now overseeing the Arunima Hospice, and it was a pleasure to meet Bishop Paritosh Canning in 2017 when he visited Fife College along with the then-current Bishop Ashoke Biswas.

The news came as a great joy to me, especially since Ray and I were already in the process of planning a trip to visit the children towards the end of this year. As many of you know, I had two trips booked to visit the children during 2017/18 but had to cancel both trips due to the return of cancer followed by the trauma of a bone marrow transplant. I'm now able to resume international travel and remain determined to see the children in person, to see how they've grown, and to simply be in their vibrant company. Of course, I'm also excited to see Suvabrota and Bijoya Das, who've become two of my closest friends despite the miles that separate us.

During my darkest days, the children were never far from my thoughts. They helped me immensely by continuing to send pictures, but most notably, they took the time to pray for me day by day. Jesus says in Matthew 22:37-39 "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

The relationship we've built with the staff and children from the Arunima Hospice is built upon just that, compassion. Although we've faced some disagreement from those who take the view that giving money is not the correct thing to do, our relationship has never been built upon the exchange of money. As an experienced Tourism Lecturer, I understand the difficulties faced by volunteering and charitable holidays/expeditions. Someone may have a genuine desire to visit, to build a village house or school perhaps, or dig a well – but what's the *real* motive? Compassion? Or more an act of 'self-gratifying heroism'? Yet feeling compassion leads to action, and seeing your neighbour (whoever or wherever they are) in need moves you to help to the full extent of your ability. When God calls us into someone's life or a situation that requires great compassion, as Christians we must pay attention to that call.

We are extremely grateful to St Margaret's for generously donating £250 towards the Arunima Hospice. We shall be travelling to Kolkata this November, a journey that holds so many emotions particularly for me. Ray will use his in-depth knowledge as a Senior Occupational Therapist to assist with the care of those children and adults in poor health. As for me, I'm simply looking forward to appreciating and being with the family that God has blessed us with in the loving environment of the Arunima Hospice.

Finally, we give thanks to the Global Partnerships Committee of the Province for their financial support in making this trip come to fruition and to Bishop Ian for his encouragement and endorsement to make such a grant possible.

Ray and I look forward to visiting Rosyth in the New Year to report on both progress and future plans.

Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

Dave says that these are easier puzzles this time ...

1 What colour is your hat?

You are blindfolded and put into a room with two other people. You and the others are told that each is wearing either a red or yellow hat.

You are also instructed to sit down if you see a red and a yellow hat on the other two people, and to put your hand up once you have worked out the colour of your own hat.

You are then told to take off your blindfold. After a few seconds, when no-one has moved, you put your hand up. **How have you worked out the colour of your hat?**

2 How long must you wait?

A grandfather clock in the hall strikes once every fifteen minutes, and the correct number of strokes on the hour.

If you woke up hearing the clock strike just once, **what would be the longest time you might have to wait before you knew the exact time?**

3 How many chickens and pigs?

Fred keeps chickens and pigs at his farm. Between them they have nine heads and thirty feet. Assuming that none are deformed, **how many of each does Fred have?**

4 What does Fred buy?

Fred wants to expand his livestock and has £100 to spend. He buys horses at £5 each, pigs at £1 each, and chickens at 5p each. He buys at least one of each, and finds that he has bought 100 animals in total. **How many of each did he buy?**

August/September answers

1 Missing plant

Mustard (Matthew 13:31)

2 Missing herb

Mint (Matthew 23:23)

3 What kind of birds?

Quails (Exodus 16)

4 Another missing herb

Hyssop (Psalm 51:7)

5 What wood?

Acacia (Exodus 25:10)

5 How many eggs

Fred wants to sell his eggs at market, so he sets off with a load in a basket. After a mile he comes to a toll bridge. To cross over, the toll is half the number of eggs in his basket plus half an egg. Fred pays the toll and goes on.

A mile later he has to cross another toll bridge, the toll being half the eggs in his basket plus half an egg. Fred pays that and continues.

A mile further on he has to cross yet another toll bridge, the toll being half the eggs in his basket plus half an egg. He pays that and gets to market.

What is the minimum number of eggs Fred has to sell at the market? and how many did he start with?

Ed: Our thanks to Dave for continuing to provide puzzles for our magazine, and congratulations to him and Mandy, who will be celebrating 50 years of marriage as we go to press.

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

When you see this image, we Sunday@Six, when we went “Round the world in 60 minutes”. But a very similar post, where it was given the 30 years ago it was suggested observed as a day of “protection and the proposal was later to adopt a Time for Creation to the feast of St Francis on the 3rd European Ecumenical recommended that the period “be dedicated to prayer for the protection of Creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles that reverse our contribution to climate change”.



hope you’ll think of September’s “Round the world in 60 image was spotted in an archive title “Season of Creation”.

that 1 September should be of the natural environment”, widened, with churches urged stretching from 1 September 4 October. This was endorsed by Assembly in 2007, which

In an article in *Christian Today*, the Bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Holtam, is reported to have put the project this way: “We love the beauty of the earth. The fires in the Amazon show how interconnected we are in this beautiful, wonderful, fragile planet. We know there are serious issues to address if we are going to care for God’s earth.

“Season of Creation is a chance once again to give thanks for the gifts of creation, to pray and act in ways that care for God’s creation and address the issues of climate change and the depletion of species. It is the joyful, hopeful responsibility of people throughout the world and particularly of the Church which is both local and global.”

There are many resources available to encourage and help us, as churches, groups or individuals, to observe Creation Time – for example, from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, from the Church of England, from the Anglican Communion.

One that’s close to home is Ecocongregation Scotland, who offer “reflections on the Revised Common Lectionary Readings appointed for these weeks, set against the backdrop of the extreme urgency of the climate crisis and the challenges, which confront us all, without exception, to change our own lives and support and encourage others in the just transition to a human world more likely to weather the turmoil that undoubtedly lies ahead of us all.” Time to reflect! [To access the resources, there are links on the web version of September’s Thought for the Month]

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. Our next Contact will be published on 1 December, and its theme will be “**A new decade is coming!**” Please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 24 November**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

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