

Rosyth
Methodist Church



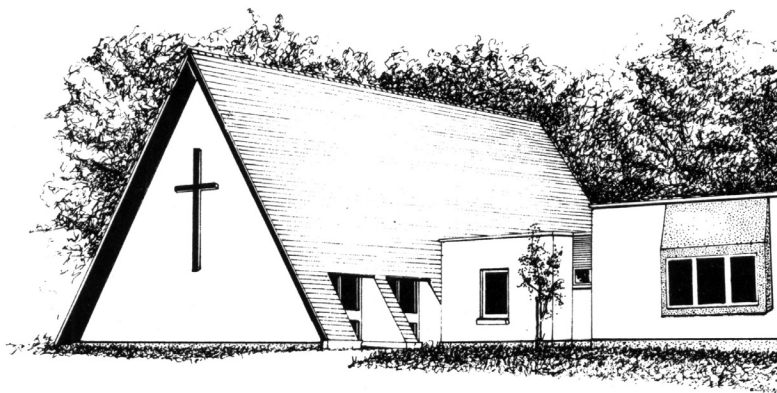
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 106

December 2019/January 2020

Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk

in partnership

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

Minister:

Rev Eddie Sykes

01383 512964

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Very Rev Kenny Rathband

01383 732654

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Gwyneth Kirby

01383 624779

Treasurer:

Gordon Pryde

01383 249106

Church Council Secretary:

Sandra Wilson

01383 415885

Pastoral Co-ordinator:

Myra Tarr

01383 723989

Treasurer:

Dave Ward

01383 414944

our regular pattern of worship

Sundays (except 4th)

9.30am Sung Eucharist

11.00am Morning Worship
(including Sunday School)

1st Sundays:

6.00pm "Sunday@Six" (as announced)

4th Sundays:

Worship together

10.30am "Messy Church" (during term time)

11.00am Joint Communion Service

where to find us

Our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. The car park is behind the church, and limited local on-street parking is available, but there is lots more space in the parking area at the junction with Park Road.

From the Editor's Desk

Martin Tarr talks about this issue



"A new decade is coming!" When we announced this theme just four weeks ago we couldn't possibly have forecast that on 29 October MPs would vote for a very rare pre-Christmas election, and that the currency of this issue will see both a new decade and a different Parliament.

Such is the pace and volatility of politics that we don't know who will be negotiating what with whom in coming months, let alone how Brexit will pan out!

Wikipedia attributes to Christopher Bullock (1716) in *The Cobbler of Preston* the quotation "'Tis impossible to be sure of any thing but Death and Taxes" (subtly modified by Benjamin Franklin with the phrase "in this world"), but perhaps we ought to add the term Change to the list of this world's invariables.

Whether such Change is prefaced with the words Political or Climate, or disguised as Revolution, it's uncomfortable. And, as several of our contributors point out, the change demands positive action rather than passive acceptance. If you read nothing else, read Michael Paterson's plea (pp3-4) to recognise others as our brothers and sisters, and consider seriously what to do in response to Jan Benvie's article (pp34-35) on the need to take responsibility for the planet with which we've been entrusted.

In this issue we're also asked to go outside our personal comfort zone by Eddie Sykes (p5) and the ECT team (p16).

A guide to our symbols



working together the wider world building community a new decade



Christmas is coming: a Christingle?
or a fizzing time-bomb?!

But this issue is also about celebration. Some contributors look back at progress in 2019; others have a 50-year time frame; all have a deep sense of gratitude to God for his faithfulness in times past. We rejoice that his continuing presence makes a reassuring difference in preparing us for change as we head into the 2020s.

As we prepare for the joy of Christmas, our diaries are full of busy-ness, and it can be difficult to make time to reflect. So do take note of the opportunities offered to "make room for the Christ Child" in the quiet of your home (p5) or in the company of others (p7), as well as joining in the celebrations you'll see on pp7-9 and p20 and, naturally, coming together for worship (p11).

Sandra and I would like to wish all our readers every blessing at Christmas and for the New Year, to thank you for supporting our efforts over the past two years, and to wish Howard well as he takes over the editorial desk in the new decade!

Included in this issue ...

A new decade is coming!

pp4-6; pp34-35; p44

Getting ready for Christmas pp7-11

Introducing Mark Slaney pp18-19

Music for Christmas p20

St Margaret's at 50 pp26-28

Plus our regular items:

Diary to early February pp21-25

Diocese and Circuit pp30-31; p38

Fellowship News pp12-14

Invitations, requests and thanks
p15; p17

Keeping the show on the road p29

Puzzle page p42

Reports p16; pp32-33; p37

The wider world pp34-37; p39-41



The Rich Man and Lazarus:

the passport holder and the refugee
at the gates of Western society

A contemporary midrash on Luke 16 by Michael Paterson

We are not asking for special treatment.

We are not asking to be handed things on a plate.

We are just asking that you see us with 20:20 vision and don't render us invisible.

We have lost so much already: families, friends, culture; to understand and be understood when we speak.

Here in the West we stand out – we look different; we dress differently; we speak differently – there's no chance of blending in with the crowd. Yet *still* you don't see us sitting at your gate.

Back home we used to get along with each other. Sure we had our differences, and things flared up from time to time, but the rivalries got out of control.

And when the talking stopped, the bombing started. Our houses were shelled, our businesses torched. And when innocent children and hospitals were targeted, we knew we had lost it completely and were living in hell.

Those with money got out. The rich went first. They always do. With money you can buy your way out of anything. With money *and a passport* you can buy your way into anywhere.

Can you imagine what it is like, when your mum and your dad take you aside, and hand you every penny they have ever scraped together; and tell you to get out quick while you can, 'cos *a new decade is coming* and you are young and have a future, and they are old and at least have had their lives?



Can you imagine what it is like to forage around your city like rats in a sewer, trying to track down the people smugglers who can get you out for a hefty fee?

I can tell you this: *our* desperation has made *them* rich. We paid them a fortune, but even they kept us waiting at the gate for the word that it was safe to go. You call them human traffickers. We once thought of them as saviours.

Life on the high seas was no joke. The rich have their yachts; we had inflatable dinghies.

People with passports post selfies on Facebook, and take holiday snaps for the folks back home; we travelled in secret, and left in the dead of night with only the clothes we were wearing.

The rich moan about flight delays and air traffic control strikes; we were grateful simply not to capsize or to drown.

"A new decade is coming", they said. "The West will look after you. The West is civilised. The West is humane." And so we set off for the Promised Land, only to find that your gates were locked, your 'no entry' signs freshly painted, and your memory short. What happened to that new decade?

What's the point of Remembrance Sunday if no one remembers? Wasn't Europe at war? Wasn't Europe bombed? Didn't you lose parents and loved ones in two wars you strangely call 'Great'? Didn't you live through hunger and rationing? And didn't you have to rebuild your lives from scratch afterwards?

Your history is *our* present, and your memory could unlock our future.

Your God started life in a stable and ended in a borrowed grave. Those in power turned their backs on him. But the poor, the sick, the underdog: they loved him, stayed close to him, never abandoned him, and knew he was on their side.

We refugees could do with Christians who take your God seriously, who know better than to keep crucifying his people. We could do with Christians who lend a shoulder to roll the stone away from the stale and deathly detention centres, where you seal us in with barbed wire and murder our hope of ever rising from the dead.

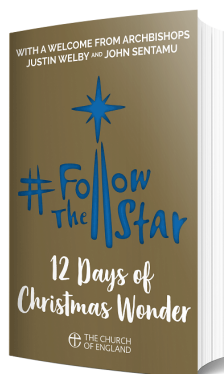
So here we are, the poorest of the world, sitting like Lazarus at your national gates. We haven't come here to wreak havoc with your politics. We haven't come to radicalise your young or to wipe out the faint trace of Christendom we detect in your culture.

We simply ask you to be who you say you are: people of faith. So please don't give us reason to believe, by the way you treat us, that the God you profess doesn't give a toss whether we live or die, doesn't believe we too were worth dying for, and isn't already preparing a resting place for you and for me in heaven, where Lazarus is no longer poor and the rich cannot buy their way in.

For, despite our faces, our accents, our cultural behaviours and our obvious differences, the people at your immigration gates are your brothers and your sisters.

So next time you pray "Our Father", count us in as your kith and kin. And next time you pray "Give us this day our daily bread", please think twice before leaving it to God alone to meet that request and answer that plea. And then we will know that a new decade has come.

Follow the Star



The #FollowTheStar campaign aims to encourage people to take the life-changing Advent and Christmas journey, and is part of the Church of England's Renewal and Reform programme.

This year, **from Christmas Day to Sunday 5 January**, "12 Days of Christmas Wonder" invites us to go on a journey of wonder and discovery, just like the magi as they followed the star to discover Jesus. Drawing inspiration from the well-known carol "We Three Kings", the material for each day includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge to reflect or to act differently.

You can 'follow' by reading the booklet, reading a daily email, or downloading an app on your smartphone. More information at <https://tinyurl.com/sb9vr84>.

If you can't wait until Christmas, there will be four special reflections written by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, every Sunday in Advent, starting on **1 December**: sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/u7acq7q>, or listen to +Justin each week on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday Worship* programme.



Much to celebrate, and much to challenge

Rev Eddie Sykes, our Circuit Superintendent Minister,
writes a foreword to the latest issue of the Methodist Quarterly Plan

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This quarter begins with Advent Sunday, when the Scriptures focus us forward to the coming of the Messiah. It is also a time when we are preparing for a General Election. I am with Brenda from Bristol of “Not another one!!” fame. We will find ourselves as people of faith being jostled, if you like, with ideas of an ideal kingdom. I would thus encourage you to look at the Advent readings for inspiration.

We are encouraged to look to the coming of Jesus who does not conform to the usual image of a leader. We are told by Isaiah that he will bring a fresh way for us to be the people of God. This leader wears garments of righteousness and faithfulness, not designer labels or trendy fair-trade apparel.

We are called to new ways of judgment that do not involve gossip, social media and the like, but are based on wisdom, understanding and the knowledge of God.

We will read of emphases on hospitality to the stranger, justice, peace, hope and light.

We share this through our own experiences of God in our lives, as we open our lives to others. This may mean stretching our personal comfort zone as we realise that the better way to share this good news is different to the way we are accustomed to. Like camel hair on skin, the roughness of the kingdom can chafe against the soft and easy comfort of our lives. For this message of God’s kingdom is not just for today, but embraces God’s promised future.

There is much to celebrate, and there is much to challenge us, as God calls us, like John the Baptist, to turn hearts and minds toward the kingdom of God and celebrate the incarnational miracle of Jesus’ birth.

Both Susan and I, as well as the rest of the Circuit ministers, staff and their families, wish for everyone a very blessed Advent, Christmas and a peaceful and hope-filled New Year.

Your brother in Christ,

Eddie

Singers needed

Do you remember when, back in 2012, an augmented choir performed Stainer’s Crucifixion? Myra Tarr’s plan is to repeat it on Palm Sunday 2020, with her friend Jill Goode conducting and Willie Campbell from Dunfermline Abbey at the organ.

We’re looking for singers! If you know the work inside out, the only mandatory dates are the final rehearsal from **7.00–9.00pm** on **Friday 3 April**, and the service at **6.00pm** on **Sunday 5 April**; if it’s new to you, or you need a refresher, we’ll be rehearsing **7.00–8.00pm** most Fridays from 17 January. Please talk to Myra!

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:42–45 (NIV)

Getting ready for Christmas – 1



Advent Study Courses

There are three courses to choose to attend during Advent:

Kenny is holding one on **Tuesdays 3, 10 and 17 December** from **7.00pm to 8.15pm** in Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, when the Gospel for the following Sunday will be discussed. All are welcome.

Eddie will be running one on **Thursdays 5 and 12 December** from **10.30am to 11.30am** in the Rosyth vestry (Room 5) to which everyone is welcome. The theme will be “Names for the Messiah” from the well-known verse in Isaiah 9.

The **Ecumenical Advent Study Group** will use study material prepared by Morag Crawford, titled *Light in the Darkness* – an Advent Study using Music and Reflection. The first meeting was last Monday, and further meetings are on **Monday 2 December**, at **7.00pm** in the Parish Church, then every Monday thereafter (except 23 December) until 6 January. All are most welcome. Each meeting closes with prayer, then refreshments. Further information may be had from Alan.

Carol Concert – and Light up the Christmas Lights

The annual nativity will take place on **Tuesday 3 December** at **7.00pm** in the Parish Church with all the primary school choirs and some of the Rosyth Concert Band taking part.

Tea and mince pies will be served afterwards, again donated by Co-operative Funeral Services. This is always a very popular event and admission is by ticket, which can be had in advance from the Parish Church.

Christmas Angels

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Parish Church project of knitting angels. They were delighted to reach their target of 1,000 (actual 1,007) which was a huge achievement and a wonderful response. A short service of Dedication for the Angels was held on Sunday 24 November in the Parish Church, which Sandra and Erica attended.

The aim of the Angels is to share God's love and to bless the community in public and community spaces with a Christmas message tagged to the Angels. Sandra and Erica collected two boxes of colourful angels totalling about 150. The boxes will be displayed in the Crush Hall for people to take away, pass on to others or leave in prominent places. Well done all you knitters!

Words and music for Advent

“Be still for the Lord is coming” is the theme of an Advent Service that the Rev Canon Christine Fraser is offering on **Wednesday 4 December** at **2.00pm** in St Peter's Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy. All are welcome and refreshments will be served after the service.

The annual Diocesan Advent Carol Service will be held in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on **Sunday 8 December** at **4.30pm**. Come and celebrate the season of waiting! All are invited.

Advent retreat at St Finnian's

On **Friday 6 December**, there is an Advent Led Day Retreat at St Finnian's Church from **11.00am to 3.00pm**. All are welcome but prior notice of attendance (to Ross Stirling-Young at rossstirling81@hotmail.co.uk) would be useful for the seating plan and catering.



Getting ready for Christmas – 2

Messy Church Christmas

At the end of November (yes – I know – a bit early!) we listened to the Christmas story told by Donkey Daniel and then had great fun making paper bag donkey puppets, shiny angels and lovely Christmas cards and decorating cup cakes to look like sheep.

But that was just the beginning of our Christmas. On **14 December** we will be celebrating with our Christmas party and looking forward to a visit from Santa – if he's not too busy! Anyone who has been to one of our Messy Church sessions is welcome to join us (**2.30–4.30pm**) but please let me know if you are coming so that Santa's sack is properly filled!

Then on **22 December** we come to the highlight of everyone's year – our Messy Church Nativity. This will be performed as part of the 11.00am service instead of on the afternoon of Christmas Eve as this year it has proved very difficult to get enough children together on Christmas Eve.

As always, this will be an all-age performance, and I will be looking out for adult volunteers very soon! Any children who have not yet been given a part are very welcome to come and join us. Get in touch for details. Or you can just turn up on 22 December and join in – you can bring your own costume or dress up in one of ours.

For Sundays when we don't have Messy Church there is usually Sunday School during the 11.00am service, when you will have the chance to hear stories and do crafts. It's helpful to know you're coming though!

There won't be a Messy Church session in December, but we will be back at 10.30am on the fourth Sunday in January.

Looking forward to seeing lots of children, parents and grandparents over the Christmas period.

Gwyneth Kirby

Joint Communion Service

This December our joint communion service is a week earlier than usual, on **Sunday 15 December** at **11.00am**. Our service has been slightly adapted for the Advent season by Rev Dr Michael Paterson who will lead the worship, assisted by Julia Reid who will also preach.

Scout Christmas Post

Our Scouts and Explorer Scouts are taking part in the Scout Christmas Post, and cards can be sent to many local areas for just 40p. See the poster for further details – and note the extra coverage this year!



There is a separate post box in the Crush Hall for these cards. Please “post” your cards in good time – the deadline is **5.00pm** on **Saturday 7 December**.

Cards and money should be placed in a plastic bag or envelope with a note of your name and contact details in the event of any queries. Please include postcodes on the cards.

Wednesday Café at the Parish Church

The café is offering a full Christmas Lunch on **Wednesday 11 December** and anyone who wishes to go along should give their names to Christine Greenhorn or Heather MacAlpine. at the café. Christine and Heather will also take your orders for the meal when you speak to them.

The café will be closed thereafter during the Christmas season and **re-open on 8 January**.

Getting ready for Christmas – 3



Triangle Coffee Shop

A Happy Christmas to all our customers! Thank you for supporting us throughout the year – you can read about where your gifts have gone on pages 14 and 29.

You will be able to enjoy lots of home-made goodies right up to Christmas. We will be open on **Friday 20 December**, so come along and meet your friends and treat yourself to something with a Christmas flavour.

This year we will not be closing over Christmas at all, so we look forward to seeing all our regulars with their friends and relatives on **Friday 27 December** and **Friday 3 January**.

World Day of Prayer

Mary Kidd gives us a preview

Looking forward to 2020

Every year Christians of all ages from all over the world, intergenerational and from many traditions celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March and pray for the generations in the designated country. We bring the needs of the world and of a different country each year before God. The service is for everyone. Prayer and action link us together around the globe.

I hope you are looking forward to the service for 2020 which has been written by the women of Zimbabwe. The theme is “Rise, take your mat and walk”. We will learn about life in Zimbabwe and pray for the generations there. Did you know that Zimbabwe has 16 official languages? English is the first language of only 2% of the population. In our local district, next year’s service is being held at **2.00pm on Friday 6 March** at Inverkeithing Baptist Church.

Recently I enjoyed watching the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, bringing so many people together, from many parts of the world for a common cause. How many more people joined together through worship for the WDP might we see if cameras and satellites were set up all over the world? Just a thought!

WDP calendars

I have the responsibility of distributing the lovely calendars which we in Scotland have produced – with delightful pictures and a short prayer for each month. If you would like one, price £2.50, please let me know.

People in Zimbabwe can face political opposition and be victimised and we offer thanks to the women of WDP Zimbabwe for their courage in bringing their situation to WDP showing that the best form of resistance can often be to act normally. Please pray for the women of Zimbabwe and everyone joining in the WDP.

Looking further ahead!

The WDP service for 2021 is from Vanuatu – see if you can find it on a map of the world! – but for 2022 the service is much closer to home and is being prepared by the Committee of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It has been confirmed that Scotland will be hosting the International Meeting that year, in Pollock Halls, Edinburgh, where the meeting will be held from 12–19 June. More about this and how you can be involved ... next time.



David Slater
sends Christmas
Greetings to all
readers of Contact.

Mary Dempster
wishes all her friends
a Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful 2020.

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

Kenny and Michael
take the opportunity
to wish everyone a joyful,
peaceful and blessed Christmas.

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

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

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

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

Julie Denning
sends her Christmas
Greetings to both
congregations.

Sheila Lee thanks everyone for
the support she has been given in
2019 and sends her very best wishes
for Christmas and New Year to all
members of our churches.

Jenni and Ianto Gill
wish you all a happy
Christmas. With thanks for
welcoming us so warmly into
the Church Family.

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

Services at Christmas and the New Year



At our church ...

... on 22 December

9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband and Rev Dr Michael Paterson
11.00am	Methodist Morning Worship including all-age Nativity	Rev Eddie Sykes
6.00pm	Sunday@Six	

The Christmas carol service this year will be "Carols by Candlelight". Do join us for the Christmas story in words and music, with a chance to sing some of your favourite hymns and carols. Stay for tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards.

The offering at the service will be for CHAS and Action for Children
(Gift-Aid envelopes available)

... on Christmas Day

10.00am	Family Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
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... on 26 December

10.00am	Eucharist for St Stephen's Day	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
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... on 29 December

9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Julia Reid

... on 26 January

11.00am	Joint Covenant Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
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And elsewhere...

...on Christmas Eve

3.30pm	Christingle Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	
6.30pm	Christmas Eve Service at Rosyth Parish Church Refreshments and mince pies served from 6.00pm	
8.00pm	Christmas Eve Service with Christmas Communion at St Finnian's, Lochgelly	Rev Gareth Benson (especially suitable for those who may not be up to attending a later Midnight Mass)
11.30pm	Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	

...on Christmas Day at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

8.00am	Said Eucharist (SPB)	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
10.00am	Family Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband



Fellowship News – 1

Happy 90th!

Mary Dempster writes:

I have known David Slater since about 1985 when he welcomed Ron and me to Rosyth Methodist Church. Since then on numerous occasions he has been a great help to me when I needed transport.



David has been involved in many ways in looking after our church building – cutting the grass, cleaning, repairing. etc. He and his late wife Chris were involved in the Drama Group and the Youth Club as well as serving on the various committees, especially on the Pastoral Committee when he delivered the church magazine to many people. David was also the treasurer for the Rosyth Christian Aid Committee for a number of years.

His other great interest is – motor bikes! He would strip them down and re-build them to produce beautiful roadworthy machines.

Ed: Thank you to Jean Hall for both the cake and the photo showing David's well-deserved chequered flag!

Congratulations!

As we mentioned in our last issue, Dave and Mandy Ward have been celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Here they are having a very enjoyable night at the Garvock House Hotel with cousins Rowland (and wife Paula) and Marion. Marion and her husband Derek came up from Northampton especially for the anniversary.



David and his friend Dennis spent many happy hours eating at different restaurants and so became very good at recommending the best places to go to. They both arranged our annual Christmas Dinner which was always appreciated by those who attended.

Now that you are 90 years young, David, you might consider coming to the Wednesday Fellowship as up until now you have always said that you are “not old enough yet”! Watch this space!

David would like to thank everyone who contributed to and celebrated with him to make his 90th birthday weekend so memorable and enjoyable.



Julie hangs up her choir robe

Julie Denning, who has been a member of St Margaret's choir, both at the Naval Base Church and here since 1993 has decided to hang up her choir gown. Julie's eyesight is not good at present and this affects her driving, especially at night, so reluctantly she has moved to the other side of the church. The choir presented Julie with a small gift as a token of their appreciation for all that she has done for St Margaret's over the years. We too thank you, Julie, and we shall miss your true soprano voice.

Allan's on the mend!

Allan Walkinshaw writes "Many thanks to everybody for their prayers and interest in my progress and also the help offered to Marie and Sophie. I have been well touched by the fellowship shown and truly Christian acts.

"As to my recovery, I saw the surgeon recently and had a good lengthy consultation. An X-ray showed the implant had settled well. He was pleased with my progress and lifted the 'sanctions' on me "within reason". The big one was for me to watch not dislocating the hip. This means no slips, solid seating at the appropriate height, no outward twists of the hip, etc. I am walking well, and managing up to 1½ hours walking outside with sticks. So, all in all, I am happy where I am at present. Thanks again and God bless."

Cusator wedding

The new Mr and Mrs Cusator would like to thank Gwyneth, Howard, Jean and Olive for their fantastic help in staging their wedding on Saturday 23 November. Everything went so smoothly and we had a wonderful day. Rev Eddie Sykes made sure the congregation were very much part of the ceremony and Janet Murray played the organ beautifully, making our day very special indeed.



Thank you so much, Iain and Janie Cusator.

Piskie, our goat

Readers may recollect that in our August/September Contact (issue 104) Mary Kidd reported that the Wednesday Fellowship had purchased a nanny goat – named Rosy (after Rosyth) – with a donation from their weekly collections. This was part of Haiti Help's latest project aimed at improving the lives and well-being of the poorest families on La Gonave.

Now St Margaret's too has a goat – aptly named Piskie – kindly donated by Lesley with proceeds from her 80th birthday gifts. Lou from Haiti Help spoke to the Area Council recently (see page 38) and informed us that Piskie and her kids are helping to feed the children of La Gonave. Well done Lesley, and thank you for your generosity.



Fellowship News – 3

Alan at 80!

Congratulations to Alan Taylor, now St Margaret's second octogenarian, who reached the significant milestone on 3 October. Alan slipped off to join his RAF pals at their annual reunion in Cambridge the following day, so we didn't have a chance to celebrate on the following Sunday. However, in anticipation of the occasion, Lesley presented Alan with a bottle of his favourite tipple the weekend before.



Having left Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, where he had been a long-standing member, Alan, with Bridget, came to St Margaret's Naval Base Church in 1995, three months before it closed, on the recommendation of Bishop Bob Halliday (retired Bishop of Brechin, a previous Rector of Alan's).

Fortunately, Alan transferred with us to St Margaret's, Rosyth, where he became, and still is, a prominent member and tireless worker for the church. He was our Lay Representative for 12 years, serving on Diocesan and Provincial Boards, including the Preparatory Committee seeking to select candidates for a new Bishop of Argyll and the Isles. Alan took over as Treasurer from

Madison Downie

1-year-old Madison Downie has been in and out of hospital since her birth, suffering from bronchitis, and has nearly died on two occasions. Parents Sean and Charlotte, from Kincardine, are desperate for Madison to spend Christmas at home, but for this they need a nebuliser, which helps her breathe medicine through a mask.

Unfortunately, because Madison is so young, equipment to be taken home can't be funded by the NHS. Doctors have agreed to prescribe the medication required, but the Downies need to pay for a nebuliser and training that will cost £2,000. Triangles has sent £300 to help this family, and Sean and Charlotte are exceedingly grateful for our help. [More details from Dave Ward and an online Dunfermline Press article with picture at <https://tinyurl.com/tg2nm4m>]

Jock Headden in 2008, only relinquishing that post in January 2017. He was largely responsible for putting our finances on a sound footing.

Alan has been an enthusiastic and hardworking member of the property committee for many years, having taken over as secretary from Malcolm Trew at the end of 2009. On the more spiritual side, Alan is a server and licensed to administer home communion. Over the last few weeks Alan has masterminded the arrangements for the 50th anniversary lunch and numerous other tasks behind the scene. Truly a man of many parts!

Thank you Alan for your dedication to St Margaret's. We appreciate all you have done for the church over the years.

Ed: Erica, our third and last octogenarian for a few years, "comes of age" in early December

Invitations and requests



Ideas needed for Sunday@Six

In 2019 we had six very different evenings: 'Creation and Enlightenment' with West Gallery music; 'Pilgrims on a Journey' with Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet, 'Around the world in 60 minutes'; 'Running home' with Mark Calder; a poignant Memorial service; and look forward to 'Carols by Candlelight' just before Christmas. A hard act to follow!

For 2020, we're having a break in the winter months and plan to start again on 1 March (St David's Day). We already have some ideas, including a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion on Palm Sunday (5 April), and an update by Ross Stirling-Young on his recent visit to India, but there is plenty of scope for other forms of worship. Sandra Young would love to have your ideas and offers for evenings with variety and a broad appeal.

Use your tokens wisely!

Rosyth Garden City Association has been selected to be part of ASDA St Leonard's Store green token appeal. If you use this store, please pick up some tokens and vote for the Association. Your support would be appreciated. The appeal is expected to run until the end of December.

Seasonal lunch

The Christmas/New Year lunch will be on **Thursday 9 January 2020 at 12noon for 12.30pm** at the Hideaway, Kingseat Road, Halbeath. This is always a most enjoyable occasion and all are welcome. Please book your place with Dennis Cook.

Memorial Book update

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

Looking forward to ... saying it with flowers.

The new rotas for church flowers and arrangers are now in place on the notice board in the Crush Hall. Please feel free to add your name on any one, or both. Perhaps you have a special date, an anniversary or birthday you wish to commemorate in this way.

I would like to thank all those people who have supplied flowers, and given money for flowers during the last year. Special thanks to Lesley Yellowlees who arranges flowers on behalf of St Margaret's on the fourth Sunday of the month, except in Advent and Lent.

I feel this is an important ministry for our church partnership. Not only do flowers add beauty to our worship, they are also appreciated by recipients afterwards, maybe in the comfort of their own home when a visit is made. Please let me, or the Duty Steward, know of anyone who is ill at home and would appreciate flowers. There are visiting cards and a record book kept in the flower cupboard; these are helpful to those who are distributing these messages of good cheer with love from the church.

Thanks to Dave Ward, our church treasurer, who 'manages' the Flower Fund. Any contributions to the Fund may be passed on to him – don't forget to inform him of your gift envelope number if you are a Gift-Aider.

Over ten years have passed since I was appointed flower secretary, and I'm delighted to know that more help will be available next year. I'm certainly looking forward to that!

Mary Kidd



Exploring Church Together

Val Leslie and Howard Kirby provide an update

The Exploring Church Together group met in Jenni Gill's home on 7 November for the second time since the Café Church service in August. The focus of the meeting was to discuss what we can achieve now and what we will do in the future. The group thought that the Exploring Church Together (ECT) poster (developed from Jenni's article in our last issue for display at the Diocesan Gathering on 20 October) was excellent and should be displayed in a prominent position in our church.

Also at the Diocesan Gathering was a presentation by the Bishop on the theme 'Inspirational Worship'. Val was so enthused by it that she took the liberty of inviting the Bishop to come to RMC and St Margaret's to reprise his talk, and was pleased to say that Bishop Ian said he would be delighted to do so. It was agreed that this would be an excellent topic for a joint service which we could arrange at a future date.

This experience led the group to realise that hearing stories of initiatives that stimulate growth in other churches could in turn stimulate fresh thinking for us. Some examples of this may be found in the magazine *Connexion*, copies of which were passed around the group. The Autumn 2019 issue included two excellent articles. In 'Leading Together in Transformation' the author, Emma Nash, writes: "Research has found that strong leadership is not about forcing people to do things. Rather it is about gathering people together to work as a team to achieve something for the greater good." Sounds familiar? We believe that this is what ECT is all about and we certainly experienced it at Café Church in August. In 'Planting for Growth', the author writes about showing and letting people know that: "They are seen, valued and loved by Jesus". Jesus's love was very evident in

the ECT Café Church, beginning with the loving welcome and running through the whole service. Invitations to plant similar seeds in *Contact* might be invited in due course. Welcoming people, and respecting and celebrating their differences, is what we are very good at. It is what has kept us glued together for 20 years!

Ideas to grow and develop continue to be discussed and planned. Some ideas will mean applying for funds: for example, to enable the employment of a young families' worker. Other ideas could either compete with, or build upon, similar projects. For example, one of the suggestions that came out of the Café Church service was to facilitate an older person's activity with a 'Sing Song' group for people with dementia and their carers.

We hope that everyone will find something positive emerging as plans progress. We are delighted to be part of an outward-facing ecumenical partnership that is bringing God's love into the community with such initiatives as Triangles coffee-shop, Wednesday Fellowship and Messy Church. As Alan Taylor has noted, these new ideas will help us "to keep doing what we are doing, but better"!

The group will be meeting again in February. Don't forget to look at the poster! Oh, and keep your ear to the ground ... we will have much to celebrate in 2020 as the Ecumenical Partnership will be 20 years old in June! So watch this space ...

Ed: The poster can now be seen as you come in the back door. Please take a look at it – it highlights much of what you said you liked, what you wanted to do more of together, what you wanted to stop doing and what you could do to help the partnership grow and develop.

Words of thanks



Memorial Service

Now that the dust has settled on the Memorial Book Service held on the afternoon of 3 November, it's good to reflect on the success of something we hadn't tried before and which involved our two congregations.

It was good to see many people there who came to remember friends and loved ones, it became a sort of re-union for everyone as we met families of people who used to belong to our church. It certainly wasn't a mournful occasion – more of a thanksgiving for those lives – the saints of heaven.



I'd like to personally thank those people who made the occasion the success it was. They are: Martin Tarr who designed and put together the memorable order of service; Myra Tarr, who contributed to the thoughtful music of the service; Martin Rogers who ensured the sanctuary was warm and welcoming and who photographed the monthly pages of the Memorial Book, so that Howard could edit and transfer the pictures which to a computer'; then David Salthouse who 'managed' the sound and audio system'.

Especial thanks are due to Rev Alan Anderson, our former District Chair, who was pleased to meet people he remembered from his time in ministry. His address to those gathered was uplifting and inspiring as we remembered our loved ones in thought and by candlelight.

Mary Kidd

Rosyth Foodbank

Rosyth Foodbank has benefited enormously from another year of donations from both congregations. Many grateful thanks from the volunteers and "customers" of the Foodbank.

Over the years since the Rosyth branch opened your generosity and caring choices have not passed unnoticed. These gifts supplement our supplies from the Dunfermline depot and often make a big difference when items are unavailable or delivery is delayed.

The seasonal extras like Christmas selection boxes and Easter eggs make a surprise, especially for children who might otherwise have very little. Yes, the foodbanks are there for the basic essentials, but how good to have the odd treat, particularly when bombarded by all the TV advertising and shops overladen with tasty titbits made to look like normal fare at those times. So please continue to care and thank you, thank you, thank you and every good wish for Christmas from volunteers at and users of Rosyth Foodbank.

Erica Lock

Fair Trade

Thank you to all our fair trade customers who have bought fairly traded goods from the Traidcraft stall this year. Some of you are very loyal and we thank you for that. Others are dipping their toe in the water, and that's good too!

A special thank you to those of you who have been buying 100% recycled toilet rolls on a regular basis. We have almost run out of the two packs we bought initially, so more will be ordered soon (see the paragraph on page 35 after Jan's article).

Myra Tarr and Sue and Martin Forman

Introducing Mark Slaney

Where possible, your Editor likes to interview our key team members, and our archives are full of introductions to new folk soon after their appointment. In Mark's case, we've already had two chances to meet him, at the joint services in August and October, so we felt the most effective way to fill in the gaps in what you know about him would be to re-print what Mark wrote for the District online magazine.

Mark Slaney is 49 years old and married to Rachael. Their daughter Anna (20) lives and works on the North Wales island of Anglesey alongside studying history at Bangor University, whilst son Jacob (17) is studying for A-levels in Preston. Rachael and Jacob remain in Preston for this first year of the Scotland appointment so that Jacob can complete his studies.



Mark was ordained as a Methodist Presbyterian in 2003 having completed two years as a Probationer Minister in Wirral and three years of study at Wesley College, Bristol. He moved on to serve seven years in the South Ribble Circuit and six years as Superintendent Minister of the Preston Ribble Circuit. Alongside his degree in Theology and Ministry lie an earlier degree in Community Studies from Bradford & Ilkley Community College and studies in mission, ministry and evangelism undertaken at Cliff College, Derbyshire.

Prior to his role in the Methodist Church were ten years in youth work and a variety of earlier jobs including builders-mate, cleaner and van driver.

Mission and study placements led Mark to develop active links with the Church of South India (including a school for Dalit communities) and the Methodist Church in Sierra Leone (focusing support for a mission hospital and a youth skills training centre), as well as short-term time spent in Belfast,

Israel, Nashville USA and a number of other places across the UK. In recent times he was privileged to be part of the Preston Faith Forum trips offering support to The Jungle, Calais and the Dunkirk refugee camps in Northern France.

Mark was born in Blackpool and rooted in the Christian faith and the Methodist Church through family since childhood, making his own

personal commitment to Christ at a youth camp in the Yorkshire Dales aged 15. He has spent the vast majority of his years living in places across the North of England, including rural settings in the Yorkshire Dales, and living in or near the cities of York, Bradford, Sheffield, Sunderland and Liverpool.

Rachael's side of the family bring an inter-faith dimension to their life together. Rachael's step-grandfather was a Messianic Jew and her great-grandmother was a high-caste Hindu from Calcutta, India.

There is also a strong Scottish connection ... Rachael's older brother lives with his partner in the Moray coast town of Nairn. Mark's youngest sister moved up to Liberton, Edinburgh last year and his best buddy from Cliff College days and best man at his wedding lives in Burnside, Glasgow.

Mark loves to walk, climb and cycle (he's climbed Mount Albert in British Columbia and used to race for a local mountain bike team) and skis(-ish!) when given the opportunity. Whilst his playing days seem over, he still has a passion for football.

He preached his first sermon at the tender age of 15, served as an Area Development Worker for a national Christian Youth Charity, helped develop a national youth evangelism project, co-led an international youth exchange programme (with this year's President of Conference none the less!), has spoken at conferences and festivals, been a regular contributor to BBC regional radio broadcasting, and has run a successful Fair-Trade-promoting Clean Comedy Night!

On moving to Stirling and becoming Chair of both Scotland and Shetland Districts, Mark comments:

"I am genuinely delighted to be here. We've received a warm and affirming welcome and already met some great folk.

"Having visited and holidayed in Scotland over the years I'm now looking forward to learning how to stay and minister here.

"The role of Chair is new to me but shadowing Rev David Easton during the last twelve months has given a real and helpful insight into both the role and contexts.

"I am aware that whilst we seem a small church in Scotland we sit in great big national geography. Relating well to each other across Circuits with a positive shared sense of identity will need our time, attention and intention. Likewise, local ecumenical and other partnerships must be valued and nurtured for the sake of the churches, communities and Kingdom.

"We also live in interesting and maybe significant times. Understanding our own stories of need and decline in the light of the Gospel narratives is very important to me, as is holding to and finding prophetic ways to practice our Methodist grasp of 'ALL' amongst argumentative and divisive approaches and issues.

"Please pray for me. I will for you."

By the end of the calendar year, all things being equal, Mark will have visited each Circuit at least once for a preaching appointment. "My early priorities are clear," he says, "alongside stationing matters and Synod lies the task of getting to know the circuits, churches and people. In a year when the President and Vice-President of Conference are asking 'So, what's the story?' and the youth assembly is challenging Methodists to a year of testimony, as I travel around the two districts sharing something of my own story, I hope to hear, see and learn much about your stories too."

Commemorative mugs

Our commemorative mugs feature both of the buildings with which St Margaret's has been associated – the Naval Base Church and Rosyth Methodist Church – and can be bought from Alan Taylor for £6.50 each.



Alan will have a supply with him each Sunday, and Mary Kidd suggests they would make an excellent choice of a gift for Christmas.



Music for Christmas



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

Dunfermline Choral Union

Dunfermline Choral Union's Christmas Concerts of Seasonal Music take place at the Vine Venue on **Saturday 7 December at 3.00pm and 7.30pm.**

Join them for their much-loved Christmas concerts and enjoy "a selection box of festive music"! With a mix of traditional favourites and modern classics there's sure to be something for everyone.

Get your tickets now (£12; concessions £10; school student/U18 £5), as these concerts are very popular. See Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd or Myra Tarr.

Rosyth Concert Band

It's Christmas, so time for a Christmas Concert with Rosyth Concert Band in Rosyth Parish Church on **Sunday 8 December at 3.00pm.**

Come and join in a perfect warm-up to Christmas. Admission £7 (concessions £5; children free). Tickets from the church or at the door.

Kingdom Singers

A Christmas Concert with Kingdom Singers is to be held at **7.30pm on Thursday 12 December** in Gillespie Church, Chapel Street, Dunfermline.

Come along and enjoy an evening of festive music and stories and community carol singing. Tickets £10 (Associate Members £8.00) including refreshments, available from choir members, via email kingdomsingers@live.co.uk, or at the door.

Please note that parking in Tesco Car Park is now for only two hours, not three!

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society

KOS presents its annual Christmas Concert in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy at **2.00pm and 4.00pm on Sunday 15 December.** Tickets £9 (child/student £4) include free programme. Advance booking through Adrian Masson (St Margaret's congregation – 01383 824887) is strongly recommended since this is always their most popular event of the year.

As on previous occasions, KOS will be sharing the concert with the Langtoun Singers and the programme will include The Snowman (Blake), the first movement of Hely-Hutchinson's Carol Symphony, the Clog Dance and the Flute Dance from *La fille mal gardée* (Herold), and Queen in Concert, as well as settings of popular carols for orchestra and audience.

Royal Marine Band

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Scotland return to Dunfermline Abbey for their Christmas Concerts at **7:30pm on Wednesday 18 December and Thursday 19 December.**

Tickets are £13.50 from the Carnegie Hall Booking Office (01383 602302).

Origin Scotland

Origin Scotland presents "Christmas with J. John", in association with Tearfund in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh on **Saturday 7 December at 7.30pm.** This is an evening of carols and Christmas music with Origin Scotland and Friends. Free tickets from 0131 541 00117 or on-line at www.originscotland.org.

Diary for December 2019

Sunday 1 December

Advent Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Dr Michael Paterson
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 2 Dec 7.00pm Advent Ecumenical Study Group at Rosyth Parish Church
Week 2 (see page 7)

Tuesday 3 Dec 7.00pm Advent Study Group, Holy Trinity Dunfermline
led by Very Rev Kenny Rathband (see page 7)

7.00pm Carol Concert and Light up the Christmas Lights,
Rosyth Parish Church (see page 7)

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

Wednesday 4 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Speaker: Another walk round London with Dennis Cook

2.00pm Advent Service 'Be still, for the Lord is Coming'
St Peter's Church, Kirkcaldy (see page 7)

Thursday 5 Dec 10.30am Advent Study Group at the church
led by Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 7)

Friday 6 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

11.00am Advent Led Day Retreat,
to 3.00pm St Finnian's Church. Lochgelly (see page 7)

7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 7 Dec 3.00pm Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concerts
and 7.30pm at the Vine Church, Dunfermline (see page 20)

7.30pm Christmas with J John, Origin Scotland and Friends
Usher Hall, Edinburgh (see page 20)

Sunday 8 December

Advent 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	All-age Café Church with Carols	Mrs Hilary Henderson
	3.00pm	'It's Christmas' Concert by Rosyth Concert Band, Rosyth Parish Church (see page 20)	
	4.30pm	Advent Carol Service in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth All churches in the Diocese are invited (see page 7)	

Diary for December 2019

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Monday 9 Dec | 7.00pm | Ecumenical Advent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Week 3 (see page 7) |
| Tuesday 10 Dec | 9.45am | EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns |
| | | Note: Next meeting 7 January 2020 |
| | 7.00pm | Advent Study Group, Holy Trinity Dunfermline
led by Very Rev Kenny Rathband (see page 7) |
| Wednesday 11 Dec | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:
A celebration of Christmas with Martin and Myra Tarr |
| | 7.00pm | Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting,
City of Edinburgh Methodist Church |
| Thursday 12 Dec | 10.30am | Advent Study Group at the church
led by Rev Eddie Sykes (see page 7) |
| | 7.30pm | Christmas Concert by the Kingdom Singers.
Gillespie Church, Dunfermline (see page 20) |
| Friday 13 Dec | 9.30am
onwards | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
tea, coffee and home baking |
| | 7.00pm | Choir practice |
| Saturday 14 Dec | 2.00pm | Provincial Celebration of the Eucharist to mark the 25th
Anniversary of Ordination of Women to the Priesthood,
St Ninian's Cathedral Perth (see page 31) |
| | 2.30pm | Messy Church Christmas Party (see page 8) |

Sunday 15 December

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Advent 3 | 11.00am | Joint Communion Service | Rev Dr Michael Paterson
Ms Julia Reid (preacher) |
| | 2.00pm
and 4.00pm | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Concerts
with The Langtoun Singers, in Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy
(see page 20): advance booking strongly recommended | |
| Monday 16 Dec | 7.00pm | Ecumenical Advent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Week 4 (see page 7) | |
| Tuesday 17 Dec | 7.00pm | Advent Study Group, Holy Trinity Dunfermline
led by Very Rev Kenny Rathband (see page 7) | |
| Wednesday 18 Dec | 12.30pm | Wednesday Fellowship:
Christmas Lunch at Woodside Hotel, Aberdour | |

Note: Wednesday Fellowship resumes on 5 February 2020

Diary for December 2019

Friday 20 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 22 December

Advent 4 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
and Rev Dr Michael Paterson
11.00am Morning Worship Rev Eddie Sykes
including all age Nativity
6.00pm Sunday@Six 'Carols by Candlelight'
Offering in aid of CHAS and Action for Children
(see page 11)

Tuesday 24 December

Christmas Eve 3.30pm Christingle Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
6.30pm Christmas Eve Service at Rosyth Parish Church.
Refreshments and mince pies served from 6.00pm
8.00pm Christmas Eve service with Christmas Communion
at St Finnian's Lochgelly Father Gareth Benson
11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Wednesday 25 December

Christmas Day 8.00am Said Eucharist (SPB) at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
Very Rev Kenny Rathband
10.00am Family Service Rev Eddie Sykes
10.00am Family Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
Very Rev Kenny Rathband

Thursday 26 December

St Stephen 10.00am Eucharist Rev Dr Michael Paterson

Friday 27 Dec 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Sunday 29 December

Christmas 1 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Michael Paterson
11.00am Morning Worship Ms Julia Reid
Monday 30 Dec 7.00pm Ecumenical Advent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Week 5 (see page 7)

Diary for January 2020

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

Sunday 5 January

The Epiphany	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Iain Hampson

Note: No Sunday@Six

Monday 6 Jan 7.00pm Ecumenical Advent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Final week (see page 7)

Tuesday 7 Jan 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Thursday 9 Jan 12.00pm Seasonal lunch at the Hideaway, Kingseat Road,
Halbeath (see page 15)

Friday 10 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 12 January

Epiphany 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr David Andrews

Monday 13 Jan 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Friday 17 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 19 January

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

Epiphany 3	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr David Rogerson

Monday 20 Jan 7.00pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

Tuesday 21 Jan 9.45am EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's home in Limekilns

Wednesday 22 Jan 6.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Room 5

Friday 24 Jan 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice

Diary for January 2020



Sunday 26 January

Covenant Sunday	10.30am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Joint Covenant Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
Monday 27 Jan	7.00pm	Ecumenical Study Group,	Rosyth Parish Church
Friday 31 Jan	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 2 February

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

Note: No Sunday@Six

	7.00pm	Ecumenical Study Group,	Rosyth Parish Church
Tuesday 4 Feb	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 5 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Opening meeting	
Friday 7 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Area Council dates for your 2020 diary

The dates for the St Andrews West Area Council meetings 2020 as decided at our meeting on 20 November are:

Tuesday 18 February, 7.30pm at St Finnian's, Lochgelly
Guest speaker (tbc) – "The Year of Pilgrimage 2021"

Thursday 14 May, 7.30pm at St Peter's, Kirkcaldy,
Speaker: Ross Stirling-Young – "Update on Arunima Project"

Sunday 13 September, tbd at St Luke's, Glenrothes
Annual Area Council Service

Wednesday 18 November, 7.30pm at St Margaret's, Rosyth
Speaker: Rev Gerry Dillon – "The Churches' response to the Holocaust"



St Margaret's 50th anniversary

Mary Kidd writes:

Earlier this year it was suggested that we have a cause to celebrate this year – the 50th Anniversary of its founding in the Rosyth Naval Base. Ideas and suggestions were mulled over, decisions made, and plans were put into operation to see how best this might be done.

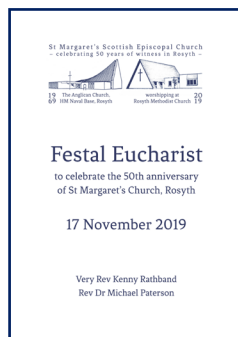
It meant a lot of planning, research, correspondence, phone calls, e-mailing and so on. All the members of the vestry, choir and the congregation had some part to play in it all, and this contributed to it being a successful and memorable occasion.

And so it was on 17 November, the day after St Margaret's Day, that we celebrated our Patronal Festival. Former members of the congregation and friends were invited to join us with Methodist guests with whom we share an Ecumenical Partnership and worship regularly. As the only member of both congregations it was for me a very joyful occasion.

Everyone was involved in the service: Kenny preached and presided; Michael led the intercessions; the choir provided introit, anthem and communion hymn. We remembered Easter, lighting the Paschal candle and using our Easter settings for the Eucharist. And, as almost our first act, we re-dedicated the candlesticks given to St Margaret's by Captain M S Drewett RN, *HMS Caledonia*, in 1972, which had been refurbished.

A celebratory lunch followed at the Garvock House Hotel, organised by Alan Taylor. A splendid meal and service was much enjoyed by those present, and there was an opportunity to purchase a souvenir mug!

Lesley gave a speech prior to cutting the Anniversary cake, and Adrian Masson recalled some of the history of the church before proposing a toast to its future.



A decade ago we were reminded by our then Bishop Michael Henley of the church's origin as a green tabernacle – a Nissen hut in the dockyard. With the expansion of the married quarters the MOD took the wise decision to build three new churches at the crossroads of what was then the naval community, and thus St Margaret's, the upside-down boat, was born. I prefer to think of it as a Bedouin tent rather than something sinking!

The town of Rosyth and its churches had to deal with the problems which arose with the closure of the Naval Base, who were 'homeless' following the Base's closure. The building still exists, unlike the other two, and is now a Recording Studio called St Margaret's House. One effect of the changes was to bring the Episcopal Church of Scotland into the Methodist church building. Four years later they became a formally recognised LEP during the Millenium.

However, we are often reminded that the church is not just a revered building but also a family of people. As well as looking back, as a partnership with a team of clergy we are looking forward to travelling further together, and we have a group who are looking at new ways for us to work more effectively in our mission in partnership.

"We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come".

Alan Taylor writes:

It seemed appropriate to have a celebration lunch on the day of our Festal Eucharist and we decided to hold this at the Garvock House Hotel.

We invited the Methodist leadership team and other Methodists and Episcopalians we have known over the years, including former members of the Naval Base Church and friends from neighbouring SEC churches.

Members of St Margaret's at the meal whose memories went back to the early 1970s were Lesley Yellowlees and Julie Denning, joined by Barbara Hand, now living in Edinburgh. 47 joined us – sadly two were poorly on the day and couldn't be there – but we had a “baby” who had been baptised at the Naval Base Church!

We wanted our lunch to be very special, and, while I initially considered having something like “wedding tokens” for each guest, we agreed to sell a bone china commemorative mug. This has appropriate wording and familiar images of the Naval Base Church and of Rosyth Methodist Church, and was designed by Martin Tarr.

The commemorative menu card carried a photograph on the back of the wonderful wooden statue of St Margaret, carved in Orkney, carried to Rosyth on HMS Orkney, and used at the Naval Base Church, but sadly now disappeared.

Like all good corporate events, we had a celebration cake, beautifully created by Baynes the Bakers in Rosyth, which Lesley, as our longest-serving current member, cut after a very touching short speech. Not to be outdone, Adrian took us beautifully over events in our past 50 years, ending with a toast to St Margaret's.



On the day, the weather was remarkably good, the food and service was excellent, and everyone had a very happy time. I have to say, the happiest (noisiest?) table was the one at which I asked the serving clergy. But wasn't that indicative of how much everyone enjoyed themselves? Many congratulations, and Happy Birthday, St Margaret's! Here's to the next 50 years!

Bishop Ian's message

This congratulatory email was received from Bishop Ian

Dear Sandra,

It is so wonderful that St Margaret's is celebrating its golden birthday on Sunday. I send my love and congratulations to everyone in the congregation for the anniversary, and my thanks for fifty years of faithful witness to God's love in the community of Rosyth.

I would far rather be saying this in person and be with you at the service and the lunch on Sunday, but I have to be in another church celebrating Confirmation, which had already been arranged when I heard news of St Margaret's celebrations.

So please would you pass on my best wishes and blessings to everyone on Sunday! I'll be praying for you, and giving thanks.

Warmest regards,

Bishop Ian



A wider selection of images can be accessed in your Editor's Dropbox at <https://tinyurl.com/vv35vgy>.

A huge thank you

Sandra Young, Secretary to the Vestry, has a message of thanks:

It is with great joy that we celebrated 50 years of St Margaret's in Rosyth. The way since the Naval Base closed in 1996 has not always been smooth, but St Margaret's congregation have showed their resilience, and it is to their credit that we have reached our half-century.

Both the Festal Eucharist and the lunch at Garvock House Hotel, made for a memorable occasion. A huge amount of work went into

the preparation for the occasion and our special thanks go to Sue for her thoughtful selection of music which she taught the choir, to Alan for organising the lunch and numerous other tasks behind the scenes and to Martin for the designing and preparing the service sheets, menus and lots more besides, not least our commemorative bone china mug!

Keeping the show on the road



St Margaret's AGM

The AGM on Sunday 24 November was attended by 17 members, with Kenny in the chair. This was an informed meeting and the annual reports and accounts previously passed to the congregation were all well received and taken as read.

Kenny, in his verbal report, highlighted in particular that the **joint service** will move **to 10.00am** from February for a trial period, which is neither the normal time of the service for either ourselves or the Methodists. The move will allow Kenny to be present at all or most of the service before going to Holy Trinity.

Kenny also shared that he has been asked to provide two **training placements** for 6–7 weeks for candidates who may become lay readers or ordinands, one of whom is Ross Stirling-Young. They will be with Holy Trinity and us in the New Year.

Kenny mentioned that he and Michael would like a greater **gender balance** and would welcome some lady servers so that we are more widely represented in our church community.

Sue spoke of the reasons for her decision to take a break from the **choir** after Christmas. Myra had offered to take charge until Easter and this will include preparing an augmented choir for a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion as Sunday@Six on Palm Sunday evening, 5 April (see page 6). Kenny is grateful and feels blest that we have a choir and thanked them as well as Sue and Myra for their contribution.

Music provision at St Margaret's for the period after Easter will be considered by Vestry at their January meeting.

Kenny wished to put on record his and our grateful **thanks** to Michael who continues to work with us when he can. Kenny also thanked all who had contributed with reports and by name specific members of the congregation who work tirelessly to keep everything running so smoothly.

Elections

Our lay representative, Valerie Leslie, and our alternate, Erica Lock, were re-elected to serve for another year

Colin Dolbear, our independent examiner for the annual accounts for the past two years, which he audits free of charge, had intimated to Gordon that he is willing to continue for this financial year.

Members of the Vestry for the next year remain the same – Jan Benvie (also Safeguarding officer) Sue Forman, Valerie Leslie (ex officio), Erica Lock, Gordon Pryde, Myra Tarr, Alan Taylor, Lesley Yellowlees and Sandra Young.

The secretary and treasurer will be appointed at the January Vestry meeting.

Sandra Young

Money matters

£249.99 has been sent to **Macmillan Cancer Support** from our 27 September Coffee Morning (well done to all).

Homeless Sunday is now every October (formerly it was in January) and the October Methodist Sunday tea-bar raised £72.35 towards a total of £108.35 being sent to **Scottish Churches Housing Action**.

Triangles has sent £300 to help Madison Downie (see page 14) and are also going to support the Samaritans, Breathe Easy, Maggie's and the Bahamas appeal in due course.



News around the Diocese

Sandra Young reviews recent events ...



Annie Hughes' ordination

Pam, Alan and I had the joy of attending Annie's ordination service to the diaconate in the Cathedral on Saturday 29 September. Kenny and Michael were also there as fellow clergy to support Annie as she sets out in her ministry. The Cathedral was packed with a congregation that included Annie's family from abroad and in the UK and many friends from far and wide she has made over the years. We witnessed a very moving and dignified occasion, presided by Bishop Ian, for whom the service was also significant – his first ordination since becoming a Bishop a year ago. Bishop Ian, in his sermon, reminded us that as Christians we are all sent out to make a difference and we all have our own gifts to offer. We come with our own vulnerabilities and we serve in humility and tenderness. We imitate Jesus's way of living, highlighted in his washing of all his disciples' feet, including Judas. This was, indeed, a powerful message!

The liturgy was thoughtful and moving, the praise joyful and lustily sung, assisted by the Cathedral choir, and the service expressed glory to God in a way that affected all of us present. This was truly a memorable day and a privilege to be part of such a special event and for us especially to be with Annie as she starts out on her curacy, which will see her serving God's people at St John's Episcopal Church, Perth. We will continue to follow Annie's progress with interest.

The Diocesan Gathering

As usual St Margaret's was well represented at the 2019 Gathering in the Cathedral on the afternoon of Sunday 20 October when a well-attended and happy assembly came to hear about work that is taking place, to learn from each other, to meet old and new friends and fittingly to celebrate the first anniversary of Bishop Ian's consecration.



There was also an opportunity to see displays from some of the churches. Our striking poster was prominently displayed in the cloisters. It depicted highlights from our Café Church and of what we are trying to achieve, and attracted much attention.

Presided over by Bishop Ian, the afternoon consisted of short talks in different parts of the building on: Inspiring Worship; Online resources; Lay Ministries; Community Involvement with emphasis on Foodbanks; Young People's experiences of church.

These were useful presentations and gave us the opportunity to learn about the work going on in the diocese. Some reinforced aspects with which we are already involved and gave us encouragement, rather than fresh information and ideas.

It was good that our friends Andrew and Rachael from Holy Trinity give us an insight into young people's experience of church, something which previously we had been

privileged to be involved in at the Area Council annual service in September. However, for us Bishop Ian's talk on 'Inspiring Worship' was the highlight. Val was so inspired with this that she invited Bishop Ian to come to our church to reprise his talk, which he said he would be delighted to do!

After a break for tea, at which Bishop Ian cut his celebratory cake, we heard a short conversation session led by Bishop Ian when he interviewed Kerry Dixon (Church Army) and Chic Lidstone (Workplace Chaplaincy in Scotland). This was useful and helpful in giving us an insight into their roles.

The Gathering concluded with Evensong at which we were accompanied by the Cathedral choir.

All in all this was a well-organised, enjoyable day and whetted our appetite for finding out more of what is going on in the Diocese and of which we are not aware.

... and previews a very significant occasion

25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood

It is hard to believe that it was 25 years ago that the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) first ordained women to the priesthood. After many years of debate, the SEC had agreed at the meeting of its General Synod in 1994 to recognise the vocation of women to the priesthood, and the first ordinations took place on 17 December 1994. On that day 42 women were ordained in Cathedrals across the country, among whom in this Diocese, and known to us, were Revs Celia Matthews (still going strong as she approaches her 10th decade), Jeanette Allan and Val Nellist, all now retired from active ministry.

On **Saturday 14 December** a Provincial service of celebration marking this Anniversary, and organised at the request of the College of Bishops, will be held in

St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth at **2.00pm**. The Rt Rev Anne Dyer, Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney and the first woman to be consecrated as a Bishop of the SEC, will preside at the service which will be a Eucharist. The sermon will be given by the Rev Canon Dr Anne Tomlinson, Principal of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (the Church's agency for the training of those entering authorised ministry). It will be attended by people from across Scotland, including 12 of the women who were ordained in 1994 and relatives of those who have since died.

The service is open to any who wish to attend. There will be a reception afterwards, so to help with planning please email womenpriests@scotland.anglican.org to let the organisers know if you are attending.



The Scout Group

Martin Rogers, Assistant Group Scout Leader, reports ...



Our Scout Group Open Night and AGM was held on 12 November. The past year has been another active one and our numbers have grown – currently we have 50 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in the Group. There have been a number of changes in leadership over the year with Gary and Hazel Dewar stepping down as Explorer Scout Leaders and David Sinclair and Charlotte Murphy resigning as leaders in the Beaver Section.

A similar presentation was made to Brenda Duncan who has not been active as a leader in the Pack for some months now and is leaving that role. David had been a leader for 11 years and Brenda for 8 years.



A presentation had been made to Gary earlier in the year: at the AGM, David Sinclair was presented with a thank-you gift in the form of a glass trophy.



Other leaders had their service recognised during the year in the form of Long Service Awards. Alan Connery and Claire Broderick received 15-year awards, Chris Dewar a 10-year award and Jonathan Peffers a 5 year award. We have been pleased to welcome some new leaders. Bob and Claire Broderick have joined the Explorer Unit, Fiona Hurles has joined the Beaver Section and Amy Oliver has recently joined the Cub Section. We are grateful to all of them for taking on this leadership commitment.

As a means of encouraging parents to attend our Open Night we held a Talent Show. This had been tried last year with some success. This year we had some group items from the Beavers and Cubs as well as individual items with performances by guitarists, singers and gymnasts. This seemed to go down quite well.

Four Beavers and five Cubs received their Chief Scout's Award certificates from the District Commissioner Terry O'Neill. This is the highest award in these sections.

Our Group Executive Committee has not been operating as effectively as we would like and at the AGM our secretary and treasurer both stood down from their posts. We were fortunate in securing replacements for both posts as well as other volunteers to serve on the Committee.

The Beaver section visited Calum MacDonald Court last year and sang camp fire songs and handed over plants they had potted. They enjoyed a Christmas party and a Pancake night. In April they were up at Fordell Firs for the District get together in which they took part in the District Challenge Trophy.

The Beavers have tried indoor archery, had a taster session of taekwondo and received a visit from two dogs (and their owners) from Therapet. As Bonfire Night fell on a Tuesday this year, they marked it with some fireworks and sparklers.

The Cub section has seen quite a turnover in membership during the year as Cubs come and go. More changes are to follow as eight of our Cubs reach Scout age in the next six months.

The section had their usual Easter Hike (over the Forth Bridges) followed by a sleepover at the Church. The cubs camped at the District St George's Day weekend in April and more recently they had a camp at Nineacres at Crook of Devon. A number of the Challenge Badges were completed. Food has also featured in the Cub programme with Hallowe'en and Christmas Parties, pancake night and most recently chicken nuggets and chips from MacDonalds. They also had fireworks and sparklers for Bonfire Night, followed by toasted marshmallows over a wood fire.

The Scout section have had a number of camps during the year at The Craigs near Torphichen (twice) and at Fordell Firs. Some of their number took part in a District Expedition to Holland in the Easter holidays. Other activities have included a chip shop survey, learning about where their clothes originate and the plight of the Amazon rain forest, creating hand-made wrist bands from wool and experiencing dealing with loss of sight. Some of the scouts have demonstrated their hobbies – kickboxing and ballet.

The Explorer section have also had a number of camps at different locations and times of year. There was a woolly jumper camp in Aberdeen, a wild camp at Braefoot Bay, the District camp at Fordell, camps with the 41st Scout Group at Nineacres and Lochearnhead and an almost haunted camp at Meggernie in Glen Lyon. Other activities included learning about pioneering, archery, knife safety and whittling, a pizza night and a bake off.

Ed: Our grateful thanks to Martin Rogers who, apart from having been an active member of the Scouting community leadership "since time immemorial", continues to play a major and largely unseen part in keeping our premises available and welcoming for all these youth groups. He's a living testament to the truth that church is not just for Sundays!



Emergency! Emergency!

Jan Benvie rings some alarm bells

Climate Change, Global Warming, Plastic Pollution, Zero Carbon Economy, Environmental Degradation ... worried? confused?

I don't pretend to have any expertise, but I'd like to touch a little on what the 'new decade' might bring in terms of environmental challenges, why I think it should matter to us as Christians and say a little about what I think we can do.

Last year (October 2018) the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a stark warning that by 2030 it will be too late to limit warming to 1.5 degrees – the level scientists believe will result in many natural systems crossing dangerous points of no return, triggering lasting changes and transforming life as we know it. ^[1]

In 2017, David Attenborough's Blue Planet 2 highlighted the issue of plastic pollution, showing footage of albatross parents feeding their chicks plastic waste – and other creatures like turtles and dolphins being harmed by the plastic we throw away.

Are we, as some have argued, on the precipice of a mass extinction event?

"The nature of changes in climate and environment that we are living with threaten not only the wellbeing but also the being of our species on this planet in the long term – and in the middle term they threaten some of the most vulnerable populations on Earth,"

Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, March 2019 ^[2]

Shouldn't we as Christians be deeply concerned about the desecration of the world which God created?

In Genesis we read:

God created humankind in his image ... God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Genesis 1:27-28)

If we have dominion over animals, surely it is to protect and care for them? Throughout the Genesis story of creation we are reminded that "God saw that it was good".

Climate change and environmental degradation will affect the poor and vulnerable disproportionately. Surely the Gospel message is full of admonition to help the poor and vulnerable.

So, what action can we take both as individuals and perhaps collectively?

This year the Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church took action by voting to change its ethical investment policy – "the ethical investment policy be updated to reflect the moral imperative to divest fully from fossil fuels".

As individuals some of us may have investments or work-related pensions. How is the money invested?

Could we recycle, reuse, repair?

Do we take full advantage of the doorstep recycling?

Are there other items we could collect and take to a recycling point?

Recycling by buying from charity shops not only gives new life to old, unwanted items, but also helps the charity.

Some individuals or groups organise clothes swapping events – the textile industry is the second most polluting industry in the world.

Some schools and voluntary groups collect and send items for recycling through Terracycle (<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/>) raising funds at the same time.

We live in a throw-away culture, it can be difficult to get items repaired, to get spare parts, but increasingly there are community groups springing up that offer skills workshops. As demand grows, repairing rather than discarding is becoming more popular – we as consumers have some power.

If trying to reduce use of plastic it's important to cut down rather than simply substitute for another disposable product.

- There is a zero-waste shop based in Dunfermline – Happy Earth Place in James Street – that sells dried foods (refill your container), washing and cleaning refills and a range of toiletries.
- A number of dairies offer doorstep milk deliveries in glass bottles.
- Some smaller shops sell loose fruit and veg, and we can encourage supermarkets to reduce their use of plastic by only buying loose fruit and veg – and by writing asking them to stock these.

Some people have taken part in protests. Last year millions of young people around the world participated in school strikes. Other non-violent direct action has been led by Extinction Rebellion. For some these protests are a step too far but they have received support from groups like Christian Climate Action (<https://christianclimateaction.org>).

In his March 2019 statement Rowan Williams also voiced support:

“It is not surprising people in this urgent situation feel they have to take non-violent direct action – they have got to find a way of putting the case for the human race before those in power. That is what Extinction Rebellion [is] doing, that is what the Friday [school] strikes are doing.”^[2]

Are there things we could do collectively as a church? I'd love to hear from others ... watch this space.

Ed: Both the articles from which Jan includes extracts are available on-line:

^[1] at <https://tinyurl.com/yy3qcmg9>

^[2] at <https://tinyurl.com/yxonk2qz>

Make a difference by your choices!

On page 17 there was a special thank you to those who have been buying 100% recycled toilet rolls. Not only does buying this product help fair trade, but it also helps to save the planet, and I think we are becoming acutely aware that this is a priority for all of us now.

Watch this space as we try to avoid plastic and to reuse and recycle in a more determined way in 2020. Please share your suggestions as to what we can do to diminish our carbon footprint in the 2020s. After all, contributing to fair trade and saving the planet are all part of the responsible and sustainable mindset that we as Christians should have.

Myra Tarr



Running Home

Jan Benvie tells us how Mark Calder has fared ...

We were delighted to welcome Mark Calder, regional manager of Embrace the Middle East, to our Sunday@Six service on 6 October, when he told us about *Running Home*, a fundraising campaign raising money for a project in northern Iraq supporting returning refugees. In 2019, Embrace established their first partnerships in Iraq, supporting the work of Christians who were already responding to the needs of displaced people.

Christians have been a part of the fabric of society in Iraq for 2,000 years, but now, in the aftermath of horrific persecution, their numbers are low, so it's vital that we support the tireless humanitarian work that characterises their presence. From building and running schools and healthcare facilities, to rebuilding homes and starting new businesses, these Christian communities are aiming to create opportunities for the next generation.

Amazingly *Running Home* involved Mark running 14 ultra-marathon pilgrimages throughout 2019.

Well, he's done it!

His final pilgrimage run on 16 November (St Margaret's Day), following the Fife Pilgrim Way, brought him back to Dunfermline Abbey where it all began in January. He didn't stop there though, finishing in St Andrews at 11.00pm!

The total raised so far is £47,600 and this will help to change lives for Iraqi refugees returning home.

Ed: Although Mark has finished his running the fundraising continues. if you'd like to give a donation go to www.runninghome2019.co.uk/give or speak to Jan.

Some excerpts from Mark's blog.

'Pressing ever onward, no other choice but forward.'

And so it ends. 14 ultra-marathon pilgrimages, 33 full running days (plus a few extra mornings), roughly 200 mid-run check-ins, 57 church engagements, 25 offers of overnight accommodation, 20 running partners, seven separate pairs of shoes, five falls (three descending to Ballachulish, mind you), three toe nails, one lost running day, and one heckle. Yes, it took until just before darkness fell on my last day of running for a young poet in a park in Glenrothes to shout out, "Run chicken legs!"



'Pressing ever onward, no other choice but forward.'

I've mentioned before the common refrain of pilgrims, that 'every ending is a beginning'. Never has it felt more true than now. I want to dwell longer but life demands my presence.

I can recall plenty: St Margaret's Pilgrimage was a suitably challenging way to end *Running Home*. A longish day at 114km, sniffling with cold the whole way, and ending in heavy winter rain. The run through southern and central Fife by daylight gave way to more off-road terrain in the darkness, such that the usual compensation for wading slowly through a mud bath, the view, was not available to us. By the time I waddled into St Andrews I was glad it was done.



... it was unusually easy on this route to call to mind the pilgrims of yore, trudging expectantly towards the believed resting place of a Galilean fisherman in reach of the spray of the North Sea. Perhaps knowing that this was to be my own final 'arrival' helped with that imaginative leap too.

'Pressing ever onward, no other choice but forward' is the refrain of a song written by my good friend Rebecca Hardie, inspired in part by *Running Home*. Listening now to Rebecca's song, I'm struck by the fact that the running was not ever really ... 'the thing', was it?

If the running wasn't the point, the relationships certainly were: the new links with churches, inspired by the stories of

refugees ... the personal friendships fired in kilns of shared pain, wonder and companionship; and my new relationship with our partner in Iraq through whom we hope *Running Home* will bear fruit. It is these relationships that now, I hope, take centre stage.

We wake to a new day of journeying, expecting to be changed a little as our companions illumine the divine image we bear, and in Rebecca's case, calling forth in song the divine breath that animates us. What a gift, and what a struggle, this year's been. I'm not sure I'm a better ultrarunner for it, but I hope I'm a better pilgrim.

Curry Night 2019

Andrew Morris was there!

One of the highlights in the Holy Trinity social calendar is Dorissia's Curry Night, held on Friday 8 November, with members from Holy Trinity joined by friends from St Margaret's and guests. As usual there were many more requests for tickets than the number of people that could be accommodated in the hall. Following the "Poem of Grace", read by David Dean, fifty-two diners were treated to a feast which included beef curry, chicken tikka, chickpea curry and lentil dahl, followed by a range of delicious desserts including fruit pavlova and chocolate torte.

Although there is no charge for tickets, donations are requested for a nominated charity, which, this year, was the Samaritans and Linda Millar from the Dunfermline Branch outlined the increasing need for the organisation in a short talk following the meal.

Curries are very popular in Britain and, in place of the usual quiz, we were given several "curry facts", delivered by Dorissia

and three other diners. Did you know that the first curry house was established in London's Mayfair in 1810 and that Queen Victoria tasted her first authentic Indian curry in 1887 when her servant Abdul Karim cooked it for her? She pronounced the curry to be 'excellent'. One item not on our menu was the well-known chicken tikka masala; some believe that this was invented in the 1970s by a chef in Glasgow who, in order to please a customer, added a tomato-cream sauce to his chicken tikka.

Raffle prizes included wine and chocolates with a separate raffle for a hamper donated by Rev Michael Patterson.

From donations and the sale of raffle tickets on the night a total of £773.00 was raised for the Samaritans. Grateful thanks are due to Dorissia and her helpers for their work in organising and preparing for the event, to members of the congregation who provided the desserts, and to the servers who helped on the night to make this another memorable and enjoyable occasion.



Area Council News

Val Leslie reports

St Margaret's played host to the West Fife Area Council on 20 November and I am delighted to report that it was very well attended. Lou Davidson from the charity Haiti Help did an absolutely fantastic talk and slide presentation, highlighting some of the people that the charity helps.

Lou began by telling Area Council that the charity's name is a play on Fife dialect: Lou and her two colleagues, all nurses from West Fife, first became involved by saying that they had to help ("we hae tae help") those people of Haiti who are thought to be the poorest people in the world. A series of man-made and natural disasters has blighted these people's lives and the people of Fife have dug deep to help them.

St Margaret's members know all about Haiti Help and bought a goat called 'Piskie' (see page 13). A photo of Piskie was passed around the assembled group as well as 'pin-ups' of goats and chickens donated by Fifers from all over the place. Lou detailed the scheme which buys goats and chickens for villagers on the island of La Gonave and told us they had just bought their own billy goat called Derek. The goats donated are usually nanny goats so, with money provided by Haiti Help the villagers decided to buy their own billy rather than hire one from the goat farm! This is good, sound, economic thinking, because the goats provide milk and meat to feed the village and allow them to be self-sufficient.

Lou also told Area Council about an orphanage that the charity supports and individual families which have benefited from the charities support.

Lou spoke about the poverty, but also spoke about the people's determination and resourcefulness; how the villagers grew crops and were determined to be self-sufficient.

Lou showed us photos of the pharmacy which the island is rightly proud of, and of children being educated at the orphanage and the Poor Schools. We learned that the people of Haiti have to pay for their children to go to school, as well as paying for school uniform. If a child does not have a uniform, they do not go to school. Which is when charities such as Haiti Help really make a difference.

Lou's presentation generated a lot of interest and there was no shortage of questions from Area Council members. I think everyone went away thinking of ways that their church could help Lou and Haiti Help. This is Area Council in action!

After Lou left, the Area Council discussed the 2020 programme. St Margaret's has agreed to host Area Council again next November.

The 2020 Lambeth Conference and the 2021 Year of Pilgrimage were raised, but Kenny said that they would be better discussed at the next meeting on 18 February at St Finians because by then the Bishop should know more about the plans for these events.

I would like to end this report by saying a huge thank you to everyone who attended Area Council. A special thanks to Erica for bringing cake and Myra for dishing out the tea and coffee. As usual St Margaret's "pushed the boat out" and did ourselves proud! Well done all!

Ed: The Area Council programme for 2020 can be found at the end of the Diary section on page 25.

Arunima Hospice visit – November 2019

Ross Stirling-Young brings us up-to-date



Ray and I have recently returned from visiting the Arunima Hospice, part of our linked diocese, The Church of North India in Kolkata. We felt it would be useful to provide members within our diocese the opportunity to hear what happened during our visit, and to give an update on the wellbeing of the many children living and supported at the hospice.

This trip would not have been possible without the help of others, so it's really important for us that we openly share our gratitude. Thanks to Rev Dr Hamilton Inbadas and members of the Global Partnerships Committee for awarding a grant towards travel costs. To Bishop Ian, for keeping the diocesan link alive and for his belief in what we do. To Bishop David, the person who introduced us to the hospice and gave insight into ways we could help. Last but certainly not least, to each and every member in this diocese who have prayed, donated, and continually sought to ask about the children.

Our recent visit held so many different emotions for me, and I truly believe it was the children that gave me a determination to return for a second visit. Travelling with my partner of 16 years also gave a different dimension to this return. To share the joy of seeing the children along with Ray, whom we have worked tirelessly since 2015 to support in different ways, was simply a dream come true.

On arrival into Kolkata (and after a long journey with flight cancellation), we were warmly greeted by several of the children and my dear friend Suvabrota. The had gone to the effort to make a banner with the words "Welcome Ross Uncle and Young Uncle". Ray found this amusing, as he was known for the entire week as Young rather than Ray, it did make him feel youthful I'm sure!



Our week-long stay was action-packed and of course, there are many stories that we would love to share with you, some sad and some filled with laughter. In a short update it's impossible to convey all that happened during that week, but we felt it appropriate to share some of the highlights.



Ed: Ross and Ray hope that they will be able to visit us to share their stories and their many pictures – each "worth a thousand words"!





Being able to visit the hospice building and see the major changes that have been made possible from fundraising here in our diocese and further afield was inspiring. The children now have a large recreational room that is used for dance lessons, musical instrument lessons, worship, and playtime. The girl's dormitory has been extended and most notably, each girl has a bed to themselves. The boy's bedroom was redecorated and several new bunk beds were purchased. The entire facility/compound was fitted with new LED lighting which ensures safety and security at night as well as much reduced electricity bills.



We met ten of the children who are currently seeking monthly sponsorship which would ensure access to education and the necessary medication to maintain good health whilst living with HIV. At present, the children are supported by the Church of North India for basic necessities such as food and medicine, but it's impossible for them to be sent to school without sponsorship. Ray and I have agreed to sponsor two of the children, at a monthly cost of £32 per child. If you or anyone you know would be interested in doing the same, please do contact us for more information. I know that Bishop Paritosh would be delighted to have your support.

On another day we were invited to dinner with Bishop Paritosh and several of the office-bearers and clergy. It was so wonderful to meet with Bishop Paritosh once again, and lovely that he remembered both Ray and me from his previous visit to Fife College in 2017. During dinner, we discussed many different topics and some great humour regarding the delights and bizarreness of some Bengali cuisine! What was really impressive was the importance placed upon our diocesan link and what changes have been made possible from this. Bishop Paritosh invited us to a more formal meeting at Bishop's House a few days later, where we were able to hear the vision for the Arunima Hospice and how that may look with assistance here in Scotland. Integral to this relationship is our two-way relationship built upon prayer. It was heartfelt for me to learn that we are included in their intercessions and the children have been praying for our return.



A highlight of our visit was taking all 38 of the children and ten staff/volunteers to Nicco Park with unlimited amusement rides and tasty lunch.



This was a time when we saw the children at their happiest. Children being children, screaming on the rides, holding hands, laughing continuously and a feeling of family. It was a little strange for Ray and me, being the only Westerners in the entire park. Not because of our ethnicity, but more so the fact that people stared and moved their own children away from us, proving that great stigma still surrounds those living with HIV in an area like West Bengal.



Towards the end of our visit, it was important that we also saw the other projects being administered under the Arunima Hospice. We visited slums, both of which have a high level of sex workers, including both very under-aged girls and mature women in their 60s. It would be a lie if we said it was an easy experience, especially when meeting the under-aged girls and seeing the horrid squalor in which they work and live. The hospice offers monetary and nutritional support in order for two clinics to operate. Project workers at each clinic support women against violence, identify human trafficking cases and educate in the prevention of HIV.



One good point is a social enterprise that was started by the Diocese of Kolkata several years ago called Nari Dana meaning “Women’s Wings”. This social enterprise empowers women by supporting them through education and skills training, ensuring the poor and disadvantaged have opportunities other than being forced into sex work. We purchased a number of handmade items from Nari Dana and plan to sell these in our own diocese, sending back the proceeds to go back into their communities.

We really could go on and on with many more experiences and stories, but hope that this short article will give you a taste of what life is like living in Kolkata. Please continue to keep the children in your prayers, for their health and a bright future.



Puzzle page

with puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1 What is next in the sequence?

≡ , 1A , ≡ , ?

2 Keeping that secret

Connie needs to send a secret message to her lover in the next village.

She knows that her lover has a padlock he can use. She has a box and also a padlock she can use. But they only have keys to their own padlocks.

How do they send a secret message to each other without anyone intercepting and reading the message?

3 The Great Wicks Bake-off!

The lady of the house needs to bake her bread for exactly 45 minutes. But the only means of measuring time she has are two wicks and a box of matches. Each wick takes one hour to burn right to the end.

How does she bake perfect bread using the wicks provided?

4 Hen-house productivity

If 600 hens lay 600 eggs in eight days, **how many eggs do 200 hens lay in two days?**

5 Watching time pass

If a sundial is a timepiece with the fewest moving parts, what timepiece has most moving parts?

October/November answers

1 What colour is your hat?

As no one sits down straight away you realise that the others must see hats of the same colour. Therefore your hat must also be of the same colour as theirs, so you put your hand up.

2 How long must you wait?

If the clock struck once at 12:15, it would continue to strike once at 12:30, 12:45, 13:00, 13:15, 13:30, and 13:45, 7 times in a row, so at 13:45 you immediately know the next strike would be twice for 2 o'clock.

So the longest time you might have to wait would be **1½ hours**.

3 How many chickens and pigs?

He has **3 chickens** (6 legs) and **6 pigs** (24 legs)

4 What does Fred buy?

Fred has bought

19 horses at £5 each = £95

1 pig at £1 each = £1

80 chickens at 5p each = £4

100 animals = £100

5 How many eggs?

He started with **15 eggs**.

Dave Ward will be happy to provide an explanation for the answers should you be stuck!

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)
Tracy Mitchell 07582 731158
kiso_0709@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)
Bob Broderick 01383 620943
robertbroderick@fife.ac.uk

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



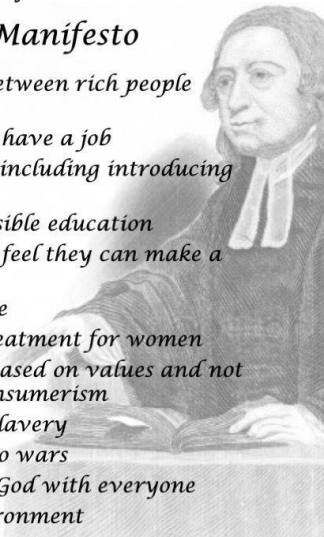
From the web



This month being election month, we thought we'd share something that popped up on your Editor's Facebook News Feed. For Mission College in Birmingham posted this, with the comment that: "Wesley's 18th century manifesto could have been written today."

John Wesley's Manifesto

1. *Reduce the gap between rich people and poor people*
2. *Help everyone to have a job*
3. *Help the poorest, including introducing a living wage*
4. *Offer the best possible education*
5. *Help everyone to feel they can make a difference*
6. *Promote tolerance*
7. *Promote equal treatment for women*
8. *Create a society based on values and not on profits and consumerism*
9. *End all forms of slavery*
10. *Avoid getting into wars*
11. *Share the love of God with everyone*
12. *Care for the environment*



Mandy Briggs responded: "I work at the New Room in Bristol, the oldest Methodist chapel in the world. This 'manifesto' is on the wall in our museum. It was put together by our historian who wanted to represent ideas and beliefs that John Wesley considered important (intended as a conversation starter). He researched Wesley's letters and his journal and came up with this list. Every point on the list can be backed up with a quote from Wesley's writings. So, even if John Wesley did not write this list word-for-word, he certainly wrote about each one of these issues as well as preaching the Gospel of Christ."

The college said that the manifesto had been "informally sourced from a Methodist media site (<https://tinyurl.com/uow9o6p>): the 'manifesto' is on the first page and John Wesley's words on the second, sadly without reference details, though a search of his sermons and writings would no doubt unearth them. Put into modern English, certainly gives food for thought in the current context."

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 2 February 2020, and its theme will be "**Inspirational pieces!**" Please let Howard have your contributions by the end of play on **Sunday 19 January**, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.