

Rosyth
Methodist Church



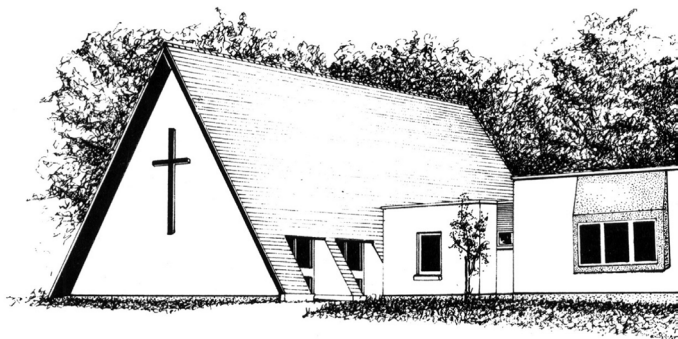
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 107
February/March 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

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** An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue*

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

10.00am Joint Communion Service [NB new time, see page 12]

10.30am "Messy Church" (during term time)

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 church is a short walk from Rosyth Rail station. The car park is behind the church and local on-street parking is limited, but there is much more parking space at the junction with Park Road.

Contact

Newsletter of the Methodist—Episcopalian local ecumenical partnership in Rosyth

Issue 107: February/March 2020

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From the Editor's Desk

From looking back at Christmas to looking forward to Easter, this issue covers a lot of ground. Particularly interesting are the innovative ways of presenting the Christian message in the first two of the three sermons reprinted in this issue. (The context of the third is a funeral (see page 15); and that of the fourth, the Covenant service, can be read or listened to on the website, see 'Following the Light' in this issue).

Now to what extent do readers of CONTACT like to read sermons? For that matter, what do our readers like to read about in CONTACT? I would welcome feedback on your "5 most liked" and "5 least-liked" types of material in CONTACT. I also need to decide whether or not to continue with announcing a theme for the forthcoming issue, so I would welcome your views on that.

Finally may I draw attention to the "Change of time for Joint Communion" notice on page 12.

Howard R Kirby

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Closing date for April/ May 2020 issue: Sunday 15th March 2020

The Nativity Play

The Nativity play this year was performed by children and adults from both churches. It was the story of the nativity from the point of view of a clumsy camel named Clem. Clem really wanted to be like the other camels and carry precious loads across the desert but he was very wobbly when he got up and down so no one would choose him.



It was a lovely play and everyone taking part and watching really enjoyed it. It was wonderful to have the joining of both churches to participate. The moral of the story about Jesus helping us to overcome our difficulties along with the story of Jesus's birth really came though and all of the children and adults participating helped to tell the story beautifully. It was a privilege to be a part of it.

Louise Cox

Then one day the three wise men came needing camels and they choose Clem. He carried the wise men and saw Mary, Joseph and Jesus. He felt overwhelmed with joy and when he bowed he didn't wobble at all.

Inspirational Carols

Julia Reid reflects on her choice of new carols on 29th December

Christmas may by now seem like a dim and distant memory. But I'm dragging you back there now with a short article to remind you of a couple of new Christmas hymns which were sung at the Methodist service on 29th December.

Of course, introducing one new hymn can sometimes be folly, introducing two is far from inspired, but I seek forgiveness on the basis that only one was new to me...and both were to familiar tunes.

Our theme for the service was about stripping back the Christmas Card images of a cosy stable and reminding ourselves that Jesus' struggles with adversity didn't begin on the cross but in fact started right from the beginning of his human incarnation. It was for this reason that I chose to go with number 220 in Singing the Faith where the fourth verse begins 'Songs that paint a cosy Christmas miss the truth of God above!'

This hymn/carol is written by Peter Relf who I believe to be a Methodist Local Preacher and former Connexional Local Preachers' Secretary. Copyright restrictions prevent me from giving you the full word listing in Contact, but I encourage you to take a peek at number 220. The music is 'Irby' which you will be familiar with as 'Once in royal David's city'.

My second 'new' hymn was actually one of my favourites, hence it wasn't meant to be 'new'. Again it's sung to a well-kent and much loved tune...this time Scarlet Ribbons. In Singing the Faith it is number 222 and it was written by the fabulous Iona Community songwriters John L. Bell and Graham Maule. The words encourage us to view Christmas and Christ incarnate from a different angle, allowing ourselves to be surprised again and again as we consider how much 'God surprises earth with heaven, coming here on Christmas Day'.

We subsequently learned that Graham Maule's earthly life ended on the very day we sang his hymn at Rosyth - a small but fitting tribute that will be repeated year after year by many I am sure. So much of what he has written could fall under the title of 'inspirational pieces', along with his many other accomplishments. For further information about Graham, including a link to the eulogy from his funeral, see <https://iona.org.uk/2020/01/10/funeral-of-graham-maule/>

Julia Reid

How do you like your God served?

On 12 January the Church's year came round to the baptism of the Lord in the Jordan by John the Baptist. The Rev Michael Paterson's homily at the Sung Eucharist was presented in an unusual and very memorable way, and it offered a challenge to everyone who has been baptised.

Readings: Isaiah 42: 1–9; Acts 10: 34–4; Matthew 3: 13–17

“How do you like your steak served?”, she asked. “Rare? Medium rare? Well done?”

“Cremated”, I replied! By the look on her face, “cremated” wasn’t an option on her list.

Today’s readings pose the question: “How do you like your God served?”

- helpless as a baby, cooing and gurgling in a manger?
- a boy playing in Mary and Joseph’s house?
- an angry activist overturning tables in the Temple?
- or an itinerant preacher, healing the sick and raising the dead?

I ask, because in seven short days we have gone from Jesus the adorable baby receiving birthday presents from the Wise Men to Jesus the headstrong adult, demanding to be baptised by John in the River Jordan.

Baptising a God doesn’t make sense. Baptism – especially the baptism of adults – is for sinners. It’s church’s version of ‘Wash and Go’.

- Wash off the old life and Go and live the new one.
- Wash off the past and Go and live God’s future
- Wash off the life of sin and Go and live the life of holiness

So what’s Jesus, the Holy One, doing playing the role of a sinner? Baptism is not for people like him. Baptism is for people like us who mess up, and spoil things, and need a new start in life.

And yet it’s precisely here, when Jesus identifies himself with all that goes horribly wrong in the world, that the silence of heaven is broken and the Father speaks up “This is my Son my beloved – My favour rests on him”.

Isn’t it odd that we don’t hear a peep from heaven when Jesus turns water into wine? Isn’t it peculiar that we don’t hear a word when Jesus heals the sick? Isn’t it strange that God offers no divine round of applause when Jesus feeds the 5,000 or raises Lazarus from the dead? Instead, what wins heaven’s seal of approval is that Jesus makes his baptism the very first act of his public ministry, and in so doing makes it abundantly clear that he aligns himself with those who are messed up and that his place is with those whose lives haven’t quite worked out and that he chooses to stand shoulder to shoulder with those who are haunted by their pasts and long for a new future.

Let’s face it, Jesus could have wowed the crowds by launching himself on to

the world stage with some great big glitzy miracle, or blown their minds by some amazing teaching. But no! He launches his ministry by

- plunging himself
- soaking himself
- immersing himself

in the dirt and scum and detritus of all that is broken and toxic in the world. And it's then, and only then, that the Father's voice resounds: "That's my boy!"

The Baptism of Jesus asks each of us who have been baptised to take a good look at ourselves. Are we miracle-chasers, hungry for the spiritual X Factor, season-ticket holders in a religious circus? Or, like Jesus, are we willing to get our feet wet, and wade in and immerse ourselves and stand shoulder to shoulder with those around us who are barely managing to keep their heads above water?

So, back to that question: "How do you like your God served?" Helpless, lying in a manger, an object for adoration, or passionate and fierce, a trailblazer in the campaign against all that is toxic and dehumanizing in the world?

Let's pray that this week we who have been baptised might stand shoulder to shoulder with those God sends our way. And that, when we do, we might just hear the Father break heaven's silence once more, as he whispers in our ears: "You are my beloved Son, you are my beloved daughter. My favour rests on you!"

The Temptation of Power

David Rogerson's amusing preamble underlaid 2 addresses on 19 January

1: Avoiding three common errors

Mark: 1:12-13 and Matthew 4:1-11

One of my colleagues regularly sends me jokes that he himself receives from another work contact. Most go quickly into the virtual bin, but just occasionally I receive one that is worth repeating. What's more this one came with a challenge to include it in a sermon. This being my first visit to Rosyth, most of you don't know me but, if you did, you would know that I don't often sidestep such a challenge. So here goes – the story of the Atheist and the Grizzly Bear.

An atheist was walking through the woods. "What majestic trees, what powerful rivers, what beautiful animals" he said to himself. As he was walking, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him and, turning to look, he saw a 7-foot high grizzly bear coming towards him. He ran as fast as he could, but the bear was faster and eventually he tripped and fell to the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up only to find the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw ready to strike ...

At that instant the Atheist cried out: "Oh my God!"

Continued on page 8

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky: "You deny my existence for all these years, teach others that I don't exist and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you really expect me to help you out of this predicament?"

The atheist looked directly into the light: "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as a Christian now, but perhaps you could make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well" said the voice, and the light went out. Immediately the bear dropped his right paw, brought both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "For what I am about to receive may the Lord make me truly thankful."

Apart from that nice twist at the end, what's in this story for us today? Well, the man (and it did have to be a man, didn't it, as no woman would be quite so foolish) made three basic mistakes.

1) He failed to read the signs in nature. His wonder and amazement may well have been genuine, but they did not translate into worship of the Creator God, and nature-worship alone was proven rather suspect when he met that equally natural phenomenon, a grizzly bear.

2) He misunderstood the God he didn't believe in. Give him credit, he realized the trap of hypocrisy – playing God as a Get Out of Jail Card – but he fell into a different trap. He

assumed that God has infinite power to convert subjects to his will, rather than believing in the God of infinite love letting his subjects make their own choices.

3) He is abjectly anthropomorphic – in other words he considers humanity to be at the heart of life and, even more abjectly, he considers his own humanity to be the thing that matters the most. Thus, he projects human emotions, even his own emotions, on to both God and the bear.

Three mistakes = a terrible result. But at least the bear had a nice dinner.

How differently things might have worked out if the atheist had read Matthew Chapter 4. In today's gospel reading we are presented with an alternative view on each of the three points where the atheist failed. Let's look at each in turn.

1) Firstly, reading the signs to find God. Matthew is especially good at this for almost everything in his gospel has been crafted to position it as the fulfilment of God's revelation to the Jewish people. There are more than 60 quotes from the Old Testament in Matthew and more than 40 times Matthew says "it is written in Scripture that ..." So, whereas Mark simply tells us that after his baptism Jesus went into the wilderness to reflect on what it meant to be the beloved Son of God, Matthew gives us a full account of what happened with a scriptural reference for each of the temptations. We may not be as

forensic in our approach – indeed Matthew goes so far it is often hard for the modern mind to go along with him – but we need to be able to read the signs, to notice them, to reflect upon them and to articulate them. Come and see, was Jesus call to his disciples, and that is basically all that is required of us too.

2) Secondly, we need to think of God less in terms of power and more in terms of love. Maybe that's not quite right, because all the temptations that Jesus encounters are really only temptations because God is all powerful; but what really, truly matters and always matters more is what an all-loving God should and will do with such unlimited power. In the words of our next hymn: "drained is love in making full; bound in setting others free; poor in making many rich; weak in giving power to be." That's the God we believe in, the God we see in Jesus, the God we are all called to find incarnate in our own lives.

3) Thirdly, we need to cure ourselves of anthropomorphism. You, me, the human race, planet Earth, our solar system ... none of these is at the centre of life, the be all and end all of existence. The atheist thought he could bargain with God, get the better of God, win the argument in a clever way. But he couldn't. The Devil tried the same trick with Jesus. We have no way of knowing how close he came to success but thankfully Jesus was in touch with the divine being within himself and found the strength to say

"No". Then he went on to call his disciples to do likewise: "Follow me," he said. It is illogical, impossibly idealistic, crazy, counter-intuitive and uncomfortable. But there is also something deeply attractive within this call – to look beyond ourselves, beyond our race, beyond our world and through all the suffering that this entails find the essence of being itself. To find God.

The atheist made three mistakes. If he had made none of them – if he had found God in nature, if he had seen God's essential nature as Love not Power, and if he had abandoned himself to God's call and followed him – then the last words of the story would have been the same, only they would have been said by the man rather than the bear: "For what I am about to receive, may the Lord make me truly thankful."

[Ed: Address 2 of David Rogerson's sermon, "Overcoming three powerful temptations" will be in the next issue.]

Music corner

G&S at Carnegie

Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society are in action again, and the launch date for **HMS Pinafore** is fast approaching. So it's time to get your tickets for what promises to be a very lively show, which is on at the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline, from **Thursday to Saturday 20-22 February**, evenings at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinée at 2.30pm. Tickets for all performances are £15, with the usual concessions at £14, and £5 for under-16s. You can order tickets from Gwyneth Kirby or Ann Duly, who will both be on stage, or email Martin Tarr (martin@mtarr.co.uk) with your requirements.

Dunfermline Choral Union

This year's spring concert features 2 contrasting choral works - the Scottish premiere of Rebecca Dale's 'Requiem For My Mother' and also Faure's 'Requiem'. With a choir of over a hundred singers this promises to be an eventful evening! The concert is at **7.30pm on Saturday 7 March** at the Vine Conference Centre in Dunfermline. Tickets from Mary Kidd, Gwyneth Kirby or Myra Tarr.

Scottish Chamber Choir

The choir are celebrating International Women's Day with a concert in the St Giles at Six series at **6.00pm on Sunday 8 March**. Their programme features a wide range of

women composers from the early medieval Hildegard of Bingen to a Magnificat written by Judith Bingham in 2017 – not forgetting some great Edwardian-period French compositions by Lili Boulanger! Head for St Giles' Cathedral, Royal Mile, Edinburgh, EH1 1RE. No need to book, and the concert is free entry, with a retiring collection in aid of St Giles' Music. More information from Martin Tarr.

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society

The next KOS concert is being performed twice - the first occasion will be at **St Columba's High School in Dunfermline at 7.30 pm on Friday 20 March**. They then reprise the concert at the **Old Kirk in Kirkcaldy at 3.00 pm on Sunday 22 March**. In the past the number attending in Dunfermline has been rather disappointing so KOS are keen to attract more local folk this year. Tickets are only £9 to hear a symphony orchestra of over fifty players! Adrian Masson is happy to order in advance (preferred approach) or folk should be able to buy at the door. The concert includes two compositions by Dunfermline composer John Gourlay – Adrian's colleague on oboe. Other composers featured in this varied and tuneful concert are Mendelssohn, Gounod, Marquez, Walton, Arnold, Britten and Mozart.

RSCM Scottish Voices

The choir will sing Choral Evensong in Dunfermline Abbey on **Saturday 14 March at 4pm** - musical director Frikki Walker, organist Matthew Beetschen (Director of Music, Dunfermline Abbey). We don't often get a chance to attend Choral Evensong locally so do come along and enjoy the experience! RSCM Scottish Voices is an adult choir that aims to draw together some of

the most accomplished and experienced church musicians across Scotland (primarily) to perform approximately six times a year in a variety of venues around the country. The Musical Director is Frikki Walker, the Director of Music at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow and Associate of the RSCM (ARSCM) in recognition of his work in music and liturgy in Scotland.

The World Day of Prayer 2020

Informed Prayer, Powerful Action

This year's World Day of Prayer service, **'Rise, take up your mat and walk'** has been written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe.

The country has been in the news recently. The newly elected president has been sworn in after a long and disputed election. Churches and ecumenical organisations are actively promoting peace education and civic awareness to engage the communities in peaceful participation.

(If you want information and projects and initiatives recommended by WDP Zimbabwe, please contact www.worlddayofprayer.net).

Our local service in the Rosyth and District area will be held on **Friday, March 6th at 2 pm**, in **Rosyth Parish Church**. This is a change from the venue designated before,

Inverkeithing Baptist, because they are not in a position to host it this year and have sadly declined from the undertaking. We are very grateful to the Parish Church, and Lena Morris, for agreeing to be the host church at such short notice. There is a **Preparatory meeting** at the Parish church at 2pm on Friday 7 February.

2022 is looming near, and I ask you to continue to pray for the preparations for the next **WDP International Committee** to be held here in Scotland, 12-19 June 2022. We will need a lot of offers of help as we offer a traditional Scottish welcome to over 150 visitors from approximately 100 countries around the world.

Mary Kidd

Change of time for Joint Communion

At the last joint Council/Vestry meeting held on 13 November 2019 a change in time for the joint service was discussed and to quote from the minutes "The proposal is that from February 2020 the joint communion service would start at 10am. It was agreed that this was a sensible move."

This change represents a change in timing for both congregations and will apply to all joint services. It is appropriate to say that it will be kept under review by the joint Council/Vestry meeting, the next one being on 13 May.

Preparing for Easter

Ecumenical Study Group

We are currently looking at the 'in between years' in the life of Jesus. If you don't know what these are - why not come and find out? We meet on **Mondays at 7pm** in the Parish Church. All are very welcome.

The Lenten study group will start on either **Monday 24 February or 2 March** and run during Lent using Embrace the Middle East material. Watch the weekly Sunday notices for more details. All will be most welcome to come along to the Parish Church. Each session will start at **7pm** and finish with refreshments, usually about 9pm. If you are interested, talk to Alan Taylor for further information.

Two chances for Bible Study

Kenny and Eddie will each be offering a series of Lenten Bible Studies but at different times and places. Kenny's will again this year be on **Wednesday evenings** in Lent, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, when the Gospel for the following Sunday will be read and discussed. The series begins on **Wednesday 4 March** and finishes on **Wednesday 1 April**. Each meeting will start at **7.00pm** ending with Compline by 8.15pm. Last year the studies were well attended, with people coming when they could. All are most welcome to come along this year – bring your Bible!

Eddie also plans to use the Gospels with the theme "Following the Gospel readings for Lent 2020" for his Lent Bible Studies. The group will meet in

our Church on **Thursdays** at **10.30am** for 5 weeks starting on **5 March** and finishing on **2 April**. Everyone is welcome.

Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is on **Wednesday 26 February** when there will be the usual Sung Eucharist at **7.00pm**, including the imposition of ashes. Everyone will be most welcome, whether or not they are Episcopalians, as we prepare to mark the beginning of Lent

Sunday@Six

After a couple of months break these start again in March and we warmly invite you to join us for 3 very different forms of evening worship during Lent.

Ross Stirling-Young will be leading a Taizé inspired service - The Joy of Turning to God - to begin your Lenten journey on **1 March at 6pm**. This will be a time to focus on your heart and to think of your own spiritual heart and take part in short chants, prayers and times of silence.

On **Sunday 15 March, again at 6pm** we are delighted that our worship will be jointly led by Julia Reid, our Methodist Probationer Minister and the Rev Michael Paterson. This promises to be a thoughtful and evocative evening – not to be missed!

Then on **Palm Sunday 5 April at 6 pm** as we enter Holy Week, St Margaret's augmented choir will perform John Stainer's 'The Crucifixion' (page 27). We hope to see you there!

Holy Week services

With **Easter Sunday** falling on **12 April**, when we celebrate the Risen Lord – details of all the services, including those at other churches in Rosyth, are not yet fully available. Full details will appear on the weekly notice sheet and website diary and also in the April/May edition of Contact. However, we know that Stainer's Crucifixion will be sung on Palm Sunday, Holy Communion will be celebrated by Kenny at Wednesday Fellowship on **8 April at 2.15pm**. and on Maundy Thursday we will commemorate the Last Supper at **7.00pm**. On Good Friday, the time still to be confirmed - probably **2pm to 3pm** - there will be a service of meditation and readings followed by refreshments and hot cross buns. An invitation is open to everyone to join all or any of these services as we remember this most holy week in the life of our Lord.

And after Easter Sunday, an open air service? Help sought!

Jenni Gill is looking for a few volunteers to help the Exploring Church Together working group put together a joint Methodist/Episcopalian open air service in Rosyth over the Easter period. This would be a great way to visibly celebrate Christ in Rosyth and open ourselves more to our local community. Please could any willing helpers get in touch with her on j.e.gill@talktalk.net

Fellowship News—1

Messy Church Party

In mid-December Messy Church got together for a wonderful Christmas party to finish up a year of fun, games and creativity in style. The event was organised by Gwyneth, Jean, Val, Jan and Martin and they'd planned a fantastic couple of hours as well as provided an incredible spread of food for all the young families to enjoy.

We began with a game and then some craft - making baubles - before tucking into the delicious party tea. There was a chance to run off our elevated calorie intake after by playing with the parachute - cue balls flying in every direction hotly pursued by children of all ages (plus an adult or two).



We calmed down with another activity - decorating Christmas gingerbread men - before we heard the exciting news that Santa knew we were celebrating and wanted to join in! A rousing chorus of Jingle Bells guided

Father Christmas into the room and everyone loved receiving a present from him.



Once we'd waved goodbye (he's a busy chap in December) we gathered in a circle and closed, as always, with the Grace. It really was a brilliant afternoon and I know I speak for all the church children when I say how grateful they and their families are for the effort and time that goes into organising Messy Church throughout the whole year. It's always great fun and as a grown up attendee even we learn a lot more about God each month, so I know the young people do too! Thank you so much to all the volunteers and we are looking forward very much to more messiness in 2020.

Jenni Gill

Fellowship News—2

Erica's milestone

Belated congratulations to Erica Lock who celebrated her 80th birthday on Tuesday 10 December with her family in Stonehaven. St Margaret's remembered the occasion the Sunday before with lovely flowers and a cake.

Erica had occasionally attended St Margaret's Naval Base Church where her son Gerard was baptised and confirmed. It was Eve Denning, an old friend, who invited Erica to come with her to 'Back to Church Sunday' in September 2009 when Erica was looking after Eve whilst her daughter Julie was in hospital having a hip operation. And Erica has been with us ever since! Within weeks she was offering her services and still plays an active part in so many different aspects of St Margaret's life. She loves providing refreshments at any event – Sunday mornings and evenings, the Area Council meetings here, and especially Wednesday Fellowship – where she is 'in charge' of the catering. Erica has been our alternate lay representative for the last few years, and we thank her for her involvement in Diocesan matters. Beyond St Margaret's, Erica is passionate about the service offered by Rosyth Foodbank where she works tirelessly on our behalf as a volunteer every Friday.

Above all Erica is always happy to provide a listening ear or a willing

hand to anyone. Thank you Erica for all you do for the church, the congregations and beyond - we all appreciate your friendship.

Welcome to Ross

We are delighted that Ross Stirling-Young is worshipping with St Margaret's until 1 March. Ross, no stranger to St Margaret's, and a frequent contributor to Contact, is undergoing a discernment process within the Diocese and is currently on a placement under Kenny's guidance. As well as attending the 9.30am Sunday service, you will see Ross at Triangles and Wednesday Fellowship where he is looking forward to meeting all the attendees as well as getting an insight into how we and Rosyth Methodists work together in our partnership. On his last Sunday, Ross will lead a Taizé service as our Sunday@Six so do come along if you can to support him. We welcome Ross for the all too short time he is with us and we pray that he will be guided towards his future vocation at this important time in his life.

Farewell to John

The life of John Cowell, who died on 2nd December 2019, is commemorated in these pages by the family's eulogy (pages 30–31); and the sermon by Rev Eddie Sykes that followed had a resonance that might be appreciated by a wider audience; you can find that on pages 29 -30.

Fellowship News—3

Wednesday Fellowship

Time passes so quickly and it's hard to believe that our Wednesday Fellowship is about to restart its Spring session. Our membership numbers continue to grow even though some of our older members are not able to come regularly. We miss them very much. New members who have joined this year certainly seem to enjoy the afternoon fellowship; they are always assured of a warm welcome.

The first session will be a devotional one and, as before, will be led by Hilary Henderson, one of our circuit Methodist Local Preachers. We look forward to her sixth visit to us on February 5th, and the following week we will welcome a visit from the Samaritans. More details of the Spring session are on the notice boards in the crush hall, and members will each be given a syllabus. There will also be news and updates in the Contact magazine.

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

will support Action for Children by saving our small coins.

Several members have expressed their gratitude for the lovely 'MaryMade' birthday cards received on their birthdays, and have asked me to pass on special thanks to Mary Dempster for beautifully made cards. This year she has made several 'Get Well' cards, too.

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

Mary Kidd

Following the light

This was the topic for the sermon that Rev Eddie Sykes preached at our Joint Communion and Covenant Service, which was very much to the point, and contained a number of thoughts and calls to action that we felt you would want to hear again. If you visit either of our church websites and look for the post "Following the Light" in our "Thought for the Month" category – or, during February, just click on the Home page image of Jesus calling the first disciples – you'll see some extracts and be able to click on links to read the whole sermon or to listen to it again.

Martin Tarr

Diary for February 2020

Sunday 2 February

Candlemas	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Ms Julia Reid
	Note: No Sunday@Six		

Monday 3 Feb	7.00pm	Ecumenical Study Group looks at the 'in between' years in the life of Jesus Rosyth Parish Church (see page 12)
	7.30pm	Exploring Church Together meets at Jenni's house

Tuesday 4 Feb	9.45am	EDWJ meets at Mary Kidd's house 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 Tea, Chat and Devotion – Mrs Hilary Henderson
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Friday 7 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion (see page 27)

Sunday 9 February

Epiphany 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Cafe Church	Miss Anne Baird and Mr Allan Henderson

Monday 10 Feb	7.00pm	Ecumenical Study Group looks at the 'in between' years in the life of Jesus Rosyth Parish Church (see page 12)
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Wednesday 12 Feb	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker from The Samaritans
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Friday 14 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion

Diary for February 2020

Sunday 16 February

Epiphany 6 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 11.00am Morning Worship Rev Eddie Sykes

Monday 17 Feb 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting
 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, looks at the 'in between'
 years in the life of Jesus
 Rosyth Parish Church (see page 12)

Tuesday 18 Feb 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council meeting,
 St Finnian's Lochgelly
 Guest speaker Ross Stirling-Young, who will update
 us on the work of the Arunima Hospice. All
 interested are welcome to attend (see page 24)

Wednesday 19 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker Patricia Galfskiy—The story of Jennie
 Lee

Thursday 20 Feb 7.00pm Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting, City of
 Edinburgh Methodist Church

Friday 21 Feb 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Note: no choir practice

Sunday 23 February

Sunday before Lent 10.00am Joint Communion Service Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
 10.30am Messy Church

Monday 24 Feb 7.00pm tbc Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish
 Church
 Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website
 diary see page 12)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 26 Feb 2.15 pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker Ross Stirling-Young – Arunima
 Project
 7.00pm Sung Eucharist and imposition of ashes

Diary for March 2020

Friday 28 Feb	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	7.00pm	Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion	
Saturday 29 Feb	11.30am	Circuit discussion on marriage and relationships 2019 consultation	
	to 2.00pm	Stirling Methodist Church (see page 25)	
Sunday 1 March			
Lent 1	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Anniversary Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six – Taizé led worship with Ross Stirling- Young (see page 13)	
Monday 2 Mar	7.00pm	Circuit discussion on marriage and relationships 2019 –20 consultation	
	to 9.30pm	City of Edinburgh Methodist Church (see page 25)	
	7.00pm	Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary see page 12)	
Tuesday 3 Mar	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 4 Mar	2.15 pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker to be advised	
	7.00pm	Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 12)	
Thursday 5 Mar	10.30am	Lenten Study Group in our church (see page 12)	
Friday 6 Mar	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall onwards	tea, coffee and home baking
	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service in Rosyth Parish Church (see page 11)	
	7.00pm	Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion	
Saturday 7 Mar	9.30am	Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth finishes with a Eucharist in the afternoon	

Diary for March 2020

Saturday 7 Mar 7.30pm Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert
 Scottish premiere of Rebecca Dale's 'Requiem For
 My Mother' and Faure's 'Requiem'
 Vine Centre, Dunfermline (see page 10)

Sunday 8 March

Lent 2 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 11.00am Café Church Mr Edward Idle
 6.00pm Scottish Chamber Choir – Celebrating Women
 Composers
 St Giles Cathedral, Royal Mile, Edinburgh
 (see page 11)

Monday 9 Mar 7.00pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group at Rosyth Parish
 Church
 Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website
 diary)

Wednesday 11 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
 Guest speaker Hamish Brown – WW2 Escape from
 Singapore
 7.00pm Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see
 page 12)

Thursday 12 Mar 10.30am Lenten Study Group in our church (see page 12)

Friday 13 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
 onwards tea, coffee and home baking
 7.00pm Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion

Saturday 14 Mar 4.00pm RSCM Scottish Voices sing Evensong at Dunfermline
 Abbey (see page 11)

Sunday 15 March

Lent 3 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
 11.00am Morning Worship Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
 6.00pm Sunday@Six with a Lenten theme
 led by Julia Reid and Rev Michael Paterson
 (see page 13)

Diary for March 2020

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Monday 16 Mar | 7.00pm | Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |
| Wednesday 18 Mar | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:
Messy Church with Jan Benvie and Gwyneth Kirby |
| | 7.00pm | Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall
(see page 12) |
| Thursday 19 Mar | 10.30am | Lenten Study Group in our church (see page 12) |
| Friday 20 Mar | 9.30am | Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking |
| | 7.00pm | Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion |
| | 7.30pm | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Spring Concert
'Family Connections', St Columba's High School,
Dunfermline (see page 10) |
| Saturday 21 Mar | 10.30am
until 3.30pm | Bible Month Event district training day
Perth Methodist Church (see page 24) |
| Sunday 22 March | | |
| Mothering Sunday | | |
| (Lent 4) | 10.00am | Joint Communion Service Rev Eddie Sykes
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service |
| | 10.30am | Messy Church |
| | 3.00pm | Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Spring Concert
'Family Connections', Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy
(see page 10) |
| Monday 23 Mar | 7.00pm | Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary) |
| Wednesday 25 Mar | 2.15pm | Wednesday Fellowship:
Jan Benvie – Society of St Francis (SSF) hospitality |

Diary for March 2020

- 7.00pm Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see page 12)
- 7.00pm A spiritual response to Climate Change
Grassmarket Community Project, 86 Candlemaker
Row Edinburgh EH1 2QA (see page 24)
- Thursday 26 Mar 10.30am Lenten Study Group in our church (see page 12)
- Friday 27 Mar 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
- 7.00pm Choir practice for Stainer's Crucifixion

Sunday 29 March

British Summer Time begins at 1.00am

- Lent 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Very Rev Kenny Rathband
- 11.00am Morning Worship Mr David Andrews
- Monday 30 Mar 7.00pm Ecumenical Lent Study Group, Rosyth Parish
Church
Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website
diary)
- Wednesday 1 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Guest speaker: Daryl Watson from British Heart
Foundation
- 7.00pm Lent Bible Study in Holy Trinity Church Hall (see
page 12)
- Thursday 2 Apr 10.30am Lenten Study Group in our church (see page 12)
- Friday 3 Apr 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
- 7.00pm Choir final rehearsal for Stainer's Crucifixion in the
church; with Jill Goode (guest conductor)

Sunday 5 April

Provisional Diary for early April 2020

Palm Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist and blessing and distribution of palms	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Iain Hampson
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six – Stainer’s Crucifixion (see page 13)	
Monday 6 Apr	7.00pm	tbc Passover Meal Rosyth Parish Church Details later (on weekly joint sheet and website diary)	
Tues 7 Apr	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
Wednesday 8 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Holy Week Communion Very Rev Kenny Rathband	
Maundy Thursday	7.00pm	Commemoration of the Last Supper All welcome from both churches	
Good Friday	tbc 2.00pm	Service of readings and prayers followed by refreshments and hot cross buns. All invited from local churches	
Sunday 12 April			
Easter Day	9.30am	Sung Eucharist with blessing of the Paschal Candle	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	11.00am	Easter Communion	Rev Eddie Sykes

What's coming up

In the Diocese

St Andrews West Area Council

The first meeting of 2020 will be held on **Tuesday 18 February** at **7.30pm** to 9.15pm in **St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly**. Our guest speaker is Ross Stirling-Young, who will update us on the work of the Arunima Hospice. There may also be news of plans for The Provincial Year of the Pilgrimage, which the College of Bishops has designated for 2021 from Epiphany 6 January to St Andrews Day 30 November.

Meetings are open to all members of the congregations. St Margaret's is always well represented so do come along if this topic interests you.

The SEC will be encouraging as many people as possible to make a holy journey of some kind. This can include taking part in an organised pilgrimage or spending time individually or in groups simply focussing on our own spiritual journeys. As plans take shape we can expect to hear a lot about this during 2020, especially through the Provincial and Diocesan website.

In the Circuit

Bible Month Training Day

Bible Month is an opportunity for churches to spend 30 days focused on a single biblical book. 2020 will focus on the book of Ruth. In preparation for this, we are hosting a district

training day on **Saturday 21 March** from **10.30am–3.30pm** in **Perth Methodist Church**, Scott Street, Perth, PH2 8JN. Registration and tea/coffee are available from 10.00am. Lunch is provided. Our keynote speaker is Professor Tom Greggs, the Marischal Chair at the University of Aberdeen and a Methodist local preacher.

This event will help those involved in preaching, leading worship, or small groups, to consider how they will utilise materials in their contexts as they prepare for Bible Month in June.

Lunch is provided and will cater for gluten free, low sugar, dairy free and vegetarian diets.

For more information about Bible Month visit <http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth>. To book, please use the booking link https://bible_month_training_day_ruth.eventbrite.co.uk

Events elsewhere

A Spiritual Response to Climate Change

On **Wednesday 25 March** from **7.00pm to 9.30pm** in the Grassmarket Centre, 86 Candlemaker Row Edinburgh EH1 2QA there will be a conversation with renowned author Alastair McIntosh (Soil and Soul, Hell and High Water and Poacher's

Pilgrimage) and international mediator and author Ken Cloke (Mediating Dangerously and The Crossroads of Conflict; founder of Mediators Beyond Borders). The event will be facilitated by John Sturrock QC

Places are expected to fill quickly. Tickets are free via the Eventbrite website. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-spiritual-response-to-climate-change-tickets-86913172639>

which also contains additional information about the event. Refreshments on arrival at 6.30pm.

Methodist walking pilgrimage: Glasgow to Whithorn

An opportunity for anyone with an interest in Christian spirituality to join together and travel as pilgrims on foot, by train and bus from Glasgow to

Whithorn in Galloway then to disperse from Dumfries.

From **Monday 24th to Saturday 29th August 2020**

Leaders: The leaders/chaplains for the group will be Rev. Andrew Baker, Superintendent Minister of Strathclyde circuit and Jill Baker, local preacher and former Vice-President of the Methodist Conference. Both have walked this route in its entirety in August 2018 and have re-walked all sections several times.

A good level of fitness is required. Further details of this (including walking conditions) and of cost; accommodation; prayer and worship; and itinerary are included in a separate leaflet. If having read all this, you wish to join this pilgrimage, an application form must be completed. Copies of both are available in the church office.

Marriage and Relationships 2019-20 Consultation within the Methodist Church

Discussion events relating to marriage and relationships and the God in Love Unites Us consultation are taking place in the Circuit in February and March. The dates are **Saturday 29 February from 11:30am to 2pm in Stirling Methodist Church** and **Monday 2 March from 7pm to 9:30pm in City of Edinburgh Methodist Church**. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be provided.

As the Church prepares for a final decision on same-sex marriage at Conference this year, we in the Methodist community are called upon to gather in grace and in love, to respectfully reflect on our understandings of marriage and relationships. Discussion will be in accordance with Methodist understanding of scriptural interpretation and reflection,

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Continued from page 25 (Marriage and Relationships...)

bringing together the fourfold principles of Reflection, Experience, Scripture, and Tradition, to inform our conversations with one another.

We ask that all who enter into these discussions do so with an open mind and open heart, remembering that each of us live with different convictions, but that we are all united in the grace, mercy and love of God.

For more information, please contact Emma McCabe, Community Outreach & Engagement Officer for Stirling Methodist Church, who will be helping to facilitate these conversations, at oppstir@outlook.com

(Ed: On 13 January the Rev Dr Jonathan Hustler gave an update on the God in Love Unites Us consultation details of which can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/upuc5au>)

A ranger in Lesotho

Shannon Jade (a member of our Ranger unit and also a young leader with the Guide unit) was selected through the INTOPS (“International Operations”) process to go with a like-minded group of girls that wanted to educate and learn with the Lesotho Girl Guides.

Of the experience she writes “Over the 2 weeks I’ve had the most amazing time in Lesotho, working with an amazing group of people to help teach



and learn from the Lesotho guides. We met with brownies and guides to play games, we learned about their schooling and guides; the younger girls showed us how to make paper crafts and bracelets from sweetie wrappers; and we taught them to sew their own period pads. We were able to visit a girl’s home and gained an insight to the Lesotho culture . We were given traditional blankets and woven hats to try on. Our host also let us try on traditional handmade dresses.”

A Palm Sunday invitation



To our congregations

If you thought “That image looks familiar”, it’s because we used the crown of thorns when our augmented choir last performed Stainer’s sacred oratorio *The Crucifixion* in 2012.

Last time our musical meditation was on a Good Friday; this year we’re using it as Sunday@Six on Palm Sunday, by way of an introduction to Holy Week.

As in 2012, we’ll be joined at the organ by Willie Campbell from Dunfermline Abbey, and directed by our friend Jill Goode.

So, make a note of the date, which is **5 April**, and tell your friends.

To any singers

As in 2012, St Margaret’s choir are seeking extra singers to augment our numbers. Preparing for *Crucifixion* will take over our regular choir practices, which are on **Fridays from 7 February** (except 21 February) in the Church Lounge from **7.00pm to 8.00pm**. We’ll be starting with “note-bashing” and gradually working up to the complete work, and extra singers are welcome to join us at any stage, depending on how well they know the work.

The only requirement is that everybody should be able to come (knowing the notes!) on **Friday 3 April**, when Jill will take the final rehearsal in the church from **7:00pm to about 9:00pm**. However, we need to make sure we will have enough singers in each part, so it would be helpful to know as soon as possible if you’d like to sing with us, and whether/how we should get a copy of the vocal score to you.

If you would like to join us, please contact Myra Tarr (phone 01383 723989, mobile/text 07796 170945 or email myra@mtarr.co.uk).

Some background to the music

In February 1887, as part of a series of Lenten services, the choir of Marylebone Parish Church in London gave the first performance of a Passiontide cantata that was to become an established favourite in churches throughout the country.

When organist at St Paul’s, Stainer had raised performance standards and greatly expanded the repertoire, introducing Bach’s St Matthew Passion into the music for Holy Week. Stainer was a pioneer: until he wrote *The Crucifixion* there was no extended Passiontide meditation on a scale and in a musical language that ordinary choirs could perform, and to which congregations could immediately relate.

Though intentionally more modest in scale than the Bach Passions, *The Crucifixion* is modelled on the same scheme of choruses, chorales, recitatives and arias, its five hymns for congregational participation being a direct parallel to the Passion chorales.

Julia's Journey

As most of our readers will be aware, I have been 'linked' to Rosyth Methodist Church since December 2018 as part of my training for ordained ministry.

Training for ordained ministry in Methodism first requires you to be an 'accredited' Local Preacher and then to 'candidate' for ministry, following which, if successful you begin either 2 years of full-time or 3 years of part-time 'theological and ministerial formation' training, based at Queens College, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

I am now coming towards the end of that stage in my training and the Methodist conference in June last year approved the recommendation that I be 'stationed' as a Probationer Presbyterian from September 2020.

Earlier this month the Probationer stationing committee met and 'matched' those who have been recommended for probationer stationing with those churches/circuits across the UK who have offered such a position. When our circuits have a vacancy they have to decide what sort of vacancy it is and enter the appropriate 'matching' process. They cannot enter more than one to potentially improve their chances and, as is the case for many denominations, there are significantly less ministers available than there are ministerial positions to fill, so these decisions have to be taken carefully.

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that following that process, I am being

posted to the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit, and will have oversight of 4 churches there, the largest being Richmond Methodist church, but also Gunnerside, Scorton and Brompton-on-Swale. The circuit as a whole has 13 churches, with my Superintendent taking on the other 9! There are also two Methodist Primary Schools in my patch. I am very grateful that the circuit employs a part-time Lay Children's and Families worker to assist in that area, as well as developing the family ministry in the churches. So my journey now continues, God-willing, for the next 5 years in Richmond (where the manse is situated). For the first 2 years I will be on probation and will continue my studies through a mixture of distance learning and courses at Queens College. Provided all goes to plan, ordination will follow in June 2022.

I will remain with you in Rosyth until June 2020, but I want to take the opportunity now to thank you for your warmth and generosity of spirit and grace in welcoming me and assisting in my formation these past 15 months. It has been a huge blessing to get to know all of you and to share in the life of the Methodist/Episcopalian partnership. I will miss you all enormously. Obviously, Richmond is not exactly local, but anyone who wishes to travel to my 'welcome service' will be most welcome. **4th September @ 7pm at Richmond Methodist Church!**

Nothing can separate us from God's love

Extracts from the sermon preached at the funeral of the late John Cowell by Rev Eddie Sykes on 13th December 2019. Text: Romans 8: 28, 31-35, 37-39

Nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord!

These words are a great encouragement to any person of faith, especially one who has been an active member of the body of Christ. Here at Rosyth, we are indeed grateful for John – and share our condolences with you, his family, and friends.

Nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

For such a person, when going through the rigours of challenging health it is of comfort, the knowledge of God's presence with him was assuring.

Nothing can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord!

It is an affirmation that sums up the apostle Paul's faith. In an exhaustive inventory, Paul names anything and everything—trouble, distress, harassment, famine, nakedness, danger or sword—only to conclude that actually nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love. Nothing. Like one of those infuriating strips of tangled duct tape that cannot be pulled apart, such is the binding love of God in Christ Jesus. And if we are aware of that binding love, we know that if we feel the impression of the Holy Spirit on our lives to serve, then that same love

will guide and encourage us – even when we feel inadequate for the task. John showed this when he cared for so many people through his work and in his family, not least his late wife Rosemary. So, what else can we say – if God is for us then who or what indeed can be against us.

This is not an arrogant statement of bold faith by some braggart. It is more, I believe, a reflection by Paul the apostle, as he looks back at his life and the journey he has been on, and realises the power and presence of God's love in Christ filling his life, and leading him in his life as a follower of Jesus – through both the good and the challenging times.

I could see in my conversations with John how he reflected on his life in a similar way—and indeed I am grateful for those times with him. Those moments of looking back can be 'wow' moments as one is awakened to God in one's life—and that with God everything is going to be ok—well, more than ok!

Using the language of the court room, looking at the evidence, Paul is stressing that God rules in us through everything—and that, for example, the sufferings we experience in life, are not a sign of judgment—because Jesus Christ himself died and was raised. The thing is, the only ones who have

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Continued from page 29 (Nothing can separate...)

the power to condemn us—God or his Son—are the very ones who protect us.

So, nothing within our imagination, even our worst nightmares, has the power to frustrate God's love and care for us. Even when we come to that point of death, God is right there—for us, and therein lies the victory. So, if God is for us, and sets us free, then who are we to judge otherwise what is going on? Who are we to interpret things differently? That God's forgiving and life-enhancing love is for ever with us in Christ Jesus, for the believer this is something to celebrate.

Yes, we are sad for we will all miss John's presence – he has been with us for nearly a century. The reality, though, is that the whole drama of what we are experiencing today is bigger than any of us. My hope is that by being here, yes, we do experience

comfort in our grief and loss - but in our mourning, I pray that we may also be transformed by God's love for you. That in listening to snippets of John's life, as well as reflecting on our own memories of him, we are reminded of a kind, thoughtful, caring man—and we are also reminded of the mystery and wonder of God. Believers conquer suffering, not by avoiding or denying it, but by enduring it with the confidence of God's love and the certain hope of God's glory.

That journey for John is now complete, as he rests in the midst of the communion of saints who have gone before. We are grateful to God that our journeys in life connected for a while with John's journey.

We pray that the love of God shown in Jesus Christ—which is always for us—will transform our very lives as we journey on; for nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen

John Cowell—a family tribute

We appreciate the opportunity to include the eulogy spoken by one of John's sons

John was born in 1925, the eldest of 5 children, at Ballaquine in the Isle of Man – a place he always loved and he would frequently tell people that he was a Manxman. John's youngest brother, Orry, is here with us today from the Isle of Man, representing other family members from there who are unable to attend.

His family moved to various houses during his childhood, mainly in very

rural locations where his father was a farm worker.

It was in one of these remote places, Cronk-y-Voddy (pronounced Cronky Voddy), where he first met the one and only true love of his life, Rosemary, the girl who would later become his wife. They met when John was 14 and Rosemary 10 and would go on to spend nearly 71 happy years together as husband and wife until Rosemary's death just 2½ years ago.

John joined the RAF as soon as he was old enough in 1942, and was assigned to ground crew at various airfields around the UK whilst also undertaking pilot training. After the war had finished he was de-mobbed from the RAF in 1946, married Rosemary and went to live with his in-laws in Manchester.

He attended Oxford University for 1 year but lack of funds meant that he couldn't complete his studies there and he switched to a Teacher training college in Chester to become a qualified teacher. All of his teaching career was spent in the Manchester area. He started out as a handicraft teacher which he enjoyed so much he continued to do that at night schools for the whole of his working life. From 1957 John was spending most of his time teaching remedial classes in Mathematics.

For his last 6 working years he supervised the setting up of remedial literacy and numeracy classes over the whole of the Manchester area.

His continued support of his teacher training college – now the University of Chester, resulted in him being recently awarded an honorary Bachelor of Education degree

John and Rosemary had 3 sons, David in 1948 and twins Douglas & Michael in 1951.

His teaching career came to an end in 1981 when, at the age of 57, he accepted early retirement. He and Rosemary then relocated to the Isle of Man, which became their base for the

next 10 years whilst also going off on extended holidays all around the world.

In 1989 he spent many months nursing Rosemary's brother through a terminal illness in his home in Rosyth and it was at that time they decided to continue living in Rosyth.

Rosemary was diagnosed with Dementia in 2009 and John became her chief carer for the next 8 years until she passed away in 2017. The care and compassion, unlimited patience and selfless devotion he showed over those 8 years was inspirational to all those who knew him.



John's life has also been an inspiration for many others – hundreds of children with special learning needs whom he taught and many others whose paths crossed his during his lifetime.

All of those who met him use the same word over and over again to describe him – he was a lovely man.

How Triangle's supports charities

Dave Ward provides an overview

A special coffee morning is not the only way that Triangle's Coffee Shop supports a charity (eg Macmillan Cancer Support, see previous issue, page 29). The teams at Triangle's decide how the surplus generated each year should be shared out to charitable causes.; the total share-out generated last financial year was £1,500. This was augmented by donations totalling £721.03 from other church groups or individuals. In this report we record the amounts sent to 5 charities chosen, and from their letters of thanks quote examples of how a charity uses the funds.

Madison Downie Appeal. As reported in our previous issue (page 14), £300 was contributed to enable use of a nebuliser at home to help 1-year old Madison breathe in medicine.

Samaritans. £300 was sent to the Dunfermline branch on the recommendation of one of our Triangle's members. A letter expressed thanks for accepting that recommendation and said that 'Samaritans of Dunfermline, like most Branches across the organisation, is run by volunteers and we rely on fundraising, donations and grants to be able to run the Branch and ensure that we are available to support those who are in need of someone to talk to.'

British Lung Foundation. £300 was sent to the Breathe Easy Dunfermline support group, which meets at St Margaret's R C Church hall.

Maggie's £430 was sent to the Fife Support Centre at the Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, the £300 from Triangle's having been augmented by £130 from a congregation member. In a letter of thanks it was said that such support is 'the reason we are able to deliver our wide range of life-changing services, from access to professional nutrition advice, counselling and family support, including help on how to talk to their children about cancer or guidance on benefits.' To find out more about Maggie's Centres just visit www.maggiescentres.

Bahamas Hurricane DORIAN Appeal. This appeal, led jointly by the Methodist Church in Britain and All We Can (formerly the Methodist Relief and Development Fund), saw £891.03 sent via the Co-operative Bank to All We Can. This was made up of £300 from Triangle's plus £380 from the Coffee Cake and Crafts group plus £211.03 donated previously for All We Can. Receipt has been acknowledged, and appreciation expressed by Eddie and Susan Sykes on behalf of Rev Theophilus Rolle, President/Bishop and the members of the Methodist Church in the Bahamas.

Our thanks to all those who come to Triangle's coffee shop on a Friday morning; your custom helps others.

How Action for Children grew out of NCH

Being the first article on the historic roots of Action for Children

As we celebrate 150 years of the wonderful Methodist foundation known as NCH, we will look at the history of this organisation.

What was to become the National Children's Home (NCH) began on the streets of London 150 years ago, on the initiative of a Methodist minister, Dr Thomas Bowman Stephenson. The first home was established in 1869 in Lambeth London and for boys. Very quickly it became obvious that much bigger homes were needed, and more help.

A move to Bonner Road in Bethnal Green, London where a row of houses were purchased and accommodation was divided into single sex households.

Very quickly children's homes grew all over the country—Birmingham, Bolton, Kent, Isle of Man, and at Alverstoke in 1887 a provision for convalescing children. Then came Chipping Norton, a home for convalescent and physically disabled children.

Bonner Road became the national headquarters of the growing organisation, and in 1908 the name National Children's Home was adopted.

Before World War 1, Frodsham in Chelsea, Bramhope in Leeds, Harpenden in Hertfordshire, and

Cardiff, the first Welsh home were opened.

By the end of the 1870s a scheme began to train Sisters for the children. They would be "Deaconesses". The training began in Bonner Road, moving to Willard House. This accommodated 7 students, who ran the house, learnt cooking, washing, dressmaking, and studied Bible knowledge, Theology, and Nursing, they also spent time in the Children's homes during training. The Sisterhood folded in 1985.

As NCH changed its focus, the homes were gradually wound down and sold.

Today Action for children runs 650 services across the U.K. working with 250,000 children, young people, parents and carers. Still in partnership with the Methodist Church.

The Charities services include adoption, fostering, family support, and running specialist schools.

In the course of the year we will be looking at life in a National Children's Home.

Jean Hall



Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

1) **Where next?** Vienna, Brussels, Prague, Copenhagen, Tallinn, Helsinki, Athens

2) **AHA**

Which canoe, created by the Inuit, is propelled by a double-bladed paddle?

Which note is equivalent to two crotchets?

What is midday?

In the Bible who is the first woman?

What do you call a female sheep?

How do you refer to the answers?

3) **Cheek**

Which Carla Lane sitcom concerned the Boswell family?

What was the surname of the British Prime Minister 2007-2010?

Who produces British coins the Royal ____?

What fruit has varieties called Beef, Cherry and Plum?

Which county was merged with Herefordshire in 1974?

What connects these answers?

4) **Who**

If India=1, Victor=5, X-ray=10, Lima=50, Charlie=100, Delta=500, who is 1000 ?

5) **What links D, X, 4th, Y ?**

December/January answers

1) **What is next in the sequence?**

XII. The symbols represent the Roman numerals on a clock face as you would see them.

2) **Keeping that secret**

Connie locks the box with her padlock, sends the box to her lover, he locks his padlock on the box and sends it back. Connie removes her padlock and again sends the box back to her lover, he then removes his padlock and opens the box.

3) **The Great Wicks Bake-off!**

The lady of the house lights both ends of one wick, and one end of the other wick. After 30 minutes one wick has gone out, the other still burning, she lights the other end of the second wick which then takes only 15 minutes to go out, totalling 45 minutes.

4) **Hen-house productivity**

50 eggs. If 600 hens lay 600 eggs in 8 days, then 200 hens would lay 200 eggs in 8 days, so they would only lay 50 eggs in 2 days.

5) **Watching time pass**

An egg timer. That would be the timepiece with the most moving parts.

Dave Ward

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 & letting enquiries to
 Martin Rogers 01383 415458
 martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

St Margaret's Choir
 Myra Tarr 01383 723989
 myra@mtarr.co.uk

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to
 Gordon Pryde 01383 249106
 gordonpryde@btinternet.com

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
 cmarykidd@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
 kiso0709@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 411938
 robertbroderick@fife.ac.uk

Guide Unit

*Rainbows (Mon 1800–1900)
 Skye Fraser 07565 531886
 6throsythrainbows@gmail.com

*Brownies (Mon 1800–1930)
 Nicola Byrne 07956 005996
 6throsythbrownies@gmail.com

*Guides (Thu 1800–2000)
 Linda Wallace 07491 971989
 6throsythguides@gmail.com

Rangers (Thu 2000–2130)
 Linda Wallace 07491 971989
 rosythrangers@gmail.com

** An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue (in either meeting time or contact details or both)*

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to: editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

From the web

During early January, our Thought for the Month was formed from extracts from a New Year message from the Archbishop of Canterbury. We're reprinting it, because cementing our unity is as important in February as it was when 2020 was newly-minted!

The Good Samaritan is "... a story told by Jesus about someone taking the risk of reaching out to another who was very different to them. Yes, the person needed help – but they also needed connection.

"Christian faith doesn't promise us a comfortable life. Christ promises us hope, meaning, peace, purpose and joy – but not comfort! It's about following in the footsteps of Jesus, who took the risk of connecting with people who were separated from him.

"... every time we reach out and connect with someone, it is an act of heroism. Don't underestimate it.

"It could be someone you know. It could be someone you've always wanted to connect with but never have. It could be someone you really disagree with.

"Let's go for a heroic New Year's Resolution. Let's resolve to reconnect. To reach out to just one person we don't know, or from whom we have drifted apart.

"Pick one person. Pick up the phone. Send them a text. Meet them for a cup of tea. Make that connection. Let's begin cementing our unity one brick at a time.

"For this new year – and this new decade – I pray that we find the hope offered in Jesus Christ."

The full text of +Justin's message is available at <https://tinyurl.com/ve5xfgt>,

CONTACT on-line

You'll find this issue, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of our websites—www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk; www.rosythmethodist.org.uk—where you will get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost.

To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. The next issue will be published on 29th March, so please send your contribution by **Sunday 15th March 2020**, preferably by email to [**editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk**](mailto:editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk)