

Rosyth
Methodist Church



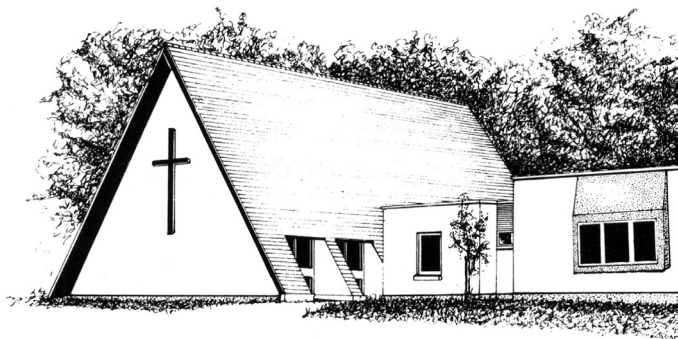
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 109
June 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 remains suspended and the building remains closed

Following guidance from the Scottish and UK governments and the Leaders of the Methodist Church in Britain, and Scottish Episcopal Church, all church services and all meetings have been cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Instead, consider sharing in worship in your household or with others on-line.

Links to Worship resources for home use are updated regularly on our websites
www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk and www.rosythmethodist.org.uk.

The former includes a link to videos of 11am services by Kenny at Holy Trinity.
The latter includes a link to the Worship from Home page of the Circuit website.

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 109: June 2020

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*Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. Please send contributions for the next issue to the editor by **Friday 31st July 2020**.*

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Material for a subsequent issue is welcome at any time

Confronting injustices

Rev Eddie Sykes' pastoral letter to the Circuit highlights new concerns

10th June 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you all as together we continue to journey through this strange and challenging time.

Following the recent death of George Floyd, I wrote to an African American friend who serves at one of the Methodist Seminaries in the USA, simply to say that we are together with him and the people of the USA in prayer at this tragic time. I share with you part of his response, for I believe it says more than I could comment on as he shares a little of his experience and thoughts.

"Thank you for reaching out and most definitely making my day continue in a positive way amidst it all. Although the global pandemic still humbles us all around the world, with the USA's cases and deaths still sadly leading the way statistically AND although the USA is dealing with its own sorted and oppressive history still, there are signs of hope and a better society with all of the diversity expressing themselves in Minneapolis, MN, across the USA and even across the world now. Our faith teaches that Christ died, Christ rose, and Christ will come again. Well, unfortunately we witness and experience another child of God, George Floyd, die, be

raised again in justice consciousness across local USA communities and world and hopefully come forward in various peaceful iterations of standing against injustice across the world to overcome racial inequalities and other social ills. I'm encouraged by the young people's responses and even corrections of other dissidents who invade without the same thematic thrust. The good will of cleaning neighbourhoods and businesses by those actually living there. The support that is coming to local businesses destroyed by violence. It is still hard and there is still much work to be done here. I am under no illusion for sure. But, I am encouraged, as always, even though I don't always say so, by your friendship across the years and for you faithfully praying for and reaching out to me. "

We cannot though, point a finger at other countries and their injustice issues and woes, without first looking at ourselves and our own experience – not to feel guilt, or beat ourselves up for the sins of the past and the present, but to understand who we all are as children of God and move forward

in the light of Christ aware of very real issues for people who are our neighbour; and then working and praying with them inspired by the love of God.



Fred Craddock, when a seminary professor, used to tell his students: '*We only turn away those whom Jesus turned away.*' Meaning - nobody!

We all live in the grace of God, we are all children of God, each person loved equally by God, whose grace and love are limitless – and who is with us to share the hope that is the kingdom of God.

We pray for hope to be reignited, a renewed desire for peace and justice - particularly in places where there is mourning, hurt, frustration and division. We continue to pray for each other, especially for those who are alone, those whose employment future is under threat, and those who long to see loved ones again.

May God bless and guide us

Eddie

Arunima Hospice update

Ross Stirling-Young reports

On Wednesday 26th February, I had great pleasure in attending Wednesday Fellowship during my placement at St. Margaret's. I was delighted to join with the regular members and give them an update concerning the Arunima Hospice, Kolkata. There were people whom I had never met before, and I was surprised by their level of generosity and well wishes. Thank you to all who came to listen, take time to pray and those who gave donations (which were not expected at all).

As you are all aware, the current COVID-19 pandemic has affected those living across the globe. For those who live on the streets and others facing extreme poverty in Kolkata, surviving daily life has become almost impossible. On Wednesday 20th May, Cyclone Amphan hit parts of India and Bangladesh, bringing destruction to the city of Kolkata. After a long wait for the reconnection of internet coverage, we heard the following night that the children are all safe, although damage was caused and they will likely endure days without power. The power supply is crucial not only for secure storage of medication but also to bring them comfort in the 35+ degree heat at present.

There are also people that the Arunima Hospice support within the city, as well as the abandoned and orphaned children affected by HIV/ Aids. A vast number of people live "hand to mouth" every day, and this latest catastrophe of a cyclone has only made matters worse.

The people we have met in these projects are now vulnerable to starvation and infection. Female sex workers are unable to earn their daily living and utterly unable to feed their families. It is heart-breaking to witness first-hand the poverty they have to live in and to hear the stories of work they must endure. They do not choose this life or vocation; they simply have no choice.

Continued on page 6

We started a fundraising campaign via Just Giving hoping to raise £300 to send as emergency relief funds. We decided that any donations could purchase emergency food rations for both the children living at the hospice and outlying projects that support the vulnerable.

To our amazement, our friends and family came to the rescue, and we managed to raise £511 in only four days! Some of these wonderful donations came from people that we have come to know and love from St. Margaret's and Holy Trinity. The funds have been sent and now being used to help the helpless.



The pictures within this article include the city of Kolkata and the more severe part of the Sundarbans region of West Bengal, where the local people faced the highest levels of devastation.

Thank you for your prayers, your love and compassion.

In Christian love,

Ross & Ray

Thoughts on lockdown

From Valerie Lesley to all, a letter

Hi everybody, I hope you are all well. On the 7th Sunday after Easter I have been reflecting upon the Ascension of Jesus to heaven. This morning I struggled to link in to Bishop Ian's communion service. I am not great at using technology! Imagine my joy when I was able to hear his address. He started by saying that the Lord's ascension could be seen as the ultimate social distancing, but he went on to remind us that the apostles were told not to stare up to heaven to look for Jesus- 'This Jesus, who was taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way that you saw him go'.

I have been reading the Acts of the apostles and the psalms during this period of lockdown. Unprecedented as a period of history it has given us time to reflect on God's love and the grace he gives us! I have spent time reading my bible, exploring new ways of going to church and hearing bird song in the garden. I am thankful to Eddie and Kenny for their on-line services. I even heard a lovely service from a cave in Shetland. How amazing to hear the waves crashing against the mouth of the cave whilst hearing the familiar words of the liturgy. I cannot wait to get back to church and sing in the choir again, but I feel that my faith has been strengthened!

I send my love and peace to all my brothers and sisters in St Margaret's and RMC. May Gods love be with you.

Confronting coronavirus uncertainties

Very Rev Kenny Rathband questions what we should be expecting

Dear Friends

I hope you are well and coping with the various changes and demands of these trying and difficult times. All of us in a variety of ways will have experienced some form of change in our daily lives. The freedom that we took for granted seems to be a distant memory. Many in our society have known great loss and great illness whilst others have tried to keep going as best they can. Life for us all has been far from 'normal'.

As some restrictions are lifted questions come to the fore. What will life be like? When can we get back to how things were? Will there be a second wave? Couldn't things have been done better? These are only a few of the many questions that I have heard when speaking to others, both within and outwith the church.

Some questions are being answered. However, others may remain unanswered for some time to come. We may have to live with uncertainty for longer than we had hoped.

Perhaps, however, uncertainty need not always be a bad thing. Perhaps we may emerge from these trying times by being a kinder and more gracious society – I'd like to think that could be the case.

During this pandemic there have been acts of courage and generosity. Individuals and communities have

pulled together to offer support and assistance to those in need.

As a church we have not been able to worship together in person, but the life of the church has continued. Prayer has been offered and will continue to be offered in the days to come. Lit candles have been placed in the windows of houses as a sign of Christ being the light of the world.

The gift of the church at large is to stand alongside those in need, those who are helping others and those who are called to make difficult decisions.

As we emerge from lockdown there may well be uncertainty. However, one thing that is certain is the love of God who stands with His people wherever they may be.

Let us hold onto this gift and seek to share it with others.

Prayers and best wishes to you all.

Kenny

A letter to the Circuit

*Rev Helen Jenkins agreed that her letter of 14 May to the Circuit could be shared in
CONTACT with the Rosyth Local Ecumenical Partnership*

14-05-2020

Dear friends across the circuit

As you know, my appointment in the Forth Valley circuit comes to an end soon. You may also know that my husband's job means we as a family aren't able to move so I wasn't able to be matched in the stationing process. Many of you have asked what I'm going to be doing next, so I thought I'd update you.

I have spent some time thinking and praying about what I should be doing next, but in the busyness of life and ministry haven't been able to give that the attention it needs. I've therefore asked for permission to go without appointment to find the space to discern where God is calling me next – this isn't a situation I chose, but I trust that God sees the bigger picture and that my calling to ministry will be worked out in perhaps new and different ways. The practical details are that we will continue to live in our own home in Linlithgow, and that I will be stationed without appointment in the Strathclyde circuit. I will continue as Synod Secretary, and so will see some of you around at District events.

I am told that GDPR* means when I leave the circuit I will have to destroy all contact details etc (unless given specific permission to keep them – feel free to do so!), but that doesn't stop you keeping in touch with me. I won't be doing any ministry in the circuit, but would still love to hear your news so do drop me the occasional email, friend me on facebook and so on – my details are at the top*.

I have been so thankful for all the love, support and encouragement I have received in the circuit over the past eleven years, but particularly since it was decided that my appointment would not be extended. I have learnt and grown so much as I have ministered among you, and I'm so grateful for you letting me be a part of your lives.

Take care, keep in touch, and I'll see you around (when we're ever allowed to gather again).

God bless you and all you do as you live out your discipleship.

Helen

**[Ed: GDPR = General Data Protection Regulations.
Which is why contact details are not given here]*

A brief account of my discernment placement

Ross Stirling-Young shares his experience of time spent with us

As many of you are aware, I joined the congregations of Holy Trinity and St Margaret's at the beginning of January for a nine-week placement as part of my on-going discernment journey. On the one hand, when I first found out that I would be away from my home church (St Finnian's in Lochgelly) for this period, it did feel a little unsettling as I knew I'd miss my church family there. On the other hand, I was excited and joyful about coming back to two charges I've come to know reasonably well over the years since becoming a member of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

I felt it essential to write this short article as a way of both thanking you all for making me so welcome and as a way of sharing with you what I gained from my time.

I'm now in my 2nd year of studying Ignatian Spirituality and find that my way of living as a Christian has changed noticeably during this time. My discernment journey within the context of deepening my understanding of vocation I feel has enabled me to see how the Church values and validates the gifts in which I think God has blessed and equipped me. Concerning Ignatian Spirituality, I feel my everyday life has enabled me to become a "contemplative in action" type of person. To strive to live a life in growing closer to Jesus and discerning how my everyday

thoughts, words, and deeds can make that a reality.

The welcome given from both congregations was overwhelming, and I mean that in a positive sense, of course. To be welcomed and accepted just as I am made me feel part of the congregational family from day one. I tend to use the term "brothers and sisters in Christ" reasonably often, although my choice of language may sound a little evangelical at times. One of my favourite NT verses comes from John 13:34-35 "that you love one another; as I have loved you". For me, it's as simple as that. No matter what our difference in views or personalities, we are all brothers and sisters bound together in the love of Christ.

I felt humbled during several different instances where individuals entrusted me with the personal difficulties they had been enduring. Offering to listen confidentially and to "simply be" was by far one of the greatest moments during my placement. That window opportunity into someone's else's pain enabled me to pray for their particular situation. Of course, I may have no idea how that person is coping now or how their situation may have changed, but at least I'm still able to lift them in prayer to our God of compassion and love.

The Triangles Coffee Shop at Rosyth can be summed up in one word -

amazing! The volunteers from both Methodist & Episcopal congregations do remarkable work benefiting those living in the local community and beyond. I'm most grateful to each of the different teams for welcoming me every Friday (especially Mandy on my first day!) And for allowing me the opportunity to get to know the community a little better in which the church serves. The most enjoyable part of this time was getting to meet the customers and spend time in fellowship with them. Of course, the ability to "wind up" Dorissia regarding her home-baking didn't go amiss ensuring plenty of laughter amongst the customers! I'm lucky that Dorissia enjoys a joke and joins in the "banter"; otherwise, I fear I would have been in severe danger!

I guess looking back I felt most blessed by attending mid-week Eucharist every Thursday. There was something extraordinary about worship on those occasions, and perhaps I cannot even fully explain why. Maybe it had something to do with the feeling of intimacy and ability to speak one to one with individuals for more extended periods and hearing their stories. Everyone has their own story to tell. Several of the conversations led to experiences I never imagined being part of my placement. For example, being introduced to a new family recently moved from New Delhi and spending time getting to know them. Or being invited to a family lunch and made to

feel extremely welcome in their home with abundant food and warm hospitality. Then there was making new friendships leading to a greater understanding of Mothers Union and the ability to share my experiences of my work with the orphaned children both Ray and I support living at the Arunima Hospice in Kolkata.

After the first few weeks of attending mid-week worship on a Thursday, I coined this day my "Kenny Surprise Day!". I learned very early on not to make any plans for a Thursday during placement. Simply because Kenny would happily tell me a few minutes before the service began "Oh, by the way, we're going here after church today" or "we're going to such and such to give home communion". I came to enjoy the variation of each Thursday, joining with friends old and new. My Thursdays now seem a little boring that the placement has come to an end!

I was delighted to be invited by the members of St Margaret's to organise and lead a Taize-inspired service as part of their Sunday@Six programme. It was great to have so many people attend the service, and beautiful that Rev Michael came along even although he recently returned from a very long journey home from Australia. I was grateful to those members who helped me in organising and preparing this service; it was so much appreciated.

There are, of course, many other happy memories regardless of the

short nature of my placement. These included being able to attend the amazingly joyful Youth Fellowship several times to having fun at the Pancake Tuesday event (even the problematic quiz!). Also doing the hoovering at St Margaret's each Thursday felt fulfilling!

We are well into the current lockdown situation. Still, it has been great to maintain some friendships both old and new even if that means following someone's life journey on social media and gaining a glimpse into a particular part of their servanthood as a Christian in these trying times.

Once again, thank you to all who made me feel so welcome at Holy Trinity and St Margaret's, for your care and most importantly, your prayers. I thought I'd leave you with one of my favourite quotes from Saint Ignatius of Loyola:

"Whatever you are doing, that which makes you feel the most alive that is where God is."

In Christian Love,

Ross Stirling-Young
St. Finnian's, Lochgelly

Missing people

Howard Kirby

The two preceding articles have been about two of those who are about to leave us, Rev Helen Jenkins (page 8) and Ross Stirling-Young (page 9). But we need to remember too two others who are leaving. One is Julia Reid, who told us of her journey (in the February/March issue of CONTACT, page 28) which will take her to the North Yorkshire Dales Circuit as a Probationer Presbyterian. Due to Coronavirus restrictions, the welcome service at Richmond Methodist Church is highly unlikely to go ahead on 4th September.

As well as Helen, Rev Stephanie Njeru (Livingston LEP) is leaving our Circuit and will be a minister in the Forest Circuit, whose churches are mainly in the London Borough of Waltham Forest. Stephanie and Helen and their families combined forces to enable a Circuit-wide farewell. This happened remotely, with over 60 people taking part using Zoom.

The title 'Missing people' conveys the sense that we shall miss them. Of course we shall, but we also wish them all well as they continue on their journey in faith.

Worship in a time of Coronavirus

Jan Benvie reflects on what she misses and compares with a previous experience

The changing of worship due to Coronavirus has been emotionally painful for a lot of us. With online worship many of the rituals we're used to are gone - sharing the peace, the communion ... Acts of worship can feel remote and lacking in spirituality.

I miss the fellowship of worship at St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodists. I also miss my monthly visits to Alnmouth Friary and their 'smells & bells' style worship.

Rituals, customs, traditions ... are important, and not only in religious life. Families or friends often develop customs as something in common that bind them together. They become time honoured traditions.

One thing that has helped me adapt to the change of worship during lockdown are memories of my time (10 years ago) living and working in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). I lived in a small village called At Tuwani in an area where there were no churches. Restrictions on travel (other than for the Jewish settlers living in the OPT) made it difficult to get to Bethlehem or Jerusalem to attend services. My experiences of alternative worship there made me realise that even without the traditional rituals worship can still be meaningful and spirit filled.

I worked with a Christian group, so we would always start the day with

morning prayer, but during Lent we would also make our evening meal a time of prayer. We would sit around the table, the dark room lit with candles, sharing prayers, fellowship and food. I have particularly fond memories of an Ash Wednesday when, due to a curfew, we were unable to get to church, so we improvised and held our own service, albeit without the sacraments. My favourite Christmas Day was in At Tuwani. In the morning I accompanied one of the villagers as he ploughed his field with a donkey and plough - every time I hear the Parable of the Sower I am transported back to that field all those years ago. Then on return to the village his wife said "Today is your Eid [*a Muslim festival*], we must celebrate," and they insisted I share the family meal. Certainly an alternative Christmas Day, but one remembered with much fondness, a sense of 'sharing the bread' with neighbours who believed in a caring and loving God as much as I did.

I've also found the readings for this Easter season, a time when the followers of Jesus felt very much adrift, helpful. The words from the Eucharist particularly strike a chord just now, "*In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost **is with us now in every place for ever.***" For years, we've been hearing that the church is not the building, it is the

people. Perhaps now the time has come to walk the talk!

As I write this we are in the period between Ascension and Pentecost, when readings are full of news of the Holy Spirit, *"This is the Spirit of truth ... You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you."* (John 14, v.17). I love the translations that use 'abide', it has a warmth to it, it makes me feel held by God.

I am also blessed with a wonderful imagination! When listening to an online service I can close my eyes and I'm there. I follow the Eucharist at 9.30 when Kenny is saying it alone in church and when it's time for The Peace, I think very fondly of the slight commotion that sometimes ensues - I wonder how long Kenny pauses!!

The College of Bishops (of the Scottish Episcopal Church) sent out a 'reflection on worship during lockdown' at the end of March. It speaks about *"The practice of 'spiritual communion' (the intentional act of linking one's prayer with the whole Church, and receiving Communion in the Holy Spirit, ... because physical circumstances prevent being physically present)": "God of infinite mercy, we thank you for Jesus our Saviour, who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine, we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the Risen Life of our Saviour. Amen"*

Prayer walking

I thought it would be nice to share with you all one of the benefits I have found during this lockdown. Of course, by the time you read this next issue of Contact, I guess the lockdown rules will have been eased to some degree at least.

As part of our ecumenical relationships with other church congregations in the local area in which I live (which is Cowdenbeath!), we join together once a month for a prayer walk. Joining as a group, we begin with prayer and then doing precisely that: pray and walk. It's a great way to connect with our local community, to be a visible sign of the love of Jesus in our local streets. We usually start at one end of Cowdenbeath Hight Street and then end up at the other without realising how far we've walked and how many prayers we have said.

Examples of who or what we might pray for include: local businesses, our MSP, the employees, school children and their teachers, for the youth that roam the streets late at night, for a sense of community and belonging. The list goes on.

But what about recently? Well, we've been unable to gather as a group nor walk around our streets to meet the people we wish to support. So, on Friday 29th May, some of us met virtually using social media. We

Continued on next page

Continued from page 13 (Prayer walking)

heard opening prayer from an Episcopal Priest, intercessory prayer from a Salvation Army Lieutenant, and closing prayer from a local Christian community outreach hub leader. In between, we all joined in with our prayers for the people we live and work beside. It was a powerful session together, and you could certainly feel the Holy Spirit at work amidst our group. Not only did this allow us to lift in prayer those locally, but it allowed us to socialise together and feel a sense of renewal.

As this lockdown continues to lift and rules are relaxed, I've no doubt we'll once again join physically and walk the streets of Cowdenbeath in prayer. But at least for now, we can do so from the comfort and safety of our own homes.

Ross Stirling-Young
St. Finnian's, Lochgelly

The Scout Group

Martin Rogers reports on how the Group adapted to the lockdown

On Monday 16 March, I was making plans for our Cub meeting the following day but then came the Prime Minister's announcement of a lockdown followed by a directive from the Scout Association that there were to be no more face to face meetings until further notice. Although no time period was given, it seemed likely that we wouldn't be restarting our Pack Meetings until after the summer holidays. A lot could happen in 6 months and I was fearful that our numbers would be badly affected by the layoff. Also during this period there were cubs who were due to be invested or move on to scouts. The older cubs were moving towards the completion of their training programme leading to receipt of the Chief Scout's Silver Award. What would happen to all of this?

These were the problems. What were the solutions? Firstly I set up a Facebook page for the Cub Section. Cubs are too young to belong to Facebook but I encouraged all the parents to join the page and this was to be the means of communicating with the Cubs. Each week I have been putting up a programme for the Cubs to follow which picked up on some of the requirements for the various Challenge Badges we had been working on. The programmes have involved topics such as Water, Natural

Disasters, Australia, Castles and World Faiths. We had about 9 or 10 Cubs taking part initially but this has dwindled down to about 6. A number of badges have been completed and awarded and I have used my outdoor leisure time to visit the Cubs houses and deliver any badges gained. Our Beaver Colony and Scout Troop both had Facebook pages and they have been putting up challenges for their members on their Facebook pages with some success although the numbers taking part are small compared to the total number of members. The problems of investitures was solved by holding a Zoom meeting in which about 10 Cubs took part. *[Ed: see Zoom picture below of some of those taking part.]* This enabled 3 Cubs and 1 Leader to make their promises and be invested. The technical side did not go entirely smoothly but it was completed successfully. The Scout Troop also invested 2 of their members this way.

We were due to be camping over the weekend 24-26 April as part of our Scout District's St George's Day camp. Obviously this couldn't go ahead but the District put on an innovative Homeboree as it was called with Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all camping

in shelters or tents in their own houses or gardens and completing a number of challenges mirroring camp life. There was also a virtual campfire. The activities were targeted at families and the whole weekend proved to be very successful. Over 350 family members from Rosyth District took part along with a number of others from various parts of Scotland. A number of videos were produced to accompany the camp activities and these can still be found on YouTube. Search on Homeboree Rosyth and you can enjoy the campfire and learn how to make eggy bread – a staple breakfast dish at camp. Here was my effort.



It remains to be seen how fruitful these efforts have been. Sadly I think we will see some dropping off in numbers when we resume but, who knows, we might be in for a big surprise. Here's hoping.

Martin Rogers



Learning to swim

Jenni Gill and Ianto experience lockdown abroad

Ianto and I have been lucky enough to have spent lockdown in France, with my parents, as they live here. With nursery closed and no one else to help out whilst I tried to work, he and I zoomed over to Bordeaux on one of the last flights before Scottish lockdown began.

At first bemused by the change, Ianto quickly adapted to his new surroundings, to my immense relief. He now takes it for granted that the adult:child ratio in his life is 3:1 and that there will always be an available grown-up to play with at any given moment!

His crowning accomplishment so far has been finally mastering swimming solo in the pool in the back garden, with a floaty shark fin strapped to his back for buoyancy. He's had swimming lessons since he was four weeks old and has long been kicking and splashing, but until now the idea of letting go of mum has been bewildering and scary. This weekend, all of a sudden, he realised he could do it – he let go of the side, and launched himself towards me, all fear apparently gone in an instant. Now he can't be stopped – indeed he won't even halt for a breather as he kicks himself confidently round my parents' swimming pool, yelling 'SWIM!' if anyone tries to get him to pause momentarily.

Watching him adapt to this new watery environment, I realised he's been on a similar journey to a lot of us in lockdown – at first unsure, needing support, fearful and learning as we go. Over the weeks, confidence has come – or at least a better understanding of the new world we are all swimming through as we go about our lives.

As lockdown eases, as we grow in familiarity with how things are now – social distancing, online shopping, remote working and so on – it's important that we don't allow new confidence to let us forget what's always been supporting us. Just as Ianto needs a floaty shark fin so as not to sink, we all need God with us, holding us up and keeping us afloat.

Keep swimming everyone – here's hoping it won't be too long until we are back amongst you so Ianto can tell you all about all of his French adventures (oh yes – he's cracked sentences while we've been away, too). He'll be the one bursting into church shouting "Bonjour!" to you all!



Experiencing Church at Home

Adele Borrowman and family

Greetings, friends. We're just back from our travels to Sheffield and Cornwall (armchair variety of course) where we've enjoyed that Worship-on-Holiday feeling immensely – the singing is lovely Truro! Here we are delighted to share with you the fun we've been having with online worship at home the last few weeks.

Each Sunday morning at 11am we've been so glad to join with old friends and new for Worship led by District Chair Rev Mark Slaney on YouTube.



We especially like Church via YouTube because unlike services on Zoom which many churches are doing no-one can be distracted by our family chaos at home! We access YouTube through our 'Smart TV' which is far older than our children. 7 Year old Magnus types in 'Slaney' in the search bar, and off we go. I'd never imagined Church-at-Home could possibly work as well as it does, but it does and it has been quite a revelation. For me it is the first time in almost 5 years that I have been able to concentrate on a sermon uninterrupted – the children have all

their toys on hand. The irony is we never get to stay behind after church on Sunday for many minutes because everybody is hungry or has afternoon activities to rush off to, but now what a lovely thing it is to stay a few minutes after Worship on YouTube and chat to folk across the District. There are lots of other online Church activities too – the Methodist Virtual Choir being one.

All in all we've really been enjoying our church experience during lockdown and found it a great opportunity to connect with old friends and new as we worship together. Remarkably there is an unusual sense of calm about our house on Sundays - nobody makes a fuss about having to rush to be ready in time for Church, they can't find their shoes or don't want to leave their activities, because Church comes to us and in this new calm we can really engage with the message. And happily I can honestly say I haven't burnt the Sunday dinner once since lockdown!

What is ZOOM?

Howard Kirby has been finding out!

Zoom is web-based software that enables people to meet on-line, a bit like Skype. A one-page 'Introduction to Zoom' can be downloaded from su3a.org.uk/grouppages/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/zoom.pdf

Experiences of Bible study

Mary Kidd reflects on differing experiences

Any introduction to the Bible describes it as a most powerful book.

It has influenced the lives of countless millions of people, and through them has had a profound impact on the course of history and the shape of society for 2,000 years. It has been called the world's best seller. Thousands of books have been written explaining it, some even condemning it; despite the many versions in the English language it's not always easy to get into. It's made up of many books, and each one of them meant something at the time they were written.

During our Sunday worship we hear 2 or 3 pieces of Scripture read to us, and hopefully explained to us. But what about the other days of the week when we're not in church? Most Bible reading plans and aids suggest reading small portions regularly: that's because it is a book to meditate on as it releases its wisdom and truth slowly. We need to come to it with open hearts and minds, ready to learn truths which may shock or challenge our lifestyles and our previous beliefs. How can we apply this teaching in practice day by day? This will include our worship of, and our relationship with, God personally, our attitudes towards others and the way we live and act.

Having a true faith helps you, and me, to make sense of the troubling and confusing world we live in. The Bible

gives us the confidence we need to move forward with our life despite any trials and setbacks we experience.

We develop a deeper belief and faith in God, maintaining a close relationship with Him. This comes through our daily prayers, Bible study, and applying what God is saying to us in the Scriptures, in our personal life.

I have used various aids to Bible reading during my lifetime, especially during my time in training and being a Local Preacher in our Methodist circuit. I had to study large chunks of it and pass examinations. In later years I was introduced to Every Day with Jesus which was led by Jack Fowell in his home. His knowledge and understanding had a profound and encouraging effect on all of us. What a difference that made to my life. I made new friends – we shared our thoughts, concerns and prayers with each other. We were expected to follow the daily readings, comment, and allow time for further reading to widen our knowledge and understanding. We met fortnightly, and because we grew in numbers we moved to my house, for more leg room! There came a time when the subject matter was more suited to a group of students of psychology, and after much thought we decide to take a short break and consider new sources of study.

At this time some of us joined Eddie's Advent and Lenten courses, weekly, in the church lounge. These we found

most interesting and challenging and then Lockdown happened! This was followed by Zoom, a new experience for most of us*. We can now meet up every Thursday morning with our fellow students, who included members of the church in Kirkcaldy and Granton. We could all meet up, but stay in our own homes. People who might like to take a part in this but have no access to a computer, ipad and iphone can request to have the study notes sent by other means. I was rather hesitant at first because of my limited knowledge/ignorance of Zoom, and thought maybe it was a step too far. But as the weeks of Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity came, it became something I look forward to each week. (Today I was disappointed not to be able to join up – but that’s another story!)

Is Zoom the future for our church meetings – Vestry and Church Council, Committees, Bible study and Prayer groups? Will this be the way forward for the church today?

I think, in time, things will never get ‘back to normal’ – a new ‘normal’ will emerge. The church buildings are still closed, but the church of people is very much alive and active within the communities where we live! Thank God for that!

Happy Bible reading, my friends. Keep safe, well, and truly blessed!’

Mary Kidd

**[Ed: For a web-link to a helpful Introduction to Zoom, see page 17]*

Solas Festival is on-line!

The Solas Festival (Scotland’s mid-summer festival), which Covid-19 restrictions prevented being held at Errol Park, is now to happen in what organisers call a ‘makeshift’ online event from 19-21 June . So, instead of camping out in the park, you can experience it from home – without charge!

The Solas Festival has been running since 2009 as an all-age, weekend-long celebration of music and the arts. It is designed to entertain, inspire and challenge, in a space that is tolerant, inclusive, free of prejudice, and enjoyable! The Methodist Church in Scotland is one of the partners.

Solas Festival 2020 provides a hand-crafted mix of music, talks, workshops and family activities. It features such favourites as Pádraig Ó Tuama, Mara Menzies and Mr Boom as well as *‘Not Going Back to Normal: Visions of a post lockdown Scotland’* – a panel discussion.

Events will be livestreamed on a variety of platforms over the weekend, and some will be interactive via Zoom. Details including timings are accessible via our website <https://rosythmethodist.org.uk/solas-festival-2020-on-line/> which can also be reached from the LEP Facebook page.

Expect #makeshiftsolas to be home-made... it is! But it is also very exciting and completely free for the audiences, so why not try it out?

Howard Kirby

Property points

Martin Rogers reports

As you can imagine it has been very quiet on the property front. I have been making weekly visits to the church to check on possible vandalism or water leaks. I am pleased to report that everything is in order. I have also been turning the pages of our Memorial Book at the beginning of the month. For the first few weeks I continued to put out the wheelie bins for emptying and they are now more or less empty. I say more or less because you would be amazed how many people use our bins for their dog poo bags or beer cans.

Before the lockdown we had some pruning work done on 2 of the tall trees on the Elder Lea side of the property. They weren't dangerous as such but this has lessened the chances of branches falling on the church roof in high winds. One of the stone bollards lining the access drive into the car park had been damaged and this has been removed. A number of people will be pleased to hear that we have also removed the bollard closest to the car park. This has been the scene of a number of "encounters" borne witness to by the paint marks which adorned it. This will make it easier to exit the car park when it is busy.

In April we had a wonderful show of tulips in the 2 wooden troughs in the outside play area. It is a shame that it is only me and a few others who

would have seen the tulips so here is a photograph. I have also managed to renew the yellow lining in the car park ready for a return to normal business.



The lockdown period would have been a good opportunity to have some work done on the premises without having to work round the various organisations who meet there. Unfortunately the Government restrictions prevented this.

Walking around on my inspections it is strange to see the place so quiet and tidy. I hope it won't be too long before our premises come alive once again.

Martin Rogers

Junior Puzzles

With puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles for June

- 1) Fred was sorting out his barn by putting items into containers. He rolled out an old barrel, put something into the barrel. After he had finished he realised that his barrel was lighter. How ?
- 2) Molly was selling items from her shop: she sold a wrap for £20, a tie cost £15, socks cost £25, and a blouse for £30. How much would underwear cost?
- 3) There is an invention that allows people to see through walls, What is it?
- 4) Fred was examining an angle measuring 14 degrees. He then picked up a magnifying glass that magnifies everything by two and looked at the angle under the glass. What would the angle now be?
- 5) If you had a drawer full of socks 24 green and 24 red, and the room was in darkness how many would you have to pick to guarantee a pair? And how many would you have to pick to guarantee at least 1 of each colour? Are the answers the same?

Answers to April Junior Puzzles

- 1) There aren't any penguins in the Arctic.
- 2) The word is Short.
- 3) Mount Everest
- 4) You would be holding the letter b in your right hand.
- 5) None. There is nothing but air in a hole.

Our back cover poem

How it ends

Continued from page 24

Squandered

*as we go back to imagining
that gospel resides
within the church
(building or people)*

Squandered

*as we overlook
the gifts of the poor
to teach us
about justice
and care
and how to build community
that makes space
for the other.*

Squandered

*all the gifts that the Creator has given
for the redeeming of the world.*

Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

June puzzles

- 1) **Can you name one 8 letter word** that has kst in the middle, in the beginning, and at the end?
- 2) **What would happen** if you were to step into a sealed room filled with 100% methane gas and strike a match?
- 3) **Travel direct.** Fred works on the 35th floor of an office block, every day he gets to the elevator and goes to the 33rd floor and walks the other 2. But on wet days he travels to the 35th floor direct. Why?
- 4) **Caged.** A cage at the local zoo holds a variety of creatures. In it are 11 heads and 20 feet but there are twice as many with 4 feet as 2 feet. How many of each kind are there?
- 5) **How high?** When John was 6 he hammered a nail into a tree to record his height. 10 years later John visited the tree to see how much higher the nail was; if the tree had grown by 5 cm each year how high would the nail be?

April answers

- 1) **In the Strange family** there are 4 daughters and 3 sons.
- 2) **To reach the first number with an 'A'**, you would have to count to one thousand. 'One hundred and one' would be technically incorrect, as the number 101 should be spelt one hundred one. (One would not say 99 as 'ninety and nine'.)
- 3) **Ageing .question.** The statement was made on January the 1st and Suzie's birthday is on December 31st. Therefore Suzie was 9 the day before yesterday (Dec 30th), she was 10 yesterday (Dec 31st), and at the end of the year she will be 11, so next year she will be 12.
- 4) **The 7-letter word** is 'therein'. It contains the words|: the, there, he, in, rein, her, here, ere, therein, herein.
- 5) **The closest relation** that your Father's Sister's Sister-in-law could be to you is your Mother.

For Junior Puzzles

see previous page

Contact points and *normal* 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.

But due to the steps needed to contain the spread of the corona virus, from April 2020 all these activities are cancelled and the building is closed.

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 Connerly 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

The poem 'Squandered' by Rev Liz Crumlish

Luke 15:11-13: The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living."

*My fear
is not that we won't get back to normal
but that we will
My fear
is that in yearning for all that we miss
we will rush back to what we know
My fear
is that we will forget all we have learned
about how to be community
in the rush to return
to doing church
And then
We truly will have
Squandered
all that we have learned
the beautiful
and the ugly
the obvious
and the hidden
Squandered
in our need for comfort
in the familiar
Squandered
as we return
to reciting our carefully crafted liturgy
without living it out
in the world of which it speaks
and of the God to whom it points*

Concluded on page 21

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.