

Rosyth
Methodist Church



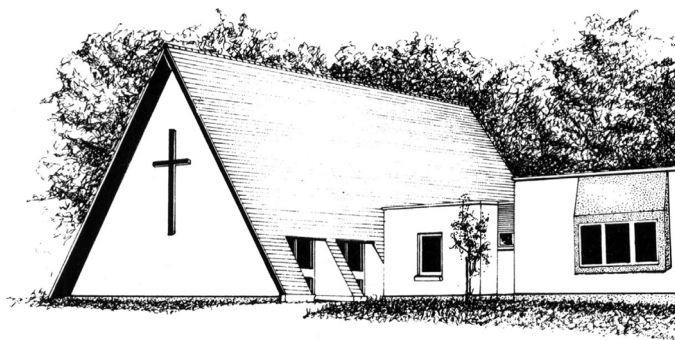
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 112
Christmas 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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Pastoral Co-ordinator:

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

our regular pattern of worship remains suspended but the building is re-opened for church services

***Worship will take place in the church under social distancing and ventilation
requirements on Sunday mornings in December and early January.***

Methodist and Episcopal services are on alternate Sundays.

Episcopal Eucharist services are at 9.30am, Methodists are at 11am.

***Methodist Morning Worship can also be experienced on-line via Zoom at
9.45am every Sunday, enabling sharing in worship with a wider community.***

Details of the above and of Zoom-based Bible studies are in the diary section

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.

From the Editor's Desk

Howard Kirby talks about this issue

Usually badged as the December/January issue, but this time entitled our 'Christmas issue', the contents reflect the theme 'Celebrating Christmas'. The basic idea was to offer a light touch to help counter the negative feelings that people were having about steps taken to control the coronavirus pandemic. So contributions were invited that

- avoided serious articles
- had light-hearted feature that could amuse, eg cartoons, poetry and prose
- had encouraging stories, visual displays, photos
- covers the many angles and insights on the Christmas story
- enables all to share Christmas greetings via a message on CONTACT's 'Christmas tree'
- may involve family and friends.

I hope you enjoy the medley now offered by our several contributors. Avoiding serious articles was not a problem, and those relating to Advent/Christmas were of course included. Also included is the second of Martin Tarr's articles on Zoom, on the grounds that this is one of the means by which family and friends can meet, without the need for travel or crossing of borders. A big thank you to all contributors, especially to Martin Tarr for also developing a new version of the usual Christmas tree – plus an extra one for Messy Church folk.

Included in this issue ...

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Getting ready for Christmas p6

Christmas greeting trees pp10–11

Letters from Elizabeth and Julia pp16–18

Messy Church Christmas p7

Special Advent/Christmas contributions
pp5–9; 17; 19–21; 24–25

Plus our regular items:

Church Matters pp12–13

Diary to early January pp14–15

Overcoming problems with Zoom pp22–23

Puzzle pages pp25–26

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For the next deadline, see back cover. Note that we can receive material at any time.

Advent 2020

Rev Eddie Sykes relates Advent to the pandemic experiences

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you during this season of preparation, as we draw to the end of a year that, for the world, has been like no other in all our living memories.

As I write, there is hope as following ten months of restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been given the news that so far vaccine trials have gone well, and vaccinations will begin as early as December.

I would guess that more than ever there has been a unity in hoping for such news, and the relief and possibilities that will result for all of us.

In some ways, I believe we have been given a real example of what 'waiting in hope' actually entails – a waiting that is actually what the Advent season is all about. A waiting that trusts that God will send a Saviour for the world who will guide us in the ways that bring life – abundant and eternal life.

While we wait, we prepare ourselves, not just to remember Christ who came as a human baby born in Bethlehem, and celebrate his birth, but also to be ready for Christ in his Second Coming – knowing that it could be at any moment. Sometimes Advent is referred to as the end and the beginning.

So, the beginning of the Christian Year in effect takes our thinking to the very end of things. "End" means not only the "end of time", but to the purpose or goal of creation. We are not wandering aimlessly, even though it may feel as if we are, but are heading somewhere directed by God. A focus on the "end" at the beginning helps us understand the context and purpose of Jesus' birth.

We begin the Advent season observances with looking to the future - the Reign of God is coming; prepare; keep awake; be ready. We end the Advent observances with remembering the past – "The Messiah born in Bethlehem. Rejoice!"

The readings of Advent begin with a mature, adult Jesus teaching his disciples about the future. They close with the yet unborn Jesus still in his mother's womb. The sacred story, in order to be understood more fully, is thus best read backwards. In other words – the significance of the birth and ministry of Jesus are only fully understood when we know of his death and resurrection.

Likewise, for us, we best understand the past and present, in how we live as disciples, followers of Jesus, when we have a grasp on the nature of the future.

How I miss my mind

Contributed by Dave Ward

As we have journeyed through this year, we have found life to be challenging – yet, with an eye on the future, we know that these things will pass. So, as we would in church have lit the candles on the Advent wreath, we are reminded that the key themes of peace, hope, love and joy bring extra meaning and assurance because of Jesus.

Susan joins me in wishing you all a very blessed Advent and Christmas.

The best of all is “God is with Us”

Eddie

What The Donkey Saw

by U. A. Fanthorpe

Contributed by Olive Lee

No room in the inn, of course,
And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host-
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another
cherub in
For love or money.

Still in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel
wanted.

I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

Oh God! How I miss my mind.

Just a line to say I'm living, that I'm not
among the dead,

Though I'm getting more forgetful and
mixed up in my head,

I'm getting used to arthritis, to my
dentures I'm resigned,

I can manage my bifocals but oh God
I miss my mind.

Sometimes I can't remember when I'm
standing on the stair

If I should go up for something, or I've
just come down from there

And before the fridge so often, my mind
is filled with doubt

Now did I just put food away, or come to
take it out.

And sometimes when it's night time,
with my nightcap on my head,

I don't know if I'm retiring, or just
getting out of bed.

If it's not my time to write dear, I hope
you won't get sore,

I may think that I have written, and I
don't want to be a bore,

So do remember that I love you, and
wished that you lived near,

But now it's time to post this, and say
goodbye my dear.

At last I stood beside that post box,
and my face it did get red,

Because rather than posting this to you,
I opened it instead.

Joyce Ward

Getting ready for Christmas

Advent Study Groups

Advent courses are well underway by Zoom, but you can still join in.

Rosyth Methodist Church. Eddie will be leading a Bible Study during the Advent season entitled "The Themes of Advent" on **Mondays from 10.30am to 11.30am** on Zoom

30 November PEACE

7 December HOPE

14 December LOVE

21 December JOY

You are warmly invited to join this study, where we will be looking at the themes from a Wesleyan perspective. Before each session, Eddie will email participants suitable material plus the joining instructions (same as for previous Bible studies). Each session is a unit in itself, so feel free to join in as many or as few as you are able

The **Advent Ecumenical Study Group** started a 6 week journey on Monday 16 November until 21 December using as a theme David Adam's book "Candles in the Dark", which they have used before. Everyone will have their own Jesse Tree visible during the call (even if it is a branch from the garden) and each week they will be adding a symbol to the tree which means something personal to them. Usual **Monday night at 7pm** via Zoom - please contact Morag Crawford or Alan Taylor for the link to Zoom if you wish to join.

Services for Advent and Christmas

Apart from on-line services from Rosyth (see diary pages 14–15), details of an expanded programme of on-line provincial worship for Advent and Christmas (produced through the General Synod Office) and a full Circuit programme will be made available soon and communicated on our websites.

Sandra Young

What, no Nativity?

Contributed by Jean Hall

No Nativity this year because the Three Wise Men face a travel ban.

The shepherds have been furloughed.

The Inn keeper has shut under Tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings.

Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen.

As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test.

[Ed: see next item for how Messy Church and friends hope for a positive outcome, with the aid of Zoom!]

Messy Church Christmas

Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm

I am hoping to see as many of our Messy Church children as possible at our Zoom get-together on Christmas Eve. Covid may have prevented us performing our Nativity play but it can't stop us meeting on-line.

Come and join us for a short time, listen to the Nativity story and maybe even sing a couple of carols.

I would love it if you could dress up as one of the people or animals in the story, Could you make something from the story to show us? That would be fantastic.

All you need to do to join the meeting **is to click on the link details below or copy them to your browser.** It's open to anyone from Messy Church or any children staying with you.

See you all soon!

Gwyneth Kirby

For our Christmas Eve get-together, the **Zoom joining details are given below:**

A First Christmas Tree

Olive Lee remembers its impact

Some 70 years ago in rural Fermanagh our family lived across a field from my widowed great-aunt (an ardent Methodist) and her two daughters. Sometimes we would spend Christmas Day with them and once, a day or so before Christmas, Dorothy, the older girl, returned on leave from Belfast (100 miles and a world away then) where she was training to be a nurse.

That year she and her sister, Joan, prepared a wonderful surprise for my brother Jim and me. They had been up the hill on their land and sawed off a branch of a fir tree. On opening their sitting-room door there it was, draped with tinsel, bearing a few candles, propped in a corner. Jim and I were awestruck! It was our talking-point that year.

Now when I see some of the elaborate Christmas decorations I am transported back to our humble tree.

Very often the simple deeds executed out of love are longest remembered and make most impact – an idea perhaps for Christmas 2020?



Messy Church: **24 December at 4:00pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86262757365?pwd=V0V3M0x2VUNWRVhNTGpRdWxWY1JhZz09>

Meeting ID: **862 6275 7365**

Passcode: **738672**

A year in candles

Martin Tarr reflects



It was for our Joint Communion last December – a service led by Rev Dr Michael Paterson, and at which Julia Reid preached – that Michael came up with this interpretation of the traditional Advent wreath. It combined Episcopal elements of purple and pink with Methodist preferences for red candles in a novel framework that added a more modern light source to the design, and it remains a lovely memory of that past Christmas.

It was in March that Julia and Michael worked together next, presenting a memorable Sunday@Six on the theme “Embracing Lament in Lent”, and billed as “a service in which we would be encouraged to ‘cry out to the Lord our God’, using some of the lamenting psalms to share our sorrows, grief, pain, regrets and complaints with God.”

Ed: We published a report on this service on pp5/6 of our April 2020 issue, or you can find it linked as a separate article in the post at <https://tinyurl.com/y3llmcbu>.

Little did we know on 15 March that this service would be our last opportunity in 2020 to meet as a combined congregation, with no services in person at all for the following six months – and that we would be lamenting in isolation.

On 19 March, our website posted this message: “All Christians have been invited to respond to the suggestion of the Archbishop of Canterbury, that we light a candle and place it in a window for people to see, at 7.00pm this Sunday (22 March) and every Sunday as long as the situation lasts. This candle will be a symbol of our shared hope and our commitment to prayer and action.”



So we hunted for a candle. Although some uncharitably use terms like ‘tip’ or ‘bourach’ to describe it, our garage is to my eyes a repository of all sorts of useful things! Deep in its recesses I found an old rusty tin, whose tattered paper label showed that it had once contained 4lbs of assorted biscuits, and informed me that I had failed to recover the 1’6 deposit included in the original price. But it was full of candles!

Some of the candles in the box may well have been part of a ‘strategic reserve’ from those dark 1970s days of coal strikes and three-day working. But the paraffin wax had protected the wick, and our wee candle duly appeared in the window.



Since then a candle has appeared in one of our street-facing windows almost every Sunday evening. We've lit a candle at 7.00pm, and prayed the prayer specially written for each Sunday by Action of Churches Together in Scotland. Our supply of candles hasn't run out – think widow's cruse for 'as long as the situation lasts' – and there is still a call to prayer every week, even though vaccine development is now bringing light at the end of the tunnel.

Ed: To join with other Christians in Scotland, download the call to prayer at the link that you'll find on our home pages. The prayer/letter prepared by church leaders is new every week, and usually available from Friday afternoon.



More immediate light comes from the Advent wreaths which have just started their journey through Peace, Hope, Love and Joy *or* The Patriarchs, The Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary, depending on which set of Advent themes you prefer.

As with the themes, there are different ways of producing a framework for the wreath. The one at Glencarse (above) used greenery from a member of the congregation's garden.

It resonated for me with the practice that we were reminded about at the 'Hanging of the Greens' service that Eddie Sykes so helpfully shared on Advent Sunday, which was to bring evergreens into the sanctuary: a symbol of the eternal coming to dwell among us as Word made flesh; a sign of life and growth overcoming and flourishing in the midst of the dead of winter, and so of the resurrection of Christ.

The wreath that Mary Kidd arranged, seen here on Advent Sunday with its first candle lit, was a much jollier affair, with an emphasis on the joy of the season rather than sombre preparation.



There is room for both interpretations, as there is for both sets of themes. After all, whatever one says about Advent, or however one illustrates the season in candles, you can only touch on the surface of the rich truths of God's love and grace that underpin that first Christmas. Whatever the wreath, and whatever meaning we link to each candle, the Advent journey is towards the lighting of the central white candle that represents the Christ Child. While it's a loss that this year we can only sing favourite carols in our own 'bubbles', the light of Christ still "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

Jean Hall
wishes you
all a peaceful
Christmas.
God bless.

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

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

Julie Denning
sends her Christmas
Greetings to both
congregations.

Mary Dempster
wishes all her friends
in both congregations a
happy Christmas and a
“healthy” 2021, with loving
thoughts and prayers.

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

*Howard and
Gwyneth Kirby*
wish all our friends in
the Partnership a happy
Christmas and a healthy
New Year. Looking forward
to being together again,

*Sandra and
John Daly*
send best wishes for
Christmas and wish
you all a healthy and
joyful New Year.

*Mandy and
Dave Ward*
would like to wish all their
friends in both churches
a lovely Christmas and a
safe New Year.

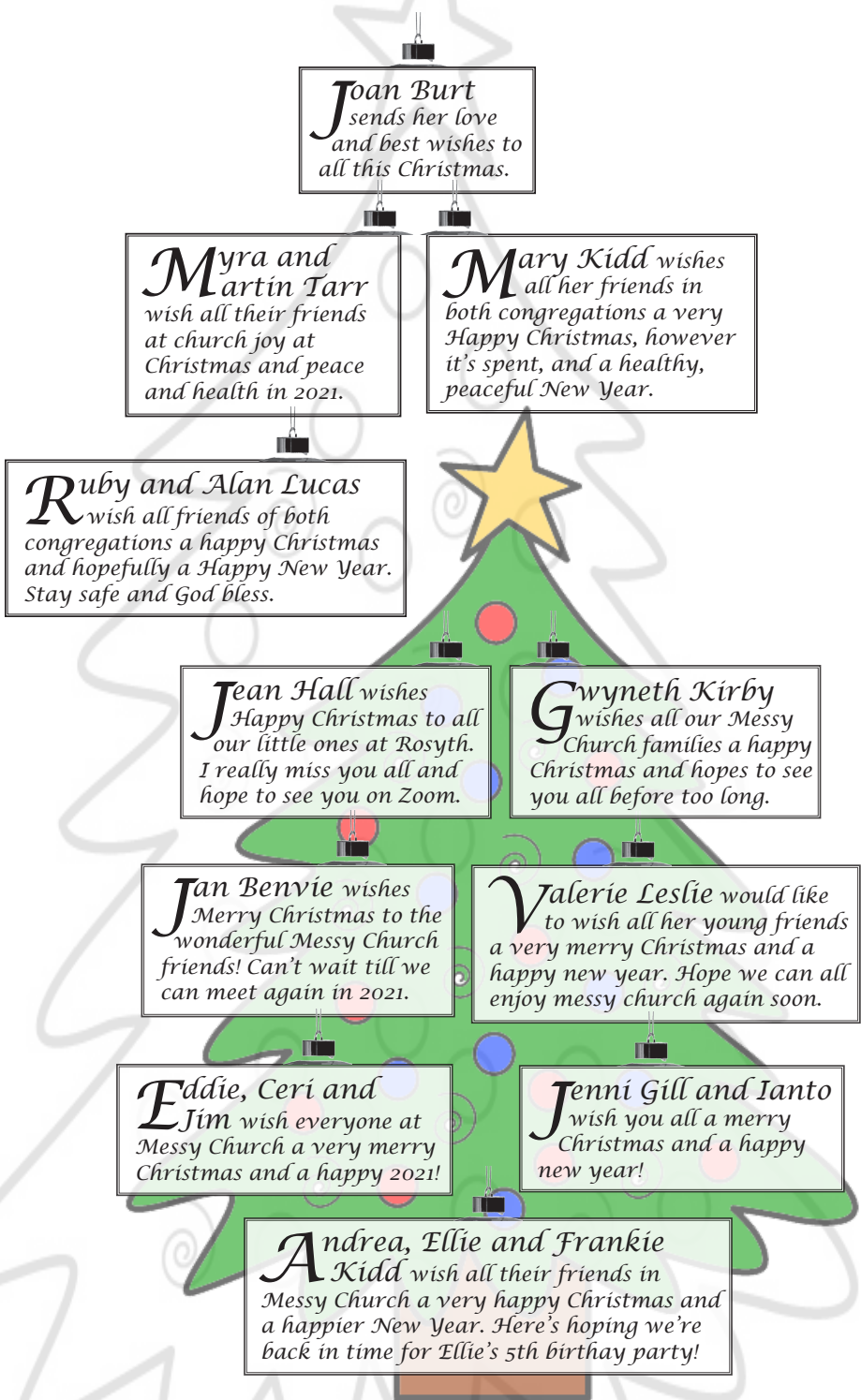
Jan Benvie sends
friends in both churches
prayers for a Blessed
Christmas and a New Year
of being together again.

Olive Lee
wishes everyone
at St Margaret's and
Rosyth Methodist a
peaceful Christmas
and a brighter 2021.

Sheila Lee wishes
Christmas Blessings to
you and your loved ones.
May 2021 bring you
good health and all the
joys you have missed.

*David and Sue Salthouse,
Edward and Eleanor*
thank all their friends in both churches
for their support and fellowship over
the last year. Thinking of you and
your loved ones at this Christmas time.
Our love and blessings to you all.

*Marc Tempelhoff and
Pierre de Bruijn* wish
everyone a Blessed Christmas, filled
with the love and joy of our Lord, and a
New Year that brings good health, love
and laughter. Please spare a thought
for those that live far away and for
those who are not with us anymore.



*Joan Burt
sends her love
and best wishes to
all this Christmas.*

*Myra and
Martin Tarr
wish all their friends
at church joy at
Christmas and peace
and health in 2021.*

*Mary Kidd wishes
all her friends in
both congregations a very
Happy Christmas, however
it's spent, and a healthy,
peaceful New Year.*

*Ruby and Alan Lucas
wish all friends of both
congregations a happy Christmas
and hopefully a Happy New Year.
Stay safe and God bless.*

*Jean Hall wishes
Happy Christmas to all
our little ones at Rosyth.
I really miss you all and
hope to see you on Zoom.*

*Gwyneth Kirby
wishes all our Messy
Church families a happy
Christmas and hopes to see
you all before too long.*

*Jan Benvie wishes
Merry Christmas to the
wonderful Messy Church
friends! Can't wait till we
can meet again in 2021.*

*Valerie Leslie would like
to wish all her young friends
a very merry Christmas and a
happy new year. Hope we can all
enjoy messy church again soon.*

*Eddie, Ceri and
Jim wish everyone at
Messy Church a very merry
Christmas and a happy 2021!*

*Jenni Gill and Ianto
wish you all a merry
Christmas and a happy
new year!*

*Andrea, Ellie and Frankie
Kidd wish all their friends in
Messy Church a very happy Christmas and
a happier New Year. Here's hoping we're
back in time for Ellie's 5th birthday party!*

Church Matters

Our church business

Due to the COVID restrictions, no Methodist Annual Church Meeting to elect Stewards and Church Council Members has been possible this year. At the Council Meeting via Zoom on 13 October, it was agreed that as all current members are willing to carry on, we continue as we are until the next General Meeting in 2021.

St Margaret's will however, hold their Annual General Meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday 8 December.**

From elsewhere in the Episcopal Church ...

Some good news



We are delighted to hear that Liz Crumlish, known to our congregations for her involvement with Michael Paterson in some of our services during the

interregnum, will be ordained deacon at St Oswald's Church, Maybole, by the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, on **Sunday 13 December** (restrictions permitting). Liz will then begin her new ministry as Assistant Curate at St Oswald's.

Liz brings a wealth of experience in ministry, having been ordained in the Church of Scotland 25 years ago. She has worked as a Health Care Chaplain in Greenock and in parishes in Inverkip and Ayr. She is currently working for the Church of Scotland as the National Coordinator for Renewal and Pioneering. Liz lives in Prestwick and is a member of St Ninian's Episcopal Church. She is married to Idris and they have two grown up children, Ruairidh and Zara, and a granddaughter, Evie, who was born in February of this year.

We remember Liz and her family in our prayers and thoughts and wish her a fruitful and happy ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Exploring Faith

An on-line course, "**Exploring Faith**" – a short introduction and refresher course on what Christians believe will be delivered on Zoom by the Forth Valley Methodist Circuit ministry team, starting **Sunday 10 January 2021 and running on Sunday afternoons at 4pm until 7 February.**

The course can be used as an introduction to what Christians believe for those who are new to the faith and may be considering membership of the church. It can also be a refresher course for church members who wish to look again at their faith and the teachings of the Methodist Church.

For more details and to sign up for the course, please email:
circuitadmin@forthvalleycircuit.org.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022

Would you be interested in submitting a prayer to the Methodist Prayer Handbook 2021/2022? – the theme is ***A Place for All.***

No one was excluded from Jesus' table and eating with him was a sign of the kingdom of heaven and an invitation to meet God and be transformed. We recognise that we do not always offer such generous welcome or listen to voices on the margins.

As the Church strives to be God's people in a world changed by a global pandemic, we invite prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, penitence and resolve that, with God's help, we may recognise and repent of our exclusivity, and that then we may be reconciling, open to all and ready to listen to all voices equally. Together, we pray to become a more inclusive and diverse Church, creating communities of greater respect and compassion.

In addition to prayers on the theme of the Handbook, we invite prayers of thanksgiving, adoration and confession and prayers on the themes of justice, times of life and times of day and the comforting presence of God for the opening pages of the Handbook.

Prayers must be no longer than **120** words.

Please also email photographs that will help to bring our theme to life. Photographs should be sent in their original size and those with people in are particularly welcome. Please provide a caption and state where the photo was taken.

The deadline for submission of prayers and photos is **11 January 2021.**

Please send contributions to:
prayerhandbook@methodistchurch.org.uk and also provide your name, postal address and how you would like to be described.



CIRCUIT ON-LINE (ZOOM)

FAMILY WORSHIP

9:45am, Friday 25th December 2020

Join with us to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

ALL WELCOME

ZOOM JOINING INSTRUCTIONS:

Topic: FV Christmas Day Service
Time: Dec 25, 2020 09:45 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84302030445?pwd=aEhRYTYVM2dPRkinOFZmeWxFeUtyUT09>
Meeting ID: 843 0203 0445
Passcode: 863680

Diary for December 2020

Notes re diary for December/January

In the light of the current uncertainties caused by the coronavirus situation, and with the regulations due for review after 11 December, this diary can only be our best guess. Do look at the home pages, noticeboards and diary on our websites for the latest information on "What's on."

Sunday 29 November

Advent 1	9.30am	Said Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	4.00pm	Advent family "Hanging of the Greens" Circuit service,	Rev Eddie Sykes
Monday 30 Nov	10.30am	Advent Bible Study "The Themes of Advent" led by Rev Eddie Sykes via Zoom (see page 6)	
	7.00pm	Advent Ecumenical Study Group by Zoom Theme "Candles in the Dark" by David Adam (see page 6)	

Sunday 6 December

Advent 2	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes
Mon 7 Dec	10.30am	Advent Bible Study "The Themes of Advent" led by Rev Eddie Sykes via Zoom (see page 6)	
	7.00pm	Advent Ecumenical Study Group by Zoom Theme "Candles in the Dark" by David Adam (see page 6)	
Tue 8 Dec	6.30pm	St Margaret's AGM via Zoom	

Sunday 13 December

Advent 3	9.30am	Said Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
Mon 14	10.30am	Advent Bible Study "The Themes of Advent" led by Rev Eddie Sykes via Zoom (see page 6)	
	7.00pm	Advent Ecumenical Study Group by Zoom Theme "Candles in the Dark" by David Adam (see page 6)	

Diary for early January 2021

Sunday 20 December

Advent 4	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	11.00am	Communion Service	Rev Eddie Sykes
	4.00pm	Circuit Carol Service by Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
Mon 21	10.30am	Advent Bible Study "The Themes of Advent" led by Rev Eddie Sykes via Zoom (see page 6)	
	7.00pm	Advent Ecumenical Study Group by Zoom Theme "Candles in the Dark" by David Adam (see page 6)	
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Get-together for Messy Church and related families with a Nativity theme; via Zoom (see page 7)	
	6.00pm	Service including Communion from Holy Trinity Dunfermline	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
Christmas Day	9.45am	Christmas Day Service by Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes

Sunday 27 December

Christmas 1	9.30am	Said Eucharist including the Nativity Story Very Rev Kenny Rathband	
	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes

Sunday 3 January

Christmas 2	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Eddie Sykes

Sunday 10 January

Baptism of the Lord	9.30am	Said Eucharist	Very Rev Kenny Rathband
	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	4.00pm	On-line course by Zoom – Exploring Faith (see page 12)	

Sunday 17 January

Epiphany 2	9.45am	On-line service via Zoom	Rev Eddie Sykes
	11.00am	Annual Covenant Service, with Holy Communion Rev Eddie Sykes	

Greetings from Dartford

A letter from Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

Dear friends at Rosyth Methodist Church and St Margaret's,

Time passes so quickly, as I'm told it tends to do as we get older (!) and I can't believe that it's 16 months since I left the Forth Valley Circuit to begin a new venture 'down south', to work in two churches in the North Kent Methodist Circuit. Granted, there are no panoramic coastal views from the upper floors of the manse or nearby coastal walks but Graham and I have settled well in Dartford and have a lovely manse surrounded by trees which are currently shedding their million leaves. In contrast to my time in the Forth Valley Circuit, where I drove hundreds of miles each month - I am just a few minutes' drive away from my two churches, Spital Street Methodist Church and The Brent Methodist Church, where I share in ministry with a presbyteral colleague.

You have often been in my thoughts and prayers this year, as I have reflected on my time in the Forth Valley Circuit and the many blessings I experienced at Rosyth. I especially remember happy times at The Triangle and Wednesday Fellowship, as well as Sunday worship. The 'lockdown' has reshaped so many of our regular church activities and whilst some have had to be paused, new opportunities have emerged.



I imagine that this would be the case in Rosyth as well as in Dartford. It has been a privilege to lead online fellowships, share in online Sunday worship and write articles, as well

as having many pastoral conversations with those who may feel lonely, isolated or unwell.

In January this year, I sensed that God was calling me to look again at Nutritional Therapy, a career I laid down in 2012 to train for ordained ministry. I felt that this call was not about resuming private practice but rather to share the experience and information I had previously acquired, as part of my church and community ministry. Circuit colleagues and church members were very supportive and encouraged me to follow this call! After 8 months of refresher training, I am now thoroughly enjoying this new aspect of ministry. There have been opportunities to engage with local health charities and I also produce a nutritional newsletter, 'The NK Wellbeing Zone', every two months. Keeping with the nutritional theme, I also help at the Dartford Foodbank, whose valuable practical and pastoral provision is needed more than ever.

Graham is busy with G H Health Solutions Ltd., helping companies and private individuals with their private medical insurance. Thankfully, his

Thank you!

A letter from Rev Julia Reid

business was 'movable', and he is still able to look after clients all around the UK. Graham is also kept busy as a presenter of The Progressive Rock Show, every Sunday from 8–10pm on Progzilla Radio and has a growing following of loyal listeners from around the globe. Sarah-Sophia and Bilshan are happy and well in Mauritius and I hope that we will be able to meet up again in the not too distant future.

You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers, especially that you and those you love will continue to know God's peace and presence and the 'joy of the Lord' as your strength (Nehemiah 8:10) as we celebrate Advent and prepare to welcome our Saviour Jesus.

With love and every blessing,

Deacon Elizabeth Harfleet

I cannot quite believe that we are approaching advent as I write this. I really must apologise for not doing so earlier.

It's been a very surreal kind of year, hasn't it? When we gathered to 'Lament in Lent' we knew that there was a likelihood we would have to stop holding services for what we thought would be 'a few weeks', maybe even 6 or 12 weeks, to play our part in stopping the spread of the coronavirus. I certainly never expected not to have a proper farewell as we had organised.

And so it was that I met with David in Broxden Park and Ride Car Park just outside Perth, to receive your farewell gifts in a suitably socially distanced manner! It is just as well I waited until I returned home and settled myself before opening them...I was and remain completely taken aback by your generosity and your thoughtfulness. I shed more than a few tears then and I'm welling up again as I type this now.

As well as the very useful vouchers and the card, you presented me with an exquisitely beautiful Home Communion set. I had been looking at these in various church supply catalogues so it was the most perfect gift to receive...and I will always think of my blessed time at Rosyth on every occasion at which it is used.

Continued on Page 18

Continued from page 17 (Thank you!)



I do, of course, pray for you regularly and miss you dearly and I know from your messages that you will continue to pray for me too. I hope it is of some comfort to know that I am getting on well in my new home. The manse is lovely, having been freshly decorated and carpeted before I moved in. I also have a lovely garden, which is much appreciated by my remaining Labrador (although I'm not sure keen gardeners would appreciate what he has been doing to the lawn!). I'm looking forward to sitting out in the garden come the spring/summer and utilising the garden centre voucher to plant a few plants of my own choosing at that time. Since I arrived, we seem to have had more than a reasonable amount of rain, so just keeping things neat and prepared for winter is all I've managed to do so far (with more than a little help from neighbours).

Furthermore, I was able to bring all three of my children down to Richmond for my first week in the manse. As you know, that was a miracle in itself and such an abundant answer to prayer. Iain has since been for a visit followed by Kirsty. Iain hopes to return when

lockdown 2.0 is relaxed, with Alasdair following when the university term in Glasgow is over mid-December. In the meantime, I have plenty to keep me busy as I get to know my congregations, explore my beautiful surroundings and not forgetting ongoing assignments and presentations to prepare for, for my Probationer studies and District assessments.

It is quite something to finally be in the role that I know God has called me to and which just feels so right for me at this time...despite not being able to meet people fully face-to-face. I wonder what they will all look like when they take their masks off! So many people comment on how difficult it must be to begin this phase of my ministry during covid19...but I always reply that I am genuinely privileged and blessed just to have this opportunity...and besides, I haven't done this before so I am not held back by comparing it to 'what I normally do' and nor has anyone any great expectations in these strangest of times.

So, as well as my love and prayers, please accept my heart-felt thanks to you all, both for my farewell gifts and also for your encouragement and support during my ministerial preparation time at Rosyth. You are all sorely missed.

Rev Julia Reid

Three Other Wise Men

*by Rt Rev James A Simpson**

Contributed by Olive Lee

One Christmas Eve in San Quentin prison, almost as a gesture of sarcasm, the prisoners hung socks outside their cells. Unlike previous governors, the newly appointed governor responded. The prisoners' gesture seemed infinitely pathetic, so he despatched prison officers to purchase whatever fruit and chocolate they could get at that late hour. Shortly after midnight each sock was filled. Writing later of that incident, one of the prisoners Donald Lowrie said, 'This was the nearest thing to the Christ-Spirit that I saw at San Quentin.'

Johann Oberlin who lived in the 18th century was the Protestant minister of Waldach in the mountainous district of Alsace. One bitter December day while returning from a neighbouring village across the snow-covered mountains, he suddenly took ill. He knew he must press on for many had frozen to death through sitting down to rest. He had not gone far when he collapsed. On regaining consciousness he found himself in a little hut gazing up into the rugged face of a stranger who was giving him brandy. The stranger who had obviously carried him to the hut, stayed with him until he was stronger. Then he accompanied him to Waldach. Oberlin wanted to repay his kindness, but the man would take nothing. He would not even tell

Oberlin his name. 'Pastor, when you tell me the Good Samaritan's name, I will tell you my name'

I recall a man coming to my home in Glasgow and handing me a beautiful book. He explained that he had overheard a conversation in the local bookshop concerning a family where one of the boys was desperately keen to get this book for Christmas, but which his mother had admitted she could not afford. Anxious to remain anonymous, and to avoid the mother any embarrassment, he wondered if I would deliver the book.

'When you give, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that giving may be in secret.' Jesus also said, 'Whoever hears these words of mine and acts upon them, I will liken unto a wise man'.

The striking characteristic of these three wise men – the prison governor, the rugged man of the mountains and the Glaswegian – was their compassion, which expressed itself in doing good secretly. Lloyd Douglas was right to describe such anonymous giving as a 'magnificent obsession'.

*[Rt Rev Simpson was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1994.]

A poem about the coronavirus

by Pam Ayres

Contributed by Jean Hall

I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here we can't
go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any FaceBook
So not everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth,
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n
roll
The pill and miniskirts.
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So, let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Anticipating Christmas – knitting a Star

Sandra Young gives an update on the challenge presented in the last issue

In the last edition of Contact, Jan Benvie invited readers to knit Stars for the Parish Church project, which would take the symbol of the star to share something of the Christmas story with the children in the school.

The task was to make about 1400 stars to distribute to all the children in the four primary schools. Some wondered if this was an impossible task as knitting didn't start until the end of September/early October.

However, the impossible has been achieved and Deacon Morag could not believe 1000 had been counted. Morag says **well done** to all who have contributed to this incredible figure, some by knitting, some sewing up. It looks as if an additional 275, required to give the total of 1275 out to the

four schools before the middle of December, will be achieved. In addition there are an extra 153 stars made from material to give out to members of staff in the schools.

Morag has no idea where the stars have come from as people have involved neighbours and friends so she wishes to pass on her thanks to them. I know they include people from our congregations and their friends, which is great that we willingly help in such enterprises for the community.

We can all keep in our thoughts and prayers all who will receive a star that it may brighten their day knowing that others have thought about them especially at this time when things have been difficult for so many.

Sandra Young

Seasonal Jokes

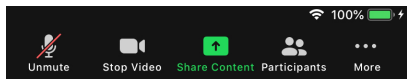
Compiled by Dave Ward. Have fun!

How did Mary know Jesus's weight when born? ... They had a weigh in a manger.
What happened to the man who stole an Advent calendar? He got 25 days.
Why was a Turkey in the pop group? He was the only one with a Drumstick.
What goes oh! oh! oh! Santa walking backwards
What happens if you cross a snow man with a vampire? You get frostbite.
Why is it hard to buy an advent calendar? Their days are numbered.
What do Snowmen eat for breakfast? Snowflakes.
What carol is heard in the Desert? O camel ye faithful.
What is white and minty? A Polo Bear

Overcoming problems with Zoom – 2

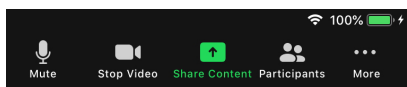
Joining the conversation in the way that you – and others – want yourself to

The key when using Zoom is to remember that, assuming your device has a microphone, everyone in the chat room will hear everything that's going on unless you are muted. So you need to keep an eye on the small microphone symbol at the left of the group of symbols that appear at top right (or at the bottom of small screens):



The **muted state** – what you say can't be heard!

If this has a red line across it, you are muted, and no-one will hear your dog barking, or your opinion of the point being made! It's a bit like sending an email – don't press the button to unmute until you're prepared for your voice and noises in your surroundings to join the public domain!

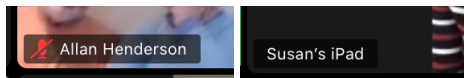


The **unmuted state** – live to air!

The microphone symbol is a 'toggle', that is it changes each time you click on it, or press the symbol on a touch-sensitive device such as a tablet or phone.

Depending on your equipment and the quality of your internet connection, the response may not be instantaneous, so resist the temptation to jab quickly several times, because you may not end up in the state you want to be.

You can check whether or not you are muted by the small marker that occurs against the name on your window image – and you can see the same for all participants who appear on the meeting screen.



Left: a muted participant

Right: an unmuted participant

Keep an eye out for that red crossed-out microphone symbol!

Zoom is designed for meetings, and continually polls the audio feeds from unmuted participants in order to work out who is speaking. Zoom, and not the host, determine who is the 'active speaker' and display this with a thin green border around the window.

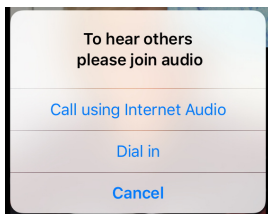


This means that anyone who is using Speaker view (see Part 1 in our last issue) will see the speaker full screen. Which is fine if Zoom has selected the intended speaker, but not so good if Zoom has picked up any background or conversation from your microphone and decided that you are the speaker!

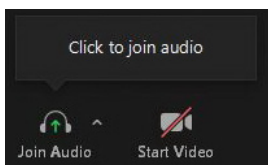
The random appearance of different 'active speakers' is very distracting to those trying to concentrate so, if you can't keep schtum, the only safe way is to mute yourself!

Of course, in order to be able to contribute your penn'orth you need to have enabled internet sound. Your Zoom app settings will determine whether sound will be enabled automatically when you log in, or whether you will be asked each time you join a meeting.

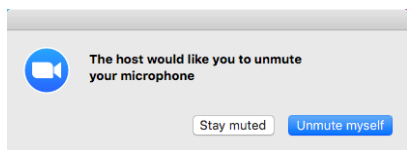
If you are presented with a screen that looks something like this, you need to accept the invitation.



Those who access Zoom on a computer may find themselves presented with a different type of control, but the effect is the same.



With services, it's common practice for the host or co-host to mute all participants at the start of formal proceedings. You can unmute yourself (though do please be aware of the risk of disrupting proceedings!), but the host can't. If you're invited to participate, for example by reading, then at the appropriate time you'll get a screen inviting you to unmute, which you need to accept before starting to speak.



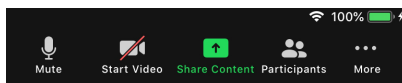
With less formal meetings, such as Bible studies, then you'll be given control, but do remember that silence is safest. Apart from anything else, an open microphone will add to the background noise and make it more difficult for others to hear what is being said, while an over-sensitive microphone may pick up your loudspeaker and cause painful acoustic feedback.

In the same way that you need to be aware of the way in which your sound contributes to the meeting, and its potential to disrupt, it's a good idea to 'curate' ones video feed. Not everybody keeps an eye on their own Zoom window, and it's surprising how often you can become distracted by what's happening in other 'Zoom studios'. Are you one of the culprits who moves out of shot, so folk wonder what else is so important?



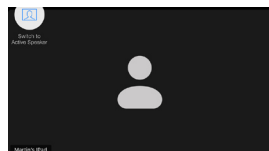
Or perhaps you're someone who hasn't found a means of keeping your mobile phone steady, so that the audience see your feet, or your head, or your ceiling, or – most distractingly – a continually shifting picture. While the 'virtual congregation' want to see you smile or laugh or show some other way of participating in what's going on – sharing a cuppa for example – they *don't* want to see (or hear) you answering the door!

The answer, of course, is to press the Stop Video control that's to the right of the microphone mute control. It's another toggle, and one that changes to a Start Video symbol:



The **video inactive state** –you're invisible

After which action you are still connected to the meeting, but appear in this safe and discreet manner:



More about Zoom in our next issue ...

Here I am

an Advent thought from Liz Crumlish

Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)

Here I am:

I may have taken a circuitous route
ducked and dived
dallied in the odd cul-de-sac
meandered in the occasional blind alley
ignored the satnav to pursue my own path
off the beaten track

Yet

Here I am the servant of the Lord

Called and chosen
Shown favour
with no presumptions
no compulsion
Called and chosen
to serve
and given grace
to fulfil that calling
to be
the servant of the Lord

Let it be with me

Not so much resignation
as determination
resolve
stepping up
and stepping into
all that God reveals
along the way



Let it be with me According to your word

Living into
the promise
and the favour
of God
who calls
and equips
compels
and enables
who strides ahead
and walks beside
and persistently affirms
I am for you.

Here I am the servant of the Lord Let it be with me according to your word.

Liz Crumlish (see page 12) posts her “Reflections on finding God in everyday life” at <https://liz-vicarofdibley.blogspot.com/>. This is her post for 9 December. You’ll find other posts used on our website, and also a link to a complete booklet of Advent reflections – look for “Travelling light” on our Resources tab.

The 'joy' candle

Martin Tarr explains

Did you notice that both the Advent wreaths pictured on page 9 have three purple candles and one pink one?

Back in December 2009 on p3 of Contact – still there to be read on our websites – Rev Eric Potts shared an Advent thought under the title “The Colour Purple”, so there’s no need to do more than remind you that purple is the colour of Advent, associated with repentance as well as suffering and pain, and also with royalty and the triumph of the king.

Using deep purple sets a solemn tone, but the church recognised that Christians are never a people without joy. So, as the liturgical calendar developed, one Sunday was set aside in each season – the fourth Sunday in Lent and the third Sunday in Advent – to focus on joy. The colour pink (or more accurately, rose) was chosen as a reminder on these Sundays that even in the midst of longing, penitence, and fasting, the church never ceases to rejoice.

The third Sunday in Advent was called *Gaudete* (or Rejoice) Sunday from a central scripture read and sung in worship: “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.” (Philippians 4:4) And one of the four purple candles in the Advent wreath was changed from purple to pink for that third Sunday in Advent. Which is why the third candle in the wreath is sometime called the ‘joy’ candle.

More at

<https://tinyurl.com/y25mkeqv>.

Junior Puzzles

With puzzles from Dave Ward

Seasonal Junior Puzzles

- 1) How does Christmas Day end?
- 2) Which of Santa’s Reindeer are these:
CANEDR
TMOEC
NNROED
TLINZEB
- 3) In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone* what do the Dursley’s give Harry for Christmas?
- 4) Who guards Elsa’s Palace in *Frozen*?
- 5) Who said “Merry Christmas One and All” and from what Christmas Story does it appear?

Answers to October’s Junior Puzzles

- 1) It is called the second hand.
- 2) There are 9 in the family, Mr & Mrs Plum, 6 daughters and 1 son.
- 3) When they meet, they will be at the same spot.
- 4) The 9 is painted Twenty times.
- 5) The other half are also boys.

Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

Seasonal Puzzles

- 1) What are these Christmas songs:
 - A) A MAGICAL CARP ENSLAVEMENT
 - B) ACE MYRRH SERENITY MOVERS
 - C) ONTO FREAKIER FLYWAY?
- 2) From what town does the Grinch attempt to steal Christmas?
- 3) When was the song "All I want for Christmas" first released and by whom?
- 4) In the Christmas film "It's a Wonderful life", what happens every time a bell rings?
- 5) Where was St Nicholas born? (modern day country).

October answers

- 1) **Candle tallow.** You would get 11 extra candles.
- 2) **Crossing a river.** It would take 5 trips. Two boys go over 1 comes back, The mother goes over the other boy comes back. The 2 boys go over again, 1 comes back, the

Father goes over, again the second boy comes back. Then the 2 boys go over.

- 3) **Birth years.** King Tut was born in 20 BC. There were 120 years between the birth of King Eros and the death of King Tut, but since their ages amounted to only 100 years then there must have been 20 years when neither existed. This would be the period between the death of King Eros. 40 BC and the birth of King Tut 20 BC
- 4) **Taking notes.** £305. You could take 3 £50, 3 £20, 3 £10, and 3 £5, the last bill would be another £50.
- 5) **Truth-tellers.** Frank is a visitor and Joe and Bill are natives. Joe's statement is wrong because if all were natives none would say they were. So we know Joe is a native. But Frank could not be a native because if he was then it would mean that Bill is the only visitor, which would make Frank statement true, which he could not make if he were a native.

Dave Ward

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.

*The building has re-opened for church services under certain conditions.
Groups shown in bold have resumed having also met other conditions.*

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
cmmarykidd@btinternet.com

Coffee, Cake & Crafts (1st Tue 1930–2100)
Sue Masson 01383 824887
susan.masson@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Parahandies Disabled Club (Mon 0930–1400)
Peter Merckel (sec) 01383 822940
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

Scout Group

Group Scout Leader
see Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

***Beaver Scouts** (Tue 1715–1815)
Tracy Mitchell 07582 731158
kiso0709@yahoo.co.uk

***Cub Scouts** (Tue 1845–2015)
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

To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. Our next issue will be published on Tuesday 2 February 2021, Please send your contributions by close of play on **Sunday 17 January**, by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

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.