

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

Registered Scottish Charity SC 005628

JUNE

2010



News from the Interim Moderator **01592 265536**

Dear Friends,

It's now two months since the start of Bennochy Parish Church and it's been a time of getting to know one another better and settling in to new ways of doing things. For some things that means starting from scratch; for others it's a question of listening, talking and sharing. None of it is easy but I sense that there's a will to make things work and that bodes well for the future.

As your new interim moderator I've been enjoying getting to know you, being privileged not to know people's past backgrounds. Both congregations were neighbours of ours in the town and I worked closely with both your previous ministers as colleagues and friends. As a result I know many of you by sight and some by name, but don't know which previous congregation I know you from. And that for me is a huge advantage!

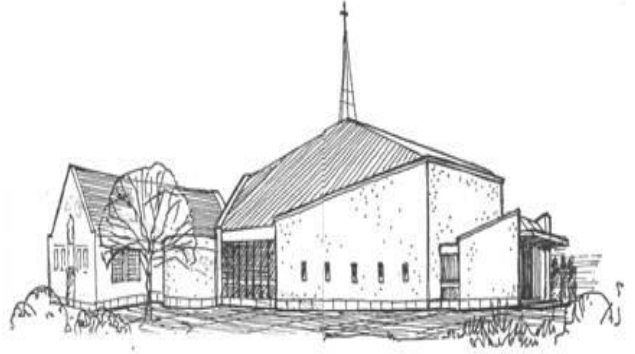
We're now at the beginning of the search for a new minister to serve you and the parish as you witness together in this place. It's an exciting time for any congregation and I look forward to working together with the nominating committee to find the right minister for Bennochy.

As I said at that first Sunday communion, the name Bennochy seems to come from the Gaelic 'beannaichte' meaning 'blessed lands'. I pray indeed as you come together as a new

congregation you will indeed be blessed by God and be a blessing to those around you.

Above all we seek to serve Christ. May he lead us forward.

Catriona Morrison



Christian Aid Collectors - Thank you very much for distributing and collecting the Christian Aid envelopes throughout the parish and beyond. The weather was a bit mixed so hopefully you were out at the correct time! The total for door-to-door collection throughout the parish at the moment is £1235.63 with an additional £57.02 to be reclaimed through Gift Aid. The total collected for Dunnikier Estate is £2000 with an additional £142.43 to be reclaimed through Gift Aid. The total for the Soup and Sweet lunch is now £487, with £25 received in donations.

Thank you to all those who have helped in any way to make Christian Aid Week such a success.



Take time to sing a song
For all the people who don't belong;
the women wasted by defeat
The men condemned to walk the street,
The down and out we'll never meet.

Take time to hear the plea
of every desperate refugee;
the millions who have to flee
their lands, their loves, their liberty,
who turn in hope to you and me.

Take time to take a stand
for peace and justice in every land,

where power causes deep unrest,
come, take the part of the oppressed,
and then, says God you will be blessed.

This is the poem that was read at our recent service for Christian Aid.

Dear Friends,

Just to say a big Thank You for the lovely flowers on the occasion of my 90th Birthday. They were very much appreciated and are really beautiful.

I had a wonderful day and lovely meal at the Victoria Hotel with several friends and relatives, with a few surprises sprung on me, one of which was my cousin who had come across from Spain especially for the occasion.

*Thanks once again,
Barbara Young.*

COMMUNION - The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at the morning service on Sunday 20th June



BENNOCHY CHURCH PRAYER GROUP

"Prayer is most often quietly-behind-the-scenes servanthood" - something quoted by Chris Beattie, a Scripture Union Associate Worker with Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART).

Chris, along with members of KART Prayer Support Group, met with us on 19th May. He told us of his work with young people in the Kirkcaldy area, both in primary and secondary schools and in churches. He is on an exciting journey with our children and it was a privilege and a pleasure to hear him tell of it. Perhaps there will be an opportunity for him to tell our new Bennochty Church congregation of his work. Meantime we invite you to remember him and his volunteer helpers in your prayers.

You are assured of a welcome to our prayer group meeting on June 16th at 10a.m. in the Prayer Room.

Mary Sherrard

DEATHS

- 23.3.10 Mrs Janetta Steele, 80 Wilson Avenue .
3.4.10 Mrs Doreen Johnston, 1 Burrelton Court, Thornton
7.5.10 Mrs Irene Gibson, 18 Kilspindie Crescent .
8.5.10 Mr John Campbell, 2 Mona Terrace, Elgin Street
20.5.10 Robert Miller, Wilby House, Loughborough Road, formerly Barrassie Drive.

ALZHEIMERS SCOTLAND - Pianist/s required

As recently intimated, Alzheimers Scotland have arranged to use Bennoch Church Hall on a monthly basis for approximately one hour commencing 14th June 2010 for a sing-a-long session called 'Musical Memories'. They are, however, still looking for one or more volunteers with the ability to play the piano for these sessions. If anyone could help out at any time please speak to Bill or Ragnar.

WORLD MISSION

Our mission partner, Jenny Featherstone, on furlough from Kitwe, Zambia, visited Kirkcaldy Presbytery from 1st - 9th May this year. She is on a 6 year contract and chose to return to the U.K. 3 years into her posting - spring blossom and gardens at this time of year were also a great attraction!

Here is a synopsis of her news and views at her meeting in Bennoch Parish Church on Friday 7th May.

Zambia ranks among the poorest countries in the continent of Africa. Although rich in natural resources, as in copper mines and agriculture, profits do not find their way into areas of infrastructure, education and health;

- only 2 tarmac roads, one leading to Livingstone, in a country the size of the U.K. and France combined.
- railway travel takes hours, as do the country buses.
- although Primary schooling is free, a child cannot go unless with a strict uniform - must be new and is expensive.
- although anti-retro viral treatment is available, it is only effective if you are reasonably well nourished.
- Society has virtually collapsed due to Aids - reports indicate that Zambia risks the extinction of its adult population within a generation. The disease is prevalent in women, resulting in huge

'orphan' groups cared for by grandmothers and thereafter by older brothers and sisters.

- Life expectancy is under 40 years
- 80% of the population live on less than 2 dollars a day.

It is the Church - the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) - and its volunteers that are the centre of resources in the caring of society and, on a national scale, the CHAZ is one of four nations to receive Global Fund grants to provide anti-viral treatment.

Jenny is to teach a Social Work Diploma course in the UCZ college on her return, 16 hours a week. She also has a supervisory role in 2 areas, in the village compounds of Ipusukilo and Kamatipa, helping to develop skills and practices in Women's groups; the aim being to bring about a sense of independence and pride in self generating funds. She is also working on a Playground scheme for the children not at school. This will require leaders and projects.

The tailoring that we helped to provide awaits a second batch of ladies to continue to teach others. The decorative cards, including our contributions of embroidery threads, are for sale on regular craft stalls. It is all slow and painstaking work. However, as you know from Jenny's quarterly newsletters, there is joy and colour in song and dance for any ready celebration.

What can we do? There are various ways of viewing our role:

- donations to a general fund, a separate bank account in Jenny's name. She dips into this fund as she sees fit over the year. She emphasises that there has not to be a dependency culture, with a sense of easy 'hand-out', as can become the case when charities become involved
- specific donations at her suggestion - such as funding for football shoes and strips - the 17 year old team play in shoes but the 14 year olds play barefoot and, when photographed, share out the 2 strips in turn!
- musical instruments (cornets are very popular) for the B.B. band. It is highly regarded, operates in true traditional style with drill and marching and is church based.
- sponsorship of a child's schooling, viz funding new uniform and black shoes every year.

There is always the possibility of linking directly with a Church/Guild for long term involvement. People are very proud to have a UK contact and have a special word for it (something like "mzumbe"). All this is food for thought and future discussion.

As correspondent, I await further suggestions from Jenny on her return to Zambia, and will keep you posted.

N.B. As her appointment is an ecumenical one, jointly funded by the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Church in England, she does not raise the matter of specific funding in her regular letters, as the Methodist Church prefers a central fund based in the U.K.

Margaret Simpson

STRAWBERRY TEAS

The Strawberry Teas start on Friday 4th June, and will be fortnightly thereafter, until 13th August from 2 pm to 4 pm, the next being on Friday 18th June. Come along and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea.

If there are any ladies in the congregation who would be prepared to help on any of the Friday afternoons, please speak to Senga Booth or Grace Morrison. We would be delighted to hear from you.

