

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

Registered Scottish Charity SC 005628

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NOVEMBER 2010



From our Interim Moderator

01592 265536

I've just come home from telling the youngest school children the first part of the Christmas story. Next week I'll tell them some more. I love telling people the story of how Jesus was born, especially to children some of whom may be hearing it for the first time. Others have heard the tale before or acted it out in a nativity play, but each time it still comes alive.

We will all soon be hearing the story again. It's one of the best known and best loved stories in the world. And however often you hear it, it can still affect us profoundly.

Perhaps you find you identify most with Mary, a young woman entrusted with the most precious of responsibilities. Or are you more drawn to Joseph who no doubt with very mixed feelings had to care for wife and child? Or do your sympathies lie with the innkeeper, trying to provide for so many people, rushed off your feet and not wanting to let anyone down. Is that what Christmas is like for you?

Or maybe you feel yourself outside on the edge looking in? The first people to be told of Jesus' birth were not those at the centre of things but the shepherds on the hillside. Or would you like, if only you could, to give the very best to God, perhaps not sure what it's really all about but drawn like the wise men to find a mystery. And always in the background are Simeon and Anna, an old man and woman nearing the end of life, who in their old age see God and are content.

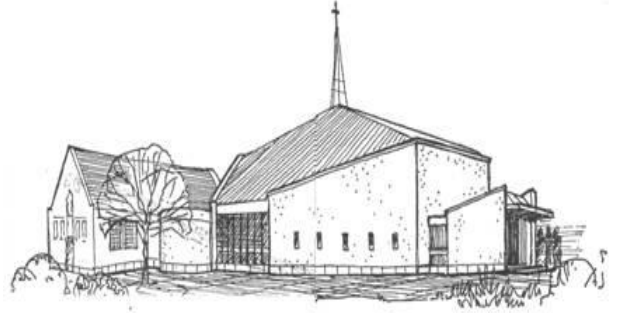
The Christmas story has highs and lows, full of joy and sadness, fear and anticipation. It's not the romantic pretty picture so often drawn for children - it's real and alive and can touch us if only we let it.

For at the heart of Christmas is Christ. And Christ is God completely vulnerable, giving himself

for us. The Christmas story is fulfilled in the Easter story - God with us and for us for ever.

May the joy of the angels,
the wonder of the shepherds,
the faith of the wise men,
and the peace of the Christ-Child
be God's gift to you and all people
this Christmas and always.

Catriona Morrison



AUTUMN/CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday 21 st November | Service of Rededication for Guild Week |
| Sunday 28 th November | Youth Organisations Service |
| Thursday 2 nd December | Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Guild Council Carol Service |
| Sunday 5 th December | Gift Service of Readings and Carols with the Choir. Members are invited to bring a gift or toy, unwrapped, for a child. Please indicate appropriate age on the gift. |
| Sunday 12 th December | Signed Service with Alistair Kelly and the Albany Church Deaf Choir. Soup to be served after the service. |
| Sunday 19 th December | Family Service with participation by the Sunday School. |
| Friday 24 th December | Watchnight Service at 11.30 p.m., with Carol singing from 11.15 p.m. |
| Sunday 26 th December | Joint Service at Abbotshall Church |
| Sunday 2 nd January 2011 | Joint Service at St Bryce Church |
| Sunday 9 th January | Morning Worship - 'Souper Sunday' for HIV/AIDS |
| Sunday 16 th January | Morning Worship with informal Communion |

PRAYER GROUP

Over past months the country of Chile has been in our prayers. In February a massive earthquake off the coast of Chile caused loss of life and thousands of damaged homes. More recently we have given thanks for the rescue of the trapped miners. What a thrilling story that has been.

The World Day of Prayer service for 2011 has been prepared by the Christian women of Chile and they have taken as their theme - 'How Many Loaves Have You?' In the Prayer Group we now have the Bible studies chosen by the women of Chile to illustrate their theme; we also have a World Day of Prayer calendar featuring Chile, produced by the World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee and selling at £2. Should any member of the congregation wish details of the Bible studies or a copy of the calendar, contact Mary Sherrard.

You are warmly invited to join the Prayer Group in the Prayer Room on Wednesday 17th November and Wednesday 15th December. We meet at 10 a.m. for an hour. Prayer request boxes are in the Church vestibule and in the Prayer Room.

Mary Sherrard

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOE BOX APPEAL.

The congregation, along with family and friends, has been busy at home, filling Shoe Boxes with gifts for people in countries where there is a lot of poverty. Blythswood is a charity which has combined the Christian message with practical help for all in need. Whether through filled shoe boxes at Christmas, relief and development aid or social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to thousands in Europe, Africa and Asia. On Sunday, 7th November, 128 filled Shoe Boxes suitable for children, teenagers and adults were received at Church. They contained items such as a new hat and scarf, gloves, a toothbrush with some toothpaste, a small toy, soap, sweets, paper and pencils - gifts which seem so small to us but are treasures to people who do not have them and will bring joy and a smile to many at Christmas. I hope they enjoy opening them as much as we enjoyed filling them!

Thank you very much to all those who gave a donation and also thank you very much to those who filled a Shoe Box.

A Thought for Today, Tomorrow

Count your garden by the flowers
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by golden hours
Don't remember clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars not shadows
Count you life by smiles not tears
And with joy through all your lifetime
Count your life by friends not years.

Found at Moulin Heritage Centre

UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is now three months since I spoke to the congregation about the steps being taken to find a minister for us. The minister will be called by God - it is our role to ensure that our vacancy is advertised widely and that all ministers who express an interest are given every opportunity to see the Church and Manse and to have all their questions answered. This we are doing to the best of our ability. The process is necessarily slow, but it is also thorough. Ministers have shown interest in our Church and, for our part, the nominating committee has been diligent on your behalf.

We believe that the right minister for us will be called and we need your patience and prayers.

George M Grant,
Convener

FAREWELL TO ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

On Tuesday 28th September the final Service of Thanksgiving was held in St Andrew's Church. Rev Gilbert Nisbet, former Interim Moderator, gave an excellent service, which was attended by two past ministers as well as many friends and members of both churches. Refreshments were served after the service and there was much reminiscing - a very enjoyable, if somewhat sad, evening.

St Andrew's Church is now closed for business and a team of helpers have been working to clear the building and ensure it is left in a secure state. A number of items have been brought to Bennochty Church, some have gone to other institutions and some disposed of. In addition, our two Session Clerks have spent many hours sifting through the past records of both churches (going back many years!), and much of this will be taken to the Archive department at 121 George Street. All in all a lot of people from both churches have been working very hard over the past few months in order to bring our two churches together. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Keys: Once the building has been cleared the locks will be changed to allow limited access. If anyone still holds keys to the building these will no longer be of use and it would be appreciated if they could be returned to either Nan Hazel, Ragnar or any office bearer.

FABRIC - BENNOCHY CHURCH

Church and Halls

Due to our Manse improvements, we have been endeavouring to expend as little as possible in the meantime in order to minimise any loan costs which may arise before monies become available from the sale of the former St Andrew's Manse.

However, due to the fragility of the north facing windows of our Methven Hall following the recent vandalism, we have fitted plastic sheeting over the more fragile areas, and this will also help to combat heat loss as it is a cheap form of triple glazing.

Manse

Internally, work is now virtually complete with only a few items remaining to be done and these are expected to be completed next week when the cleaning and floor covering work will commence.

As confirmed previously, the fitting out of the kitchen will be carried out at a later date in co-operation with our incoming Minister.

Externally, existing roughcast has been stripped off, but the walls have been found to be unsuitable for the proposed specification. Two new specifications have been prepared and we await prices from the contractor before commencing this work but all new windows, doors and roof finishings are now complete.

***Roddy Sellars,
Acting Fabric Convener***

STAINED GLASS WINDOW PROJECT

At the last Kirk Session Meeting the possibility of the potential to include some stained glass in the main windows of the sanctuary was discussed. A design to incorporate some form of representation of the union of St. Andrew's and St. John's could be worthy of consideration. Shona McInnes has been recommended by Rev. David Ferguson and he has arranged for her to visit Bennochy Church at 7 p.m. on Wednesday 24th November to give us a presentation of her work. An invitation is extended to anyone, elders in particular, who would be interested in this possible project to attend this presentation. Examples of Shona's work are available on her website www.leadlinestudio.com.

Two prayerful verses attributed to St Columba

Alone with none but you my God,
I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when you are near,
O King of night and day?
More safe am I within your hand
Than if a host did round me stand.

My life I yield to your command,
And bow to your control,
In peaceful calm, for from your arm
No power can snatch my soul.
Could earthly foes ever appal
A soul that heeds the heavenly call!

It's Great when it happens to you - A very pleasant thing happened to me on the Sunday Susan Cord (can we invite her back again?) preached for us. Before the service several people stopped by me to say "Good Morning" or "Hello - how are you?"

On that particular Sunday a distant relative and very good friend of mine stopped to speak and give me my usual kiss (which I enjoy). Just after that another lady friend came forward and we gave each other our usual hug (which I enjoy). It was the remark she made (I hadn't heard it said before) that made me once again aware of how valuable church friends are.

The remark? - "That's the best thing about hugs - one size fits all!"

Made my day!

Thank You - Ann Crawford and myself would like to thank members of the congregation and others for helping us to raise £900 for Bowel Cancer UK.



I chose the charity in memory of my mum who passed away 37 years ago from this disease. The photo shows Ann and myself handing over the cheque at the charity headquarters in Edinburgh, to Jan Anderson regional manager (centre).

Lorraine Fairful

BOWLING CLUB

With the outdoor season having finished in October, we are currently bowling indoors at The Gunners Club (next to the Ice Rink) on Mondays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for tea and biscuits at approximately 3 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether they are beginners or seasoned campaigners, male or female, young or not so young for gentle exercise and a chat. We have no joining or membership fees, only a small session fee of £1.50 which includes tea and biscuits. All you need to bring is a pair of flat soled shoes and, of course, yourself.

Looking forward to seeing you and friends in the future.

Roddy Sellars,
Treasurer

BENNOCHY WALKERS

Our group continues to meet every three weeks or so, even although we are now well through autumn. Last weekend we had the most beautiful walk from Lower Largo, through Keil's Den which was alight with all the colours of autumn, then through Lundin Links, ending up with obligatory coffee at the Crusoe Hotel. As always we enjoyed the glorious weather, a bit of exercise (our tongues as well) and fellowship with like-minded folk.

On 21st November we are going to Burntisland for a wee walk and a history tour with Bob Docherty. Bob has arranged for us to access Burntisland Parish Church, which is of great historical interest to Scottish Christians. Please have a look on our blogsite, which you can access via the church website, to see all the places we have been. If you'd like to join the group on the next or any of the walks be assured of a warm welcome.

WOMEN'S GROUP

We had a successful start to our 2010-2011 session. Ladies of the Group welcomed three new members and enjoyed a varied syllabus. Thank you for donations to our Body Shop stall at the Christmas Fayre on 13th November. We had plenty customers. Members look forward to seeing 'Calamity Jane' by KAOS at the Adam Smith Theatre on 23rd November, a talk by Beth Hamilton on working with young adults on 30th November and Christmas Dinner at the Ship Tavern, Kinghorn on 14th December.

At our first meeting in 2011 we welcome George Grant, who will tell us about 'humour in education' on 11th January. On Saturday 22nd January we present a special fundraising event - Not Strictly Burns Supper - an evening of Scottish food, music and songs. Tickets will be on sale soon. On 8th February Ronnie Green will talk about the work of the Street Pastors and on 22nd February Miss A McIntyre talks about her work making stained glass. All Group meetings are open to members of the congregation and friends. Please contact Group members if you wish to come along to any of our meetings, or contact me.

Irene Wood (tel. 267995)
Church Liaison Member,

AULD KIRK PLAYERS

The Auld Kirk Players are putting on their annual production in the Hunter Hall, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy on the nights of Thursday, Friday and Saturday 18, 19 and 20 November. This year it is "The Merry Monks of Cambusdonald", a farcical comedy by James Scotland. Admission is £5 for Adults and £3 for Children. You will be guaranteed a good laugh. Tickets are available from David Potter on 265499 or email david.potter@blueyonder.co.uk

Came across these in a magazine some time ago. I saw the humour - I hope you do too.

Ageing - You know you're getting old when:-

- You lean over to pick something off the floor, then ask yourself if there's anything else you could do while you're down there.
- You like sitting in a rocking chair, but you can't get the thing started!
- You look both ways before crossing a room.
- You remember when the Dead Sea was only sick.
- Complete strangers feel comfortable calling you "old timer".
- Getting lucky means you take less than ten minutes to find your car in the supermarket car park.
- Happy hour is a thirty minute nap.
- You go to a museum and find most of your favourite childhood toys are on display.

But, do we give in? Not on your life!

