

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

Registered Scottish Charity SC 005628

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk



MARCH 2011

From the "manse"



If it's true that the longest journey begins with a single step, then I have taken those first few steps in my ministry here at Bennochty church. I am conscious that what lies ahead on this journey are many challenges, including getting to know people, and for me, trying my best to remember people's names. So can I ask that if you have not introduced yourself to me, please do, and even if you have, please remind me of your name! I do not wish to be in the situation of people thinking their name should be known and I am too embarrassed to ask! Over time I am sure we will get to know one another, and as a team join in God's work in the Bennochty parish, and with other local churches.

In an ideal world I would have liked to have been able to visit everyone in their own homes, but with the size of the congregation this is simply not possible. However, it is important for me to hear when people are ill, in hospital or find themselves in a situation where a visit from myself would be helpful, so please let me know of any pastoral concerns that I need to be aware of.

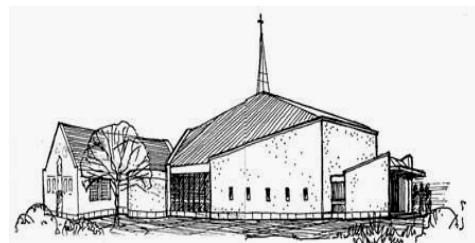
With any new minister, some things will change, not something that we are always comfortable with, but we need to remember that what we do, we do not for ourselves, but to the glory of God and with a willingness to be open to others.

Someone once said, the church is only one generation away from extinction. Our calling is not just to be custodians of our faith, but to transmit that faith to future generations. In this task God calls us to be faithful.

Can I thank you once again for our welcome to Bennochty church and I look forward to working with you in the years that lie ahead ahead.

With all God's blessing

Robin McAlpine



Bennochty – A Welcome

Auld grey men, some wi' sad faces
Telt twa Kirks to be yin
Noo these old men frae different places
Thought that's a job well din.

The Union took place early last year
When the twa kirks joined ain anither
There wis nae them an us, or ony fear
For we wir like sister an brither.

Ever since it's a' gone so well
Helped oot by oor Interim Moderator
Catriona - worked hard as yi' can tell
An' saw that we a' walked the gither.

New names fir the Kirk were banded about
Some fancy an' some no at all
But when the vote went oot tae a count
It was Bennochty that won overall.

The time came tae set up a Committee
Tae help us get a Minister new
Thirteen wir' chosen - all honest and free
Wi' George Grant in charge of these few.

The Committee met many times
Tae decide on whit wis right for us all
Tae no get the best wis a crime
Someone special wis needed fir this Call.

Forthcoming Events and Services

Sunday 20 th March	Communion
Saturday 26 th March	Concert by Kevock Choir
Sunday 27 th March	Stated Annual Meeting (subject to change)
Wednesday 20 th April	Joint Holy Week service in Bennochty Church, 7.00 p.m.
Sunday 24 th April	Service for Easter Sunday
15 th - 21 st May	Christian Aid Week
Saturday 4 th June	Concert by Forth Valley Chorus
Sunday 19 th June	Communion

Ministers "contact time"

I will be in the vestry on Wednesdays' from 7-8 pm for people to speak to me about any pastoral issues including the arrangement of weddings and baptisms. Please check the weekly intimation sheets for any changes.

Robin McAlpine

Lent Study Group 2011

It will soon be Lent and I plan to hold a Lent study group over this period for 5 weeks. Even if you are unable to commit to all the dates, please attend as you are able. We will meet in the Prayer room, starting at 7pm on Thursday 10th March and meeting every Thursday till 7th April. I would anticipate each meeting lasting between 60-90 minutes.

If you are interested please speak to me as there are study guides for the course

Robin McAlpine

Bennochy Church Prayer Group

It was good to welcome nine members to our February meeting. Bob Purdie led our prayer time, using a Corrymeela Community liturgy – from darkness to light. We sang a hymn, CH4 543, Christ be our Light. The Prayer Room is a lovely meeting place, and we enjoy having the piano at hand there.

After our prayer time, Mary Sherrard showed a prayer shawl, given and knitted by women of Buckhaven and Wemyss Church Prayer Shawl Ministry. Such shawls are given as a greeting and blessing to members of the congregation – perhaps ill or housebound – and also to those in hospital or care homes; some have gone to Malawi. The shawls are accompanied by a prayer:-

May this shawl be for you:

A mantle of security and wellbeing ...

Sustaining and embracing you in good times and difficult ones.

May it bring you comfort: From all that appears too much to bear; From all that feels as if it might break you; From all that threatens your peace of heart. Rest within its softness, so that you will be cradled in hope; kept in joy; Graced with peace; And wrapped in God's love. Amen.

We value links with other churches and projects. We keep in touch with the work of Christ Beattie, of the Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust, who is active with our young folk in our schools and churches.

We meet next in the Prayer Room on 16th March at 2 p.m. for one hour. Prayers will be led by Lilian Haig, who is Bennochy Church prayer promoter. All are welcome. Prayer request boxes are in the Church Vestibule and in the Prayer Room.

Thank you notes

I should like to thank the ministers, all fellow members of the Kirk Session and congregation for their 110% support in assisting me perform the duties of Session Clerk for the last 19 years.

To be given the honour and privilege to follow the example set by the great individual “pillars” of the church who served in the position before me is something that will be with me forever.

I know that to some people I have become over the years “what does he want now or this time?” However in defence of that reputation I have to admit truthfully that I was never turned down with any genuine request for assistance.

Another very significant contributory factor to my lasting memories of the position was the welcome I received at all times with home visitations over the years.

On behalf of Margot and myself a sincere thank you to you all for the many enjoyable and memorable times we have had working together during my time as Session Clerk.

The engraved Quaich and personal gifts, cards, letters and conversations were very much appreciated.

I ask that we all rally round George Drummond with a united team support for the future of Bennochty Parish Church.

God Bless and Thank You.

Bill Stenhouse.

I would like to echo the thanks expressed by Bill Stenhouse with regard to the unexpected presentation made to us, as former Session Clerks, and the sentiments he expressed regarding the support from everyone. I too appreciated the kind words from so many individuals. It was a great privilege for me to hold the position of Session Clerk at St Andrew's Church, and also the shared role in the new church this last year. I learned much from all this experience and was greatly encouraged by the support I received.

I am confident our new Session Clerk will enjoy the same excellent support from everyone and I hope he gets as much satisfaction from the role as I have had.

My thanks to you all.

Ragnar Ingebrigtsen

Aileen and I would like to thank the congregation of Bennochty Church for their very generous gifts at the Induction Service Social. Aileen very much appreciated the beautiful gift of flowers and I would like to convey to the congregation my appreciation of their generous cheque.

All the best

David Ferguson
World Mission

Our Mission partner, Jenny Featherstone, in Kitwe, Zambia, faces many challenges and has many projects on hand.

As well as her regular teaching contract for Social work Diploma at Mindolo Ecumenical College, she has taken, temporarily, the role of Administrator to the College. Her projects in two local villages involve:-

planning a feeding programme for the children, especially those orphaned due to Hiv/Aids.

payment for two ladies from Ipusukilo to come to the Y.W.C.A. three days a week for two hour sessions to learn tailoring, over a period of ten months, the idea being that they, in turn, will teach others the same skills.

There is also the "Playground School" project, whereby land adjacent to the R.C. Church has been acquired to be converted into the "school" for children unable to attend the local school because parents cannot afford the uniform - compulsory. There have been 4 training sessions with 25 volunteers over 2 weeks. They are soon

to receive Certificates and each a Play 4 All tee-shirt.

Meanwhile, Jenny has been part of the "cooking" team for 60 at weekends. They are now to work on the playground itself. No store/office building is as yet available, due to a local dispute between congregation and Bishop.

Regarding the monies we sent to finalise the purchase of football boots - the coach, Francis, is still to come back to Jenny with costings. The new season starts in two weeks - all in all a busy life. There are several avenues that we could explore in the near future as regards our help and support for Jenny.

Meanwhile we keep her in our prayers.

Margaret Simpson

Rag Dolls - CHAS - News to date

Having managed to buy stuffing I am up and running with 33 dolls in stock and still sewing! The dolls are large and small jesters, large and small clowns and 9" dolls – prices are from £10 - £13. I contacted CHAS and have a funding support worker who has been very helpful and has supplied me with an official hospice letter which I can display on my stall at any Craft Fair, stating who I am and that I have their support. My application has gone into Fife Crafts Association with photographs of my product but their AGM is in March so I will wait. They will also need to examine some dolls before they let me join the association. Thank you all for your interest, good wishes and above all your support in the past, the present and hopefully in the future. Anyone 'needing' dolls contact me at church or on 01592 561146.

Dorothy Sillett
(*Rag doll maker*)

FABRIC - Bennoch Church

Church and Halls

In spite of the early and severe winter weather, we have been fortunate that damage has been relatively minor. However, although we have not suffered from any water ingress we plan to have the roof areas thoroughly checked and, taken in conjunction with our quinquennial inspection which is a ground level inspection by a chartered surveyor, and due later this year, a programme of essential work will be drawn up. Also, in view of the fact that only the most basic maintenance has been carried out over the past few years, due to the uncertain future of our buildings at that time, major projects will require to be initiated. A priority area of investigation will be dedicated to improving our green credentials, as advised by Presbytery.

In order to provide a more rapid response to repairs, a defects list is now in operation and has been placed on the general notice board at the ramp exit door. Any member spotting a defect should record this on the list with as much detail as possible. This will ensure that a repair can be carried out with the minimum of delay and also help to prevent any further deterioration.

Manse

The severe winter weather has also affected our Manse roof but no damage has been done and has effectively given the roof a good cleaning! The scaffolding surrounding our Manse for so long has now been taken down and removed from site and the exterior with new roughcast, cills, rhones, downpipes, fascias, soffits, roof trims, windows and patio doors is now looking very much the finished article. Landscaping works are in the process of being agreed and will be carried out during March, weather permitting.

Internally, the kitchen has still to be fitted but the contractor and supplier have been selected, the final detailing has now been agreed and work will commence shortly. The upgrade to the shower area on the ground floor has been finalised, the contractor has been selected and work is also expected to commence shortly. Several areas of flooring and finish have yet to be agreed, but will be finalised following work in these areas.

It is intended to complete all works at our Manse by end March/beginning April with a provisional entry date for our Minister of mid April. Prior to entry, we will require to organise a large scale cleaning party followed by an open day when Members will be able to inspect our newly modernised Manse. Also, prior to entry, an inspection will be carried out by a representative of Presbytery to confirm that our Manse is ready for occupation.

Finally, I would ask anyone willing to lend a hand to help maintain our buildings and grounds would be made very welcome and should get in touch with myself as soon as possible.

Thanking you all for your support.

Roddy Sellars
Acting Fabric Convenor.

RNLI SOS Fundraising Day

I would like to thank everyone who supported the RNLI SOS Fundraising Day on 25 February. The excellent sum of £1,174 was raised and has been handed over to the Kirkcaldy Branch of the RNLI. Your continued support, the use of Bennochty Church Halls and also the help of the many friends in Bennochty Church are very much appreciated. The amount raised will greatly assist the RNLI with the great job the volunteer crews so willingly do around the coasts of Britain. Again thank you all for your generous support.

Senga Booth

Bennochty Church Guild

The Annual General Meeting of Bennochty Guild will be held on Tuesday afternoon, 22nd March, and it marks the close of our first session since the union of St Andrew's and St John's Guilds. We have a membership of 42 and are always happy when guests join us for any particular talk.

The Guild takes a theme each three year period. At present we study from Micah 'called to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God'. We have concentrated this year on 'love mercy', and at the Guild Annual Meeting in Dundee last August, 'love mercy' was the focus of the day. There were around 2000 women present from all over Scotland, and Bennochty Guild was well represented.

'Love mercy' was the theme of our own opening meeting in September, and it was explored with us by Rev Anne Job. Our programme has been varied. We learned something of the

life of an MSP from Marilyn Livingstone, were challenged by a quiz with Bob Docherty, heard about and sampled recipes from the Old Testament, learned of the work of the Hospice from Catherine Ingebrigtsen, enjoyed floral art for Christmas with Senga Booth, listened to the history of coach tours, were spell-bound by Ragnar Ingebrigtsen's account of his father's escape from Norway in WW11. We prepared for the World Day of Prayer by viewing slides of life in Chile – the women of Chile had prepared the 2011 Day of Prayer service. Our meeting on 8th March will inform us of the work of street pastors here in Kirkcaldy.

The Christmas party and meal were eventually celebrated in January and March, once the weather improved. There was disappointment that the Presbyterial Council Carol Service had to be cancelled because of the snow. It was to have been held in Bennochty Church to mark our first year as a 'new' Guild. We strive to play our part in Presbyterial Council events and to learn about and raise money for the six current Guild projects, some of them here in Scotland, some overseas.

We extend a warm invitation to women and men of our church to join us at any or all of our meetings. It was a real thrill for us when our new minister, Robin, called in on us at one of our February afternoons. Many of our members have contributed to the running of the Guild over the past year. Isobel Grimshaw, our secretary, has been an excellent co-ordinator. We extend our thanks to her and to all who have ensured that Bennochty Guild has enjoyed a good first year.

Women's Group

Ladies of the Group look forward to a talk by Tumong Edwards, Maggie's fundraiser, on 22nd March. On 12th April we welcome Rev Robin McAlpine.

As our Strictly Burns Supper evening in January had to be cancelled due to the wintry weather conditions, we have arranged another fundraising event, a table-top sale on Saturday 16th April in the Methven Hall. We invite Church organisations, other groups and individuals to rent a table, for £6 each table, to set up their own selling table. More details will be in the Church intimations in April. Our AGM is on 19th April.

Please contact Group members if you would like to attend any of our meetings.

*Irene Wood (tel 267995)
Church Liaison Memberr*

Bennochty Walkers

With the exception of December when the weather was just too severe, we've managed to keep up the walks over the cold winter months. In January we were in Glenrothes/Leslie and in February we did the Snowdrop Trail in Valleyfield Wood. The next three dates have been planned already :

13th March - Woodside to Markinch circular – refreshments at Laurel Bank Hotel
2nd April - Dunfermline town – refreshments at Abbots House

and on 24th April we're going up Falkland Hill at 8.00 a.m to celebrate the Resurrection, then back to the church for bacon butties before morning service. We'll be taking a minibus half way up the hill so it's not really a climb, hardly even a walk. So, if you'd like to be there too, please give your name soon to one of the walkers to secure your place on the bus. Seats are going like hot cross buns..... As always, all are welcome.

St John's Taekwondo Club

(N.B. For administrative and financial reasons the Taekwondo Club is still registered as 'St John's')

We are going to have a testing on 18th March. This will be our first testing this year.

On Saturday 9th April we intend to hold a Fun Day to raise funds for the Club. Also that weekend Miss Hannah Higgins will be in Portugal with Miss Nicola Frail, to work out with the Grand Master and Chief Master of Songahm Taekwondo. This will be the first time that the Masters will be in Europe.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone, any age, wishing to join our club. For more information please feel free to contact –

Anne Ruthven on 07874004065 or Lorraine Fairful on 01592 644783.

Lorraine Fairful

Boys' Brigade

We are sorry to announce the resignation of Laura Bease, owing to her being an expectant mother. She has served as the Anchor and Junior Boys' Leader for the last few years and we would like to thank her for her dedication to the duties she carried out and wish her everything she wishes for herself in her future.

On Saturday 26th March a cross country race is being run Lennoxton Battalion and we hope to participate in that if the boys have time to go.

On Sunday 27th March we have four boys from the Company Section working hard for their President Badge, which is the second highest award in the Boys' Brigade. Their examination is to be held in Forfar by Dundee Battalion.

On Saturday 21st May a trip is being organised to Bo'ness Railway system for Anchor and Junior Sections and notice will be announced in the near future.

Company and a number of Junior Section boys are going to a weekend camp to be held from 24th to 26th June at 'Teen Ranch', Inchtute. Ten boys and two officers will attend.

*John Methven,
Captain*

Bowling Club

Our 2010 season ended on a positive note with a total of £217.99 remitted to Church funds and a big thank you to all who contributed. We have seen a small increase in our regular attendees but more would always be welcome.

Due to the inclement weather towards the end of 2010, our Christmas Party was postponed until 10 January 2011 and became our New Year Party with our annual Girls versus Boys match in the Methven Hall being won by the Boys (narrowly) but was enjoyed by all, especially the catering arrangements.

We are currently in our indoor season at The Gunner Club at Gallatown (next to the Ice Arena) on Monday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm approx. with a break mid afternoon for tea and biscuits at a cost of £2 per session. We have no formal dress code just normal clothing,

a flat soled pair of shoes and no joining or membership fees.

Everyone is welcome to join us whether you have bowled before or not, male or female, young or not so young, for gentle exercise and a chat.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends in the future.

*Roddy Sellars,
Treasurer.*

Some Dates for your Diary:

The Kevock Choir

As part of our fundraising for 2011, there will be a Concert by the Kevock Choir in the Church on Saturday 26 March at 7.30pm. The Kevock Choir is drawn from all over the Lothian area, and has delighted us with their previous performances in the former St John's Church. Earlier this year, the Choir expressed their wish to return to Kirkcaldy and come to Bennoch Church. We are delighted to accept their kind offer. Tickets costing £7.50 are now on sale and can be purchased from members of the Congregational Board.

The Forth Valley Chorus

On Saturday 4 June at 7.30pm the Forth Valley Chorus will be performing in the Church. This concert has been organised by the Kirkcaldy Branch of the RNLI. The members of the Forth Valley Chorus are no strangers to Kirkcaldy, having performed on previous occasions in the former St John's Church. Further details and tickets will be on sale nearer the time.

The Bible and the TV Guide

On the table sat side by side
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide
One is well worn but cherished with pride
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide)
One is used daily to help folk decide,
No! It isn't the Bible, it's the TV Guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.
Then confusion reigns, they can't all agree
Oh what they shall watch on the old TV.
So they open the book in which they confide
(No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide).
The word of God is seldom read
Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible: from watching TV.
So, then back to the table, side by side,
Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for
The Word. The plan of salvation
Is seldom heard. Forgiveness
Of sin so full and free is found

In the Bible, not on TV.

(Author unknown)

Enclosed in a letter from America