

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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From the 'Manse'

In an amazing shift in the weather, we have over the past couple of weeks gone from a mini heat-wave to snow on the tops of the hills. It could only be Scotland! I am sure that this change in the weather has been a major topic of discussion. The weather is often our introductory 'small talk', particularly if it is people we do not know very well. It gets us into the conversation.

From here the conversation moves on, and I suppose reaches deeper topics of conversation, if we know the person, have interests in common, and importantly, if we are comfortable in the others person's company.

I wonder how this comes into play in our relationship with God? Are we comfortable in his presence? Do we ever get beyond the 'small talk'? And how do we, in our everyday lives come into the presence of God in a meaningful way?

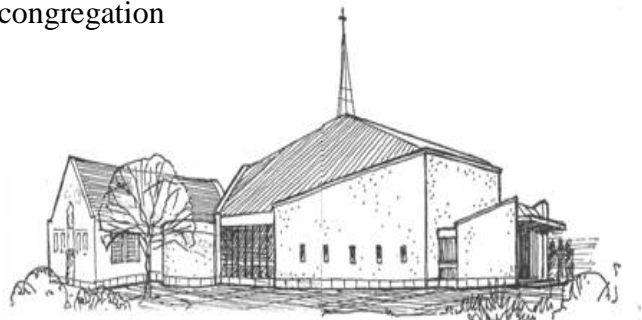
As we read scripture, does our relationship with God deepen, as we learn more of the story of how God has struggled with his people throughout history? As we pray, do we learn more of who Jesus Christ is? Do we listen to hear for ourselves the 'still small voice of God'?

As disciples who follow Jesus, this is important as we seek the way head, both in our own lives, and the life of our congregation. A better relationship with God, through his Son, helps us to understand his vision, and cope with the change that goes with it.

We also need to move into deeper conversations with other people, for better pastoral relationships will help us to understand each other, to see where the other is coming from, and so together walk God's vision. We may not always get what we wish, but sharing and listening and being heard, will enable us as a congregation to continue to travel God's path together.

Yours in Christ

Robin McAlpine



Bennochy Prayer Group

The Prayer Group continues to meet at the church each month, and we are encouraged by the prayer boxes being used to let us know of friends or relatives who are unwell. We are also pleased when friends approach us verbally and report illnesses rather than write a message. We don't mind either way. In fact, the more people who come to us, the more we feel worthwhile as a group.

If you have a health concern for anyone, please let us know. Confidentiality is key. What we hear is only relayed to the person (God) we speak to each time we meet.

Bennochy Prayer Group regularly remembers the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship. Some of us recently attended a meeting in Pathhead Church, set up by the Kirkcaldy Guild Presbyterial Council, to hear of the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship in Madagascar. Lack of infrastructure there makes travel difficult, and MAF provides a means of access, meeting medical and educational needs as well as spiritual needs. The church of Scotland Guild has been working in partnership with MAF over the past three years, raising awareness and money. The rise in fuel prices is of great concern.

Mission Aviation Fellowship has asked that during October prayers be said for their work, not only in Madagascar but also wherever they are called to serve.

Jim Marshall

Alpha-Omega Course

This is an 8 week course, open to everyone, starting on Tuesday 25th October in St Bryce Kirk Centre and run jointly by St Bryce and Bennochy Churches. It follows the Alpha course format and is free. It starts with a meal at 6.30 p.m. and provides an opportunity for members to discover more about God and the Christian Faith, and to experience Christian fellowship. Leaflets and booking forms are available. Please see the minister or George Drummond for more details.

AGAPE Breakfast

The last of the AGAPE breakfasts for the time being will be served on Saturday, 22nd October at 0830. We gather in the calm of the Elgin Room, listen to soothing music, are served by young people of our church and eat our meal together. Breakfast is followed by a discussion on a topical subject with Christian friends. A lovely way to start your day.



'The People's Bible' project - This project, to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James bible, will be coming to Kirkcaldy on 21st and 22nd October in the Mercat Shopping Centre from 9.30 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. People will have the opportunity to digitally hand write two verses of the bible. More details from the minister.

Creche - We are looking for more people to join us on the rota for the creche. You must have a disclosure, but that is done through the church. Your duty is to look after the under 3's while the parents are at church. You will not be on your own as there are always 2 people.

We only have 6 on the rota, so it would be great if we had more, as the duty would be less frequent. Please speak to Lorraine Fairful if you are interested

Communion - The Sacrament of Holy communion will be celebrated on Sunday 30th October



Blythswood Care Round South Collection

The congregation will be familiar with the annual Blythswood Shoebox Appeal which is currently in full swing. Filled boxes should be brought to the church on Sunday 6th November for uplift on Thursday 10th November. Any queries to Angela Stewart.

One of the other projects which this charity runs is a regular truck-run around the south of Scotland picking up donations of clothing, shoes, books, small items of furniture, bric-a-brac and foodstuffs. The pick-up point for Kirkcaldy is the Esplanade car park and this is a monthly event on Wednesdays between 10.45 and 11.30. The next dates are 19th October, 23rd November, and 21st December.

Donated items are sold in Blythswood Charity and charity partner shops in the UK. They are sold by Blythswood Charity shops in Romania to help support projects in Romania. The items are also sent abroad as aid and some are sold on to Eastern Europe and Africa. Items such as books may be sold through third party sellers for online selling.

There are some restrictions on the items that they are able to accept. If you wish to know more about this please phone me on 591701. Alternatively you can phone the driver of the truck on 07947 617047.

Ragnar Ingebrigtsen

Christian Aid - The Sponsored Walk round the Beveridge Park on Sunday, 25th September, raised a grand total of £400. A cheque for this amount has been sent to Christian Aid for the East Africa Food Crisis Appeal. Thank you to everyone who did the walk and a big thank you to all those who sponsored us or gave a donation.

Conundrum

It's greater than God
It's more evil than the devil
The poor have it
The rich need it
If you eat it you die.

What is it?

Answer inside back page

World Mission - Harvest Thanksgiving

The agricultural projects that our Mission Partner, Jenny Featherstone, is working with near the village of Ipusukilo in Zambia were the subject of our special collection on Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday.

Monies raised : £680.36. A cheque was duly sent to Church of Scotland World Mission Finance Department, designated for these projects, and to be used at Jenny's discretion.

Jenny is extremely grateful for our care and concern and has swiftly taken action; a builder has already raised the seating wall in the Insaka and has begun to plaster the outside wall. He has still to concrete the floor and seating area, then repair/replace the roof - all before the rainy season sets in, late October. She will keep us informed with photos showing the "before" and "after" - to be shown in vestibule.

The purchase/rent of land, across the river, for growing crops is still on-going. Negotiations are slow.

Margaret Simpson

Excerpt from recent letter from Jenny Featherstone.

Thank you Margaret,

I was there on Monday and the builder has raised the seating wall and plastered the outside, (pictures inc.). He still has to concrete the floor and seating area, and then put the roof on before the rainy season sets in in about a month.

I am very touched by the response from the congregation, and the generosity of one lady in particular.

I expect the cold winds are starting to blow in from the sea now. Here it is the hottest time of the year - and still no rain till the end of October when things will become cooler. Still, whatever the weather/ circumstances we find ourselves in, we are united through him who loves us,

With every good wish
Jenny



Women's Group

The Group's new session is well underway. We had a very enjoyable and exciting Family Quiz Night on 24th September, which raised £314 for Group funds. Thanks to all who attended or contributed.

We have meetings at 7.30 p.m. in the Methven Room on Tuesday 18th October, 1st and 15th November, with a visit to the Adam Smith Theatre on 22nd November. Our meeting on 29th November will be an open night with Rosemary and Jim Storm showing us the art of feather painting – Feather Finesse - £3 charge. Don't forget donations of toiletries for the Body Shop table at the Christmas Fayre on 12th November! New members welcome.

*Irene Wood (tel. 267995)
Church Liaison Member*

Taekwondo Club

The Taekwondo club said good luck to Hannah Higgins who is embarking on student life in Aberdeen. Miss Higgins has been a member of the club since it was started back in 2003. Miss Higgins, now a 3rd degree Black Belt instructor, recently attended the European Camp where she won the woman's weapon championship for the third year. She was recently presented with a cheque for \$500 (£316) from The H.U. Lee Memorial Foundation which was set up by the American Taekwondo Association.

The foundation's aim is to help Taekwondo students, by providing further education scholarships to outstanding students. Miss Higgins is the first student affiliated with the A.T.A outside of America to be awarded with a scholarship. Miss Michelle Fairful is now taking the roll that Miss Higgins left as instructor.



Hannah getting her cheque.
Ms Ann Ruthven, Miss Hannah Higgins and Miss Michelle Fairful.

KARTS - The Kirkcaldy Arts Festival

From 11th-19th November Bennochty Church will be presenting an **Arts Festival**. A mix of song and dance, drama, music and comedy, the Festival was previously presented in 2009 in St Andrew's Church. It is a lot of fun but can also be hard work. To help with this we are looking for a group of people who would be willing to lend a hand for the run up to, as well as the festival itself. All that's needed is an interest in helping put on the best show possible in the Church. If this is something you'd be interested in then please speak to Diane White. More details soon

Diane White



Answer to Conundrum - Nothing

Bennochty Parish Church Christmas Fayre

Saturday 12 November at 2pm

Come along and enjoy a wonderful afternoon at the Christmas Fayre and have afternoon tea. There will be lots of opportunities to do some Christmas shopping and bring the children and grandchildren to see Santa in his Grotto.

If you would like to help at the Fayre, please contact one of the stallholders:



Cake and Candy - Grace Morrison
Jewellery - Irene Anderson
Fancy Goods - Sandra Marshall or Dorothy Hay
Jams, Jellies and Chutneys - Senga Booth
Tombola - Ena Thomson
Bric a Brac - Roddy Sellars
Body Stall - Hilda Stewart
Teas - Margot Stenhouse
Plants – Ron Steedman



The hall will be open on Friday 11 November from 2 till 4pm and on Saturday 12 November from 10am to receive items for sale.

Please come along and support the Church and enjoy a great afternoon. Tea tickets will be on sale soon.



Easyfundraising - for online shoppers

For those of us who choose to buy goods and services online, this is a very simple way of raising funds for our church as we do so. There are over 2000 companies linked to easyfundraising.org.uk who will reward customers for making their purchase online by donating a percentage of the purchase price to their preferred charity. Amazon, M & S, Waterstones, John Lewis are 4 of the major companies who participate in the scheme. So, as Christmas shopping begins to filter into your thoughts, why not consider becoming a supporter of Bennochty by using easyfundraising as a means to get some free cash. Anyone can become a supporter of Bennochty, so please tell the good news to your family and all your friends.

Here is what you do:

- A. Go to easyfundraising.org.uk
- B. Register as a supporter of Bennochty Parish Church (you are not required to give bank details)
- C. Start shopping and earning free cash for our church.
No catch.
No risk.
It really is as easy as A, B, C.