

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2011



From the 'Manse'

We are entering the season of Advent that leads up to Christmas. The word comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning 'coming'. It is here that the church traditionally thinks about some of the people who were involved in the leading up to that first Christmas. The Old Testament prophets who foretold the coming of the messiah, John the Baptist who pointed to Christ as the one sent by God and Mary the mother of Jesus.

It is in some way strange that we remember the coming of one who has already arrived and find ourselves focusing on the traditional story of wise men, shepherds and a babe in a manger.

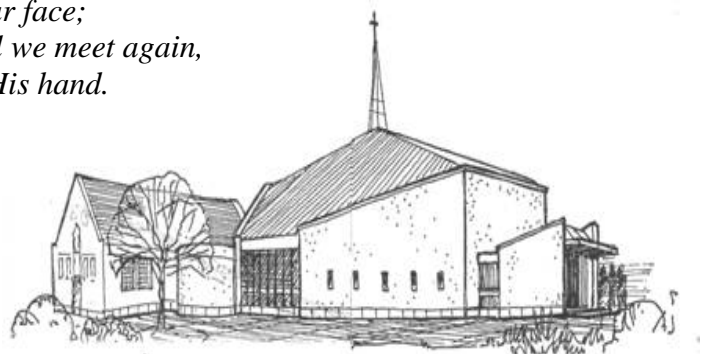
We still wait, not for this first arrival of the Messiah, but for his coming again, at a time that God alone knows. Interestingly, if you translate the Latin word *adventus* into Greek, you get the word *parousia*, which is a term used to describe the second coming of Jesus Christ. This new arrival will take a very different form, and is one that cannot be described in any human words. So once again, as we wait and remember the Christmas story, let us not forget that we are still waiting, in 'real time', for Christ to return. This means that the whole of life is an "advent time".

As we wait, let us wait with patience, perseverance, hope, faith and compassion.

May the peace and blessing of God be with you and all whom you love this Christmas time, and may God travel with you in 2012.

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

Robin



World Mission

Jenny Featherstone, our Mission partner in Zambia, has not been able to visit the village of Ipusukilo. Her car is all in pieces and may be on the road again later in November. She will then be able to report on progress regarding repair and up-grading of the Insaka, to which we have contributed, also on progress, if any, as to use of land for growing crops.

Photos of the Insaka scene and some of the ladies involved can be seen on the wall in the Methven hall.

Margaret Simpson

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal - Love in a Box

After a short service on Thursday 10th November at Templehall Church (the collection point for the Kirkcaldy area) the boxes were loaded onto the lorry. Included in the number of boxes were 105 from Bennochty Church & 91 between the North and Dunnikier Schools. Thank you very much to everyone who filled a shoe box or gave a donation. This is an excellent result and, by filling a shoe box with simple gifts you can bring joy and laughter to someone this Christmas. Thank you for being part of it.

Gift Day 2011

There was an excellent response to the Gift Day. The sum of £3,326 was realised for Church Funds, enabling us to sustain and develop our ministry at Bennochty Church. It is never too late to give a gift. Please hand it to the Treasurer, put it in an envelope marked "Gift Day" in the Offering when next at Church, or hand it to your District Elder. Our gifts demonstrate to God our regard for his generosity towards us. Many thanks for your support.

Special Offerings

There have been two Special Offerings recently. The first was held at our Communion Service in October and was for the work of KART (Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust) and realised £147. 65. The second was on Remembrance Sunday for the work of Poppyscotland and realised £193.38. Our support for these two charities is very much appreciated.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre held on 12 November again was a great success with the sum of £2,521 being raised for Church Funds. Thanks to all stall holders, everyone who donated items for sale, and all who supported the Fayre.



Bennochy Prayer Group

The group met in the Prayer Room from 2 – 3 p.m. on the third Wednesday of November. Bob Purdie led the meeting and we again enjoyed his use of material from the Corrimela and Iona communities, expressing the joy and commitment of the Celtic tradition. Prayers were made for everyone for whom requests had been made, either by word or via the request boxes, and for other people known to group members. There are prayer request boxes in the Church vestibule and in the Prayer Room. It is good to know that they are being used.

Recently I learned of a group of newly converted Christians who fled from their own land because they dared to follow Jesus and were threatened with death. Someone said that her people were praying for them and the astonished response was “Are there other countries where people know Jesus?”

Today in Scotland a majority of two generations know little or nothing about Jesus, and that is why the work of KART and similar initiatives is so important. There are many people and groups now praying for the knowledge of Jesus to flourish as it once did in our own land.

We invite you to join us in our prayers, in your own time and place. Please include in your prayers persecuted Christian minorities in various countries.

Lillian Haig

A Prayer for those who live alone

I live alone, dear Lord
Stay by my side,
In all my daily needs
Be thou my guide.
Grant me good health,
For that, indeed I pray,
To carry on my work
From day to day.
Keep pure my mind,
My thoughts, my every deed,
Let me be kind, unselfish
In my neighbour's need,
Spare me from fire, from flood,
Malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fear,
And evil ones,
If sickness or an accident befall,
Then humbly Lord, I pray,
Hear, thou my call,
And when I'm feeling low,
Or in despair,
Lift up my heart
And help me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord,
Yet have no fear,
Because I feel your presence
Ever near.

Amen.

Flowers in the Church

*My garden beautifies my yard and adds fragrance to the air.
But it is also my cathedral and my quiet place of prayer.
So little do we realise that the glory and the power
Of he who made the universe lies hidden in a flower.*

By Helen Steiner Rice

The flowers in our Church every Sunday bring pleasure to the bereaved, sick and elderly of the congregation. Thank you to everyone who donates the flowers, and to the ladies who deliver them. They are very much appreciated by everyone who receives them.

Flowers are for all occasions, sad, happy and sometimes for comfort. Flowers are one of God's most beautiful gifts which come in all shapes, sizes and colours.

*Among the unsung heroines
Who grace this world of ours,
Are those who give and who arrange
Their Church's lovely flowers.*

*I wonder if they realise
The pleasure that they bring
To people who will gather there
To worship and to sing.
Or warm the friendship that they send
When given to those who can't attend.*

There are four vacancies on the Flower Delivery Rota. If these vacancies were filled, the people involved would only be required to deliver flowers four times a year. If you can assist, please contact Senga Booth.

If you wish to assist financially with the provision of flowers on a Sunday, but do not wish to put your name on the Flower List, you can always put a donation at any time in the Flower Box in the vestibule of the Church. This will be very much appreciated.

Flower List 2012

The Flower List for 2012 is now available in the vestibule of the Church. If you wish to put flowers in the Church on any Sunday, please add your name against the appropriate date on the list. If you are unable to be at Church and wish to provide flowers, please contact Senga Booth (890972) and she will add your name to the list. Please note that names are not carried forward automatically from the previous year.

Poinsettias in the church on 11 and 18 December - If you wish to have a poinsettia in the Church in memory of a loved one or friend, please put your name on the Poinsettia List in the vestibule of the Church by Sunday 4 December. These plants will decorate the Church on Sundays 11 and 18 December. After the service on 18 December you can take the plants home. The cost of a plant is £6.



Free Will Offering Envelopes

Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, Free Will Offering envelopes for the coming year. The cost of these envelopes has increased considerably in recent years and it would appear that a number of envelopes have been re-ordered unnecessarily. If you have received envelopes that you no longer require, or know of instances of this – maybe you have changed your method of payment, or perhaps one envelope would be sufficient for a married couple, rather than one each – please inform Ena Thomson, our FWO Convener, (tel 269630) or tell your elder.

If you would like to set up a direct debit for your weekly offerings please speak to Audrey O'Malley, our Gift Aid Treasurer (266169), or any member of the Finance Team.

Church Website

We have an excellent website, designed and updated by Allan Morton, and we encourage everyone who can to check it out. There is a huge amount of information to be found there, both historical, but more importantly, relating to the present day.

Just to touch on some of the content: apart from news of current activities, coming events and services, including a calendar of events, there are reports from groups and organisations, contact details etc.

The minister's sermon notes are available going back to April this year - particularly handy if you have not been able, or are not able, to get to church. A very informative section describes the work and priorities of our missionary partner in Zambia. Also, there are links to other websites of interest, and, of course, there is a whole section on historical matters relating to the St John's and St Andrew's congregations, and those that preceded them. Particularly relevant at this time of year is the section on war memorials.

The website gives us the ability to communicate beyond the walls of the church to our members, and also to those associated with the organisations - parents etc. It is also an outreach to anyone who takes an interest in our church; be that people who may be interested in joining us, or hoping to attend a particular event; or those who may have moved far away but would like to keep in contact.

The times they really are a'changing. It seems increasingly the norm for people to use the internet as the first means of finding out about a place and it is important that we are there to meet them, so to speak.

This Christmas please let your friends/relatives know about this excellent website, especially those who are overseas. The web address is www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Other websites of interest - www.aboutkirkcaldy.com - Info on what is happening in the town, and a site to post information about coming events. www.familiesfife.co.uk This is for families with primary-aged children looking for things to do.

N.B. If we have another winter like the last two, with events and meetings cancelled at the last minute, the website provides an excellent means of keeping members informed of late changes to arrangements. Please make use of this facility.

Bowling Club

Our 2011 indoor season continues at the Gunners Club at Gallatown (next to the Ice Arena, entrance from School Lane) on Monday afternoons between 2 and 4 p.m. with a mid session break for tea, biscuits and a chat.

Newcomers are always welcome, as our Club is open to all, with no formal dress code, all equipment is supplied except for a pair of flat soled shoes, and no joining or membership fees other than a modest charge of £2 per session, which includes tea and biscuits.

We recently travelled to the Town House in Markinch for an inaugural winter session lunch, which was thoroughly enjoyed, especially by myself and my wife, with many thanks to Graham for organizing our lunch and to all who participated.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party in the Methven Hall on Monday 19th December and our annual Girls versus Boys match, which as usual will be keenly contested.

Why not come along and try your hand, forehand or backhand, bring a friend or friends (and yourself) and enjoy a little gentle exercise and a friendly chat with us over a cup of tea.

Roddy Sellars
Treasurer

Boys Brigade Programme

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| 19th November | Company Section 4 boys Quiz Team National Competition in Edinburgh |
| 21st November | Fife Meeting at Newport Church - arrangements for camp at Teen Ranch |
| 26th November | Youth Approval meeting at St Fothad's Church Cardenden |
| 11th December | 5-a-side football at Buckie, Scottish Championship, 11-14 years old, at 2 p.m. |
| 11th February | BB Cross-Country Race at Beveridge Park |
| 20th February | Fife Meeting at Leven Church 7.30 p.m. |
| 17th March | Scottish Boys Brigade Cross Country Race at Beveridge Park at 2 p.m. |
| 22nd - 24th June | Weekend camp at Teen ranch for boys aged 11 - 18 years old. Horse riding, canoeing, Swimming, games etc. |

A Halloween Party was held in the Church Hall for members of Bennochy and Pathhead Churches BB Boys, and a Christmas Party is being arranged at Pathhead Church Hall in the near future.

A spring programme will be arranged in the future for the different age groups and all boys are welcome.

John Methven
Captain.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| 4th Kirkcaldy Boys Brigade Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland | |
| Anchor Boys | aged 5-8 years |
| Junior Section | aged 8-11 years |
| Company Section | aged 11-15 years |
| Senior Section | 15-18 years |
| Anchors and Juniors meet Thursdays 6.15 - 7.30 p.m. | |
| Company and Seniors meet Thursday 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. | |
| For more information please email: bb4thkdy@hotmail.com | |

Fabric Report

Church and Halls

The high level repair work to the coping stonework of the east and west gables of the Methven Hall, together with the ridge pointing and lead-free replacement work to the Church vestibule roof has now been completed. All scaffolding has now been removed and the final roof repair work to the vandalized areas of the vestry, office and halls is expected to be commenced shortly. Following completion of this work, our lightning conductor system will be tested and repaired if necessary, as this was also subjected to damage during the thefts of lead from the above areas.

We have recently fitted an electric wall heater in the Prayer Room which is capable of heating this area very quickly, and it is hoped that this measure will improve the well-being of our Prayer Group over the coming months.

Various proposals for future projects have been laid before the Congregational Board, and these include the installation of electric wall heaters from St Andrews Church to the St Andrews Hall, new external lighting to church and halls area, new external security measures and new kitchen window. The use of electric heaters in these individual areas will reduce the demands made on our boiler as this currently heats all areas indiscriminately.

The existing kitchen windows have been found to have woodworm and the new windows are expected to be fitted early next year.

Finally, we still require more volunteers to adopt a small plot in our church grounds and to litter pick on Saturdays. Names should be added to the list next to the plan of the grounds on the main notice board at the ramp entrance, or contact myself (202340) or Graham Harrower (201689). Unless we have more volunteers this work will have to be carried out by contractors, with a consequent drain on our finances.

Manse

All landscaping work is now complete and, apart from several snagging items, all contract work is also now complete. The final contract figure has been agreed and, together with additional works, including retention, will amount to £82,930.58, which compares favorably with the budgeted amount of £85,344.00. We are currently holding a retention of £1,722.72 on the contract amount and, if the main contractor is not prepared to undertake the remaining snagging items, we will carry out these items ourselves and deduct our costs from the retention amount due to the main contractor.

Thanking you for your continuing support.

Roddy Sellars
Fabric Convener

Deaths

22.10.11 Mrs Janet Carr, Sauchenbush Road, Kirkcaldy
6.11.11 Mrs Margaret Lawson, Abbeyfield House, Kirkcaldy

Hospital Visits

Repeatedly we hear that someone was in hospital and was *not* visited by their minister or church friends - sometimes even during a long hospital stay - even though they would have loved to see a familiar person. We share your frustration. **Your church cares about you. Your church wants to visit - if you want that.**

But do your church friends know?

The NHS is legally required to protect your data. Because of this “data protection” your minister CANNOT KNOW that you are in hospital; since 2003 ministers cannot look up “in-patient lists” of the day. Also, they cannot not “do rounds” in hospital; so they will not find you by chance. They need to be told.

To improve things - here are some practical things you can do:

1. Our congregations and neighbours need to communicate better:

- get a piece of paper; and write down what you know, please - as a spoken mention may get forgotten quickly;
- write down who is ill/ in care/ in need; also who has moved in, or away;
- give this note to your elder or minister who will treat it confidentially;
- DO NOT ASSUME YOUR ELDER / MINISTER KNOWS (we would rather be informed several times than not to know!);

2. You can help yourself - this is how it works:

Your elder is your first contact - be in contact!

Your minister is just a phone-call away (643518).

Or make sure your relative/ friend/ neighbour contacts for you.

3. Hospital works this way:

- when you enter **hospital as a patient** a form is filled in - *by yourself if you come planned (“elective admission”)* - *by a staff nurse if you come unforeseen*);
- in this form you will be asked **if you want to see the hospital chaplain**;
- if you say NO the chaplain will **not** be notified of your admission at that time;
- if you say YES (do want to see a chaplain) the chaplain will **always** visit (allow reasonable response time);
- regardless of your answer to this, you can **at any time specifically ask** to see the chaplain; staff will always pass on your request to chaplains, so do ask!
- the staff on the ward may consider requesting the chaplain for you **only** if your situation makes them reckon it may be beneficial;
- chaplains can be contacted in Queen Margaret 01383 674136, and in Victoria 01592 648158.
- the duty chaplain is on call 24/7, 365 days for urgent referrals; if an answer machine responds, the chaplain may be out on duty;

4. If you want to see your own minister in hospital, you can:

- ask staff to contact your minister directly, if you have the phone number (643518);
- if you do not have that phone number, nurses will pass your request on to the chaplain (who can find your minister’s contact for you).
- **detach the following note and bring it with you to hospital :**

.....

*I am a practicing Christian and a member of Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland, in Kirkcaldy.
While a patient in hospital, I wish to exercise my Human Right as enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights (article 91) of practising my religion.*

I request that the Hospital Chaplain be informed of my admission to hospital, and that I receive a visit from the Chaplain. I give explicit consent for information to be made available to the Hospital Chaplain and I would request that this document form part of my current case notes and my Medical Records.

Signed _____

Date _____

Christmas Calendar

Sunday 4th December
Sunday 11th December

Monday 12th December
Saturday 24th December
11.15 for 11.30 p.m.

Sunday 25th December
Sunday 1st January 2012

Gift Service

Service of lessons and carols led by the choir and members of the congregation

‘Go Deeper Studies’ – an Advent study and meditation

Watchnight Service

Family Service

Joint Service in Bennochty Church

