

# Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: [www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk)

JUNE 2012



## *From the 'Manse'*

Expectation is a great thing. For the weather my expectation is incredibly low, wondering if summer will ever make an appearance before the longest day! In my disconnected thought processes, I am also wondering about the General Assembly, which by the time you read this, will be over for another year. As a commissioner this year, what are my expectations for the week that lies ahead? Glancing through the 'Blue' book, I don't get the feeling that it will be an Assembly that 'hits the headlines'. However, you never know! So ask and see if that is how it worked out!

Expectation can also be a worrying thing. What are other people's expectations of us, and can we live up to them? As followers of Christ, he also lays great expectations on our shoulders. Love God with heart and soul and mind; love your neighbour; love yourself and even love your enemies! It all seems too much, an impossible task! If we strive to do it all by ourselves, we will indeed fail, for it is only with God's love within us that the impossible becomes possible.

The weather, that great talking point, we have no control over. We can only dream of summer and warm days! What happens at the General Assembly, how good the debates are, will depend on the commissioners who attend. Those who are there can play a part in living up to their own expectations.

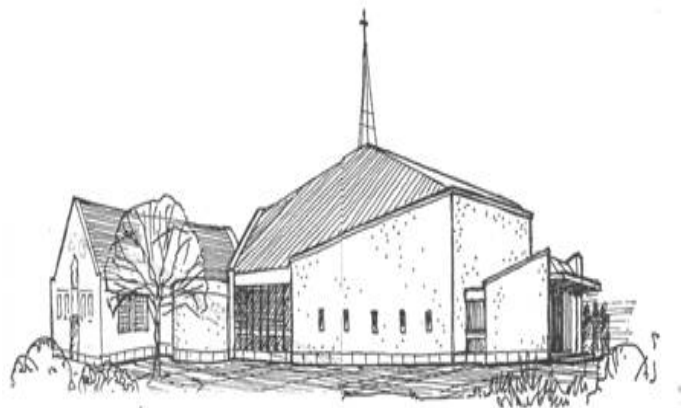
How we live up to the expectations of God's love is totally different. We need to let go and let God live in everything we do, think and say. It is not about holding power, but following the example of Jesus. It is not about doing our will, but seeking the will of God. It is not about holding onto life, but giving it away for the sake of Christ and others.

Now discussing such issues at this year's general Assembly would certainly raise all our expectations!

Yours in Christ

**Robin**

See back page for  
Calendar of Events



## **Bennochty Prayer Group**

Our May meeting was led by Bob Purdie, who had adapted an Orthodox liturgy for us to begin our hour together. There were nine of us present, with two apologies. At the end of our time of prayer, we spent a minute or two enjoying a Friendly Hug book, published by the Leprosy Mission. Some of the gems were –

- Hugs are the universal medicine.
- Happiness is an unexpected hug.
- A hug is a great gift – one size fits all and it's easy to exchange.

Hugging has no unpleasant side effects,  
It is completely natural.  
There are no batteries to replace.  
It's inflation-proof and non-fattening.  
It doesn't require monthly payments.  
It's non-taxable, non-polluting,  
and is, of course, fully refundable.

Our next meeting is on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the Prayer Room and will be led by Mary Sherrard. All welcome. Prayer request boxes are in the church vestibule and in the prayer room.

## **Guild Holiday to Oban**

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 33 members of Guilds from Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Council set off for a five day holiday in Oban; three were from Bennochty Church Guild – Janet Ferguson, Wilma Forret, Mary Sherrard. The weather was kind to us and we saw the Highlands in glorious sunshine. Our adventures included a drive over the Atlantic Ocean to the Isle of Seil, a sail to Mull and then to Iona, a visit to Fort William, followed by a short stay in the Glencoe Visitors' Centre, a time at Stirling Castle and, of course, the chance to explore Oban, our base.

We all have memories to share. A special memory for us all was our time together in St Michael's chapel on Iona, where Rev John Thomson celebrated communion with us. John and his wife Maisie travelled from their holiday home in Adnamurchan to spend the day with us on Mull and Iona.

It was good to socialise together after dinner each evening, recalling the events of the day. On our last evening we enjoyed an hour or so with a local musician, who entertained us with songs and patter.

This year Evelyn Simpson of St Kenneth's Guild in Kennoway, organised our time together and she and our coach driver worked hard to ensure we had a good time. Such holidays are appreciated by us all, especially perhaps by those of us now living on our own. There was fun aplenty.

## **Get Together**

We have good afternoons, good company and plenty laughs, so anyone who would like to join us on Thursdays from 2 – 4 p.m. would be most welcome – gents or ladies.

Some of our members have been in hospital. We hope to see Grace and Agnes back with us soon. Effie is still in hospital, making progress. We recently went to the Victoria Hotel for high tea, which was enjoyed by all.

Come along and join us. Contact Helen Lundie (tel. 205750).

The amount, to date, of £3,708 has been raised through door to door collections, soup and sweet lunches, donations and tablet sales. A final total will be known fairly soon with the addition of Gift Aid tax relief and any late donations. Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who helped in any way whatsoever to achieve such a respectable amount. This effort will help provide the tools that those in need require to help themselves.

## **World Mission Council**

The World Mission Council Report to the General Assembly featured the church in China today, the rise of China's economic and political influence everywhere, particularly in Africa, the difficult question of human rights and the story of Christian mission in China over the centuries.

Such issues are also discussed in the World Mission Council June/July Newsletter now circulating among Bennochy Church members. The right Rev David Arnott, former Moderator of the General Assembly, tells of his recent trip to China. He Talks of the Amity Foundation, which serves the poor and forgotten, principally in the west of the country, which is the poorest area.

We are invited to pray –

God, creator of heaven and earth and giver of human life, we thank you for the witness to your truth, your goodness and your beauty, which the long history of China has borne. We thank you for the church in China which is bearing witness to Christ in ways beyond national boundaries. Help us to accept the idea that all local churches are part of your church universal and are witnessing on its behalf and with its blessing. To the glory of Jesus Christ in whom all riches abide. Amen.

## **World Mission**

Our Harvest Thanksgiving of last September raised monies for one of Jenny Featherstone's projects. We called it the agricultural project - purchase of land, tools, seeds, fertiliser and man power in the form of tractors.

Now it is harvest time in Zambia and the ladies of Ipusukilo are picking maize in the field. Sadly, Agnes, one of the stalwarts of the group, has stomach cancer. She is too tired to pick maize and sits in the shade husking the corns. She cannot afford an operation. Jenny says that our prayers would be much valued.



Happily, Charity, who cleans the houses in the college compound, has had a baby boy. Jenny paid for her to have a Caesarean operation as she is over 40, with high blood pressure and a lot of stress at home. She is in a private ward but "private" means no pillow, one worn blanket and the family to bring in food and water each day!

At present, Jenny has a friend visiting for 6 weeks, joining in every project. She is a retired nurse from Newmachar church. Jenny suggests that we might like to invite her to speak when she returns - she could bring a different perspective to life out there. Many other things are in the pipeline - to be in the next Mission newsletter.

## **African Children's Choir**

Planning is now in full progress for the Concert by the African Children's Choir on Friday 21 September at 7.30 p.m. in the Church. If you attended the Concert given by the Choir several years ago you will remember how blessed we were by the Concert. This year we will again be blessed by the experience, and the Choir's performance will touch us and members of our community. All proceeds from the concert will be donated to Music for Life.

### **My Prayer for Zambia**

Tune – CH3 298/CH4 459 (Crown Him with many crowns)

1. What does the future hold?  
Zambia we love you.  
May hope and faith and love for you  
beat sadness, war and tears.  
Let's pray for peace today,  
and work for peace always,  
then one day soon your Kingdom comes  
to end our poverty.
2. What does the future hold?  
Zambia we love you.  
Fresh water, food and joy for all  
or flood, disease and fire.  
Let's pray for peace today,  
sow crops in fertile soil.  
The land no more will famine bring  
or anyone to starve.
3. What does the future hold?  
Zambia we love you.  
The world can be united now,  
no place in it for strife.  
Let's pray for peace today,  
with no more thoughts of race.  
And creed and colours of all men  
can live as one again.
4. What does the future hold?  
Zambia we love you.  
Peace shall reign for evermore,  
our country always free.  
We know our prayers are heard,  
our hopes and dreams come true.  
Almighty God abide with us  
in love eternally.

(written by Brian Fairful, an elder at Bennoch Parish Church, Kirkcaldy)

**Thank you** - I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone for all their good will messages, and especially for the cycling top that I received on my retirement as Church Officer. It was very much appreciated and has already been well used. I enjoyed my time as Church Officer and the contacts that I made, and I wish my successor all the best. **Ron Steedman**

## Notes from Session Meeting, 7th May 2012

Three groups of elders had visited other churches to look at adaptations that had been made and the moderator asked each leader to provide a verbal report. Reports were made of visits to Glenrothes Christ Kirk, Dysart, St Ninians, St Bryce, and Dalgety Bay.

**Matters Arising From Last Meeting** - The Moderator reported that the Pastoral Care Team had discussed how to take pastoral care forward and the intention was to convene individual meetings with Elders, the Moderator and the Session Clerk to discuss individual districts.

The forthcoming visit by the Deaf Choir on 13<sup>th</sup> May, and attendant arrangements, were discussed and agreed, as were arrangements for the Christian Aid Soup and Sweet Lunch.

The Session Clerk confirmed that he had circulated the updated list and pro-forma to be used during elder visits to organisations.

Brian Booth requested that a small team be formed to organise the African Choir event in September. It was agreed that anyone interested in joining the Group should notify the Moderator or Session Clerk.

Under "Correspondence", the Session Clerk reported on a Bike and Hike Event in September and also a thank you letter from Presbytery for Bennoch's participation in the workshops and attendance at the Celebrate and Discover Day.

George Grant and Graham Harrower agreed to continue their Presbytery roles for another year.

A forthcoming Presbytery elder training course was discussed, two elders having already volunteered to take part.

**Business Committee** - George Grant commented that the work of the Business Team is now firmly entwined with the work of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board. He reported that a number of areas of development are on-going. A major part of the last meeting dealt with Communication and Ragnar Ingebriksen was then invited to inform the Kirk Session of the work of the Communication Team. He concentrated on three proposed hand-outs. The first was a small list of contacts and weekly programme to be distributed with the October Newsletter; the second was an information leaflet for visitors to the building; and the third was a proposed leaflet intended for distribution to houses in the Parish advertising the church. All were approved in principle and funding was agreed for the last of these, which would involve commercial printing.

George then continued his report noting that proposals are to be brought to June Kirk Session meeting regarding the vacant Church Officer Post, including possible changes to the contract details. A full report will come to the Kirk Session in September regarding the coming Stewardship campaign.

Work in Progress also included the need to develop procedures for the Sunday Service Welcome Team, the Kirk Session conference in August, and further consideration of what we mean by Community Church.

The pros and cons of a Unitary Constitution are to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Presbytery Elder's Report** - George Grant reported on two meetings held since the last Kirk Session meeting. The Presbytery Précis for the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> March had been made available to elders.

**Vulnerable Groups** - Andrew Graham Bease's application had been cleared for him to work with the Boys Brigade. This was approved by the Kirk Session.

**Pastoral Care Group** - Additional volunteer drivers are required but they must be PVG cleared. A Christmas Lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> December is being organised which is to be aimed at members of the Get Together Group, housebound and those who find it difficult to get out. Kirk Session approved a £1,000 budget for the lunch, allocated from the Ann Galloway legacy.

**A large mobile unit housing a Bible World Exhibition** will be visiting Kirkcaldy in October funded by the four town centre churches. Details were discussed and agreed. This exhibition will be aimed at primaries 5, 6 and 7. Contact had been made with schools, and the North, West, Strathallan and Fair Isle have confirmed they would be interested. Volunteers would be required throughout the week who would need to be PVG cleared.

Other items discussed were: a Kirk Session Conference taking place in August, the Doors Open Day in September, which we will participate in; home communions; a church Fun Day being planned for June 23rd; a Family Service followed by a barbecue in September; the Harvest Thanksgiving Service due in September; and the intended attendance of the Moderator and George Grant at the coming General Assembly

George Grant reported that there had been an expression of interest shown in the St Andrew's Church Building and that another party would be looking at it the following day.

### **Precis of Board Meeting, 14th May 2012**

The following reports were presented to the board meeting on 14/5/2012

The Business Committee reported that this was the 1st anniversary of their coming into being. Through the Communications sub group they announced that in the autumn a programme for the following year would be available, as would a parish leaflet and a visitor welcome sheet in the church. There would also be a leaflet for parents of youth organisations. It was also stated that a leaflet of the stained glass window would be available.

The post of Church Officer is to be filled hopefully from within the congregation, anyone interested! A meeting with the leadership of youth organisations is planned in the near future, followed by a social gathering with the youth of these organisations in September. A stewardship team will be meeting with members in October. Lastly we should see welcoming teams in the near future in the church on Sundays.

A health and safety (H&S) group has been introduced to the church. They will study various aspects of H&S within the church including disabled access.

The Finance Team reported that there had been a slight fall in income in the first quarter of this year. This is, in part, due to the timing of bills and payments over the latter part of the previous year and the beginning of this year. The annual gift day to the church is proposed for 20th October this year. There will also be strawberry teas in June and the annual Christmas fair towards end of the year.

The Fabric Committee reported that the recent storm damage repairs were in hand. The loss adjustor had given the go ahead for this work. The outside notice board from St. Andrew's Church will soon be sited in the grounds of Bennochry Church. The heating in the church is still being investigated. This is an ongoing project but is not forgotten. There has been evidence of movement in the ladies toilet for which we are awaiting a visit from a structural engineer.

This committee are also looking at the fitness of the loop system in the church which has caused some disquiet amongst the congregation. The present system may well need increase in output and repositioning. This, along with a few other plans, is in hand.

Mrs Christine Low has been elected to the Congregational Board. We all wish her well.

The Get together Christmas Meal is targeted for 13th December this year. More information will be forthcoming.

***Malcolm Walker,***  
***Clerk to the Board.***

### **Vacancy - Church Officer**

Due to the recent retirement of our Church Officer we are looking to fill this position. Applications are invited, initially from Church members or associates. Anyone interested in obtaining a job specification and salary details should contact George Drummond, Session Clerk, tel. 01592 200179.

## **A Note from the Treasurer**

### **Special Offerings**

Since the issue of the last Newsletter there has been one Special Offering for Water Aid which amounted to £219. Water Aid have acknowledged our donation, and expressed their appreciation for our support. Our donation will help change lives of millions of the poorest people in the world and enable them to access safe water and sanitation. The next Special Offering will be at Communion Sunday on 24 June, and will be for the work of the Scottish Bible Society. Again your support will be very much appreciated.

### **Financial Position January to April 2012**

At the meeting of the Congregational Board on 14 May, I reported on our financial position from January to April. Our Income amounted to £25,426, our Expenditure was £36,116, making a deficit of £10,690 for the first four months of the year. This compared with a deficit of £8,917 for the same period last. Fund Raising will continue throughout the year. The Strawberry Teas commence on 1 June, the Annual Gift Day will be on Saturday 20 October, and the Christmas Fayre will again be held in November.

### **General Fund Budget 2011**

The General Fund Budget 2012 was presented to and approved by the Congregational Board at its meeting on 19 March. The Budget shows an estimated deficit for the year of £12,986. Abbreviated details of the Budget are:

#### ***Income***

Offerings	£79,710
Other Income	£19,790

#### ***Expenditure***

National Ministry and Mission and Wider Work	£71,746
Local Staffing Costs	£13,210
Building Costs	£21,480
Other Costs	£ 6,050

This matter will be further considered by the Congregational Board as we prepare for our Stewardship Season in the Autumn. Anyone wishing full details of the Budget, please let me know.

### **Ministries and Mission Contributions 2012**

A copy of a letter from Rev Gordon D Jamieson, Head of Stewardship is enclosed with this Newsletter. The letter explains how our Ministries and Mission Contribution for 2012, £71,672, is used to enable the sharing of the gospel through worship, mission and service of the Church. It is very important that we know whether or not Bennochty Church is meeting the full cost of its own parish minister and supporting ministries in other parishes, or is dependent on financial support from the Ministries and Mission Contributions of other congregations to meet the cost of a parish minister. The cost of a parish minister has been calculated on the basis of the stipend of a minister with at least 10 years' service, plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions. This amounts to £39,895 for 2012. At Bennochty Church we are therefore meeting the full cost of ministry in our parish. Also enclosed for your information is a general leaflet entitled "Ministries and Mission 2012".

On behalf of the Finance Team and the Congregational Board I wish to thank you for your continued financial support to Bennochty Church.

***Brian A Booth,***  
***Treasurer***

## Easyfundraising

For those of us who choose to buy goods and services online, here 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](http://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, and John Lewis are 4 of the major companies who participate in the scheme. So why not consider becoming a supporter of Bennochty by using easyfundraising as a means to get some free cash. Anyone can become a supporter, so please tell the good news to your family and all your friends. Here is what you do:

- A. Go to [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://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.

## Sunday School

The Sunday School has nearly completed another session. We are still very small in numbers but where we lack in quantity we more than make up in enthusiasm.

We were delighted for Kristen, who joined the church earlier this year. She is now helping Mrs Neilson in Sunday School, building on the theme of the children's address in church.

Our journey through the 100 minute bible is still giving us quite a lot to think about and discuss.

Our thoughts and prayers were with Kieran and his family at a very difficult time in their lives. We all hope to see him back with us sometime in the future.

William's entry into the Moderator's Medal should be on display soon. We are all thrilled at his success and looking forward to his entry for next year.

We hope to finish this session with our customary prizegiving and indoor picnic breakfast on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Our next session will start on 26<sup>th</sup> August. If anyone knows of any children who would like to join us either on a regular or a temporary basis they would be made most welcome.

We hope everyone has a very happy and peaceful summer.

## Deaths

- |          |                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|
|          | Mrs Ina Leckie, 70 Glenbervie Road, KY2 6XT     |
| 31. 3.12 | Leonard Patchett, 18 Dalmahoy Crescent, KY2 6XT |
| 4. 4.12  | William Rae, 19 Regent Place, KY2 5HE.          |
| 20. 4.12 | Matthew Macdonald, 10 Glendale Park, KY2        |
| 26. 4.12 | James Christie, 12 Grieve Street, KY2 5JS       |



Many thanks to all our friends in Bennochty Church for their kind words, cards, flowers and prayers at this difficult time.

***Rita, Bob, Gillian, Kieran and Reece.***





## KART CORNER SUMMER 2012

Registered Charity No. SC037866



### What's been happening

The 'On the Ice' event took place on 17<sup>th</sup> of March at Fife Ice Arena, then on to Kirkcaldy Free Church for some games and teaching. It was a great experience with no major injuries and plenty of smiles. 35 children from all Fife attended.

### Coming Up

Chris will have a busy term leading assemblies in both primary and secondary schools.

There will be an In-Set Day holiday club held at Templehall Church on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Chris will be leading the event assisted by a team of volunteers.

There will be a prayer evening on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June at Templehall Church Hall from 7.00pm - 9.00pm. This will be a joint event to pray for the work of GROW, KART and K2 the 3 Associate Worker Schemes in Fife. Please join us if you can.

The KART AGM will be held at Abbotshall Parish Church on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June from 7.00pm-8.30pm. Please do come along to hear all that has been happening in the past year.

The KART weekend for secondary school aged children takes place at Lendrick Muir from 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June.

Chris will be leading a summer holiday club in Burntisland for primary school aged children from 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> July.

Chris will be co-leading a football camp from 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July at Lendrick Muir.

### Points for Prayer

Give thanks for the good numbers attending the 'On the Ice' event. Please pray for children to continue to enjoy attending these fun events and finding out more about the Christian faith.

Please pray for all the volunteers who help Chris lead the various school groups and holiday clubs. Pray for more people to come forward to help lead similar groups and for God to bless and sustain those who already take part.

Please pray for all children moving from primary to secondary school this summer.

Please pray for all the holiday clubs taking place this summer in the Kirkcaldy area. Pray especially for children who only attend church through these events that their faith would grow.

### DATES OF HOLIDAY CLUBS FOR YOUR DIARY

Kinghorn HC - 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July

Pathhead Parish HC - 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July

Burntisland HC - 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July

Whyte's Causeway Baptist HC - 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Newcraigs HC - 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August

If you would like more details on any of the above information please contact Chris by:

Email - [chris.beattie@kart.me.uk](mailto:chris.beattie@kart.me.uk) Telephone - 07746373860

Thank you for your support ☺

**Good News Stories** - If anyone has some good news that they think we should share with the congregation (special birthdays, anniversaries, etc) please let me know. [gdrummond@btinternet.com](mailto:gdrummond@btinternet.com)

*George Drummond,*

**Postcards** - Could members on holiday send a postcard to the church from their holiday destination, no matter how far or near, with just a couple of lines (if they wish) to tell us how they are getting on. This will be intimated on a Sunday and we will collate a destination display in the hall. Don't worry if you are home before it arrives - it adds to the fun.

*George Drummond,  
Session Clerk*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

9 JUNE	Fundraising Afternoon
15 JUNE	Strawberry Teas
23 JUNE	Fun Day & Barbecue
24 JUNE	Communion
29 JUNE	Strawberry Teas
18 AUGUST	Strawberry Fayre
21 SEPTEMBER	Concert by African Children's Choir

### Strawberry Teas

Strawberry Teas start on Friday 1 June at 2 p.m. and continue until Friday 10 August. The Strawberry Fayre will be held on Saturday 18 August. We hope to see you there in the gardens amid glorious sunshine.



### Fundraising Afternoon - Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 3 p.m.

I have organised a Fundraising Afternoon for Cancer Research UK in memory of mum, Margaret Foster, who sadly passed away in January this year. There will be refreshments, Cake & Candy, Carmen's Crafts, Tombola, Plants, 2nd hand books/Dvd's, Raffles and lots more!! Donations for stalls will be most welcome. Contact Brenda on 07772241814. Tea tickets, £2, available from Brenda Fraser, Sandra Wemyss, Ruby Burnett or Nan Williamson.



**Come and Join in the Fun** - We are holding a **Fun and Games Day** with a **Bar-B-Q** in Bennoch Church gardens on Saturday June 23rd from 3 - 5 p.m. It's a day for all ages, so come along and join in the fun. No cost and burgers a plenty. And guess what? We've asked the neighbours along!! (If it rains, we're in the hall - but it won't).



### Church Garden - Plant Appeal

It is proposed to have low growing, ground cover type plants in the area where the trees were recently cut down. If anyone would like to donate any such plants this would be very much appreciated. Please speak to Graham Harrower.



- Don't forget you can visit our website for a preview of Sunday's Order of Service each week and you can also read the minister's sermon notes. (Click on 'Worship'). Please make use of our excellent website.

**Website: [www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk)**