

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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APRIL 2011



From the “manse”

Easter is a time of mixed emotions for the Christian church. We remember the pain of the death of Jesus Christ and then quickly move on to celebrate his resurrection. It is a movement of sorrow to joy, from darkness to light; Jesus, the ‘man of sorrows’ who is also the ‘light of the world’. It must have been the same for God; after all, it was his son who was crucified.

We often talk about the presence of God in our lives, and know that presence comes through the Spirit of God, his Spirit who could only come upon us after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus to his Father. In this way, the presence of God is no longer limited to the place of Jerusalem but is for the entire world, and no longer restricted to 1st century Palestine but for all people throughout history.

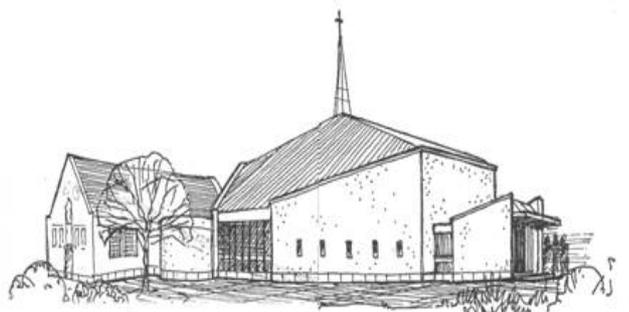
May the Spirit of God guide our journey and reflections this Easter time and be our source of wisdom and understanding, as we as a congregation look to the future, seeking to discern God’s way ahead.

If the Spirit comforts, it also challenges. May we be open to the voice of the Spirit, the Spirit of welcome and hospitality, of listening and of prayer. It is the same Spirit of God, of Jesus that was present that first Easter morning.

Christ is risen! Hallelujah

With all God’s blessing

Robin McAlpine



Holy Week Services

Tuesday 19 th April	Linktown Church
Wednesday 20 th April	Bennochty Church
Thursday 21 st April	St Bryce Kirk
Friday 22 nd April	Abbotshall Church

All services begin at 7 p.m. Please let an office bearer know if you wish a lift to any of these services. On Easter Sunday Abbotshall and St Bryce Kirk will be holding an early morning service in the Beveridge Park at 8.30 a.m. and all are welcome to attend.

The Deaf Choir, from Edinburgh, will be taking part in our own Easter Day service, and there will be an informal communion after the service.

Kevoch Choir Concert

The Concert by the Kevoch Choir on Saturday 26 March was very much enjoyed by all who attended. The Choir with their conductor, Graham Lovett, accompanist George Wilson on organ and piano, provided a very varied programme to suit all tastes. There was music by Faure, Chopin, John Rutter, Eric Whitacre, a choral selection from Schindler's List, some Folk Songs, beautiful Hebrew Love Songs, and a Showcase of Songs by George and Ira Gershwin finishing with Ol' Man River. There were excellent solos by Hilary Stokes and Graham Webster. The proceeds from the Concert, after deducting part of the cost of the hire of the bus, have been contributed by the Choir towards Church Funds. The Choir very much enjoyed their visit to Bennochty Church, and felt that the audience communicated very well during the performance, making it a lot easier for them to sing. The audience was smaller than expected, but if you were unable to attend, there is a further opportunity for you to hear the Choir at its Annual Concert at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on the evening of Saturday 7 May. The programme for this Concert will be similar to the Bennochty Concert. There is also the Choir's Annual Christmas Concert, again in the Queen's Hall, in December. I will be delighted to provide further details to anyone wishing details of these Concerts. Thanks to all who supported the Bennochty Concert.

Brian A Booth

The Kevoch Choir

I often hear the phrase "Nothing ever comes to Kirkcaldy" branded about the town. On Saturday March 26th the Kevoch Choir visited our church. For those in the audience the seventy-six members of the choir captivated us for 90 minutes with a wide and varied programme of choral music to rapturous applause.

Such a pity the audience only equalled the number of choristers. I was saddened and embarrassed by the low turnout, not only for the choir, but also for our church, as the event was a fundraiser. No wonder nothing comes to Kirkcaldy, and if it does it probably won't return.

The choir will be repeating Saturday's repertoire at their annual concert in the Queens Hall, Edinburgh on Saturday May 7th. Unfortunately the ticket price will be double.

Grace Morrison.

Fabric

Church and Halls

Now that we are nearing completion on our Manse and with the successful conclusion of the sale of the former St. Andrews Manse, our attention is now being focused on projects to mitigate future maintenance, to upgrade and make energy and general improvements to our property.

Budget proposals have been drawn up for various projects and these will be considered along with the Quinquennial Fabric Report due to be completed by Chartered Surveyors later this year. In view of the severe weather we have experienced lately, we intend to have a detailed inspection of all roofs to complement the Report and to act on this at an early date.

Work has now been completed on a brass memorial plaque to replace the marble WW1 tablet which was destroyed in the fire and subsequent demolition of the old St. Johns Church. The plaque is currently with the joiner who is making a timber frame to match our existing plaques and will be mounted directly above the light switch panel on the rear wall of our Sanctuary to complete our Memorial Wall.

Now that Spring has finally arrived, we will need to make a start on tidying up the grounds and we would like to have more volunteers to "adopt" a small plot to look after and to litter pick on Saturdays. We have a plan of the grounds on the main notice board at the ramp entrance and names and telephone numbers can be added or phone Graham Harrower on 201689 or myself on 202340.

Manse

Externally, work is now nearing completion with landscaping and some electrical items outstanding,

Internally, all kitchen units and appliances have now been delivered and we await all four contractors being available at one time in order to complete the kitchen and dining room areas. Alterations to the ground floor shower area, minor improvements to the bathroom, main bedroom and the former utility area are in hand and with new curtain rails currently being fitted, final completion is expected shortly.

Following external and internal completion, volunteers will be required to undertake the final clean up for the open day when members will be able to view. Names and telephone numbers of volunteers should be given to office bearers as soon as possible.

Before our Minister can occupy our Manse, Presbytery inspection and approval will be required, carpet protection will require to be removed and carpet cleaning carried out. It is expected that our Minister will take up residence sometime in May.

***Roddy Sellars,
Fabric Convener***

Oberammergau 2010

As we approach Easter, our minds turn back to June of last year when we attended the Oberammergau Passion Play.

Briefly, the play dates back to a vow made in the year 1633, at which time the plague raged in the entire Bavarian region, including the village of Oberammergau. Many people died. It was then that the people of the village vowed to portray the "Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ" every ten years. From that moment on not one person succumbed to the Black Death. Since then, once a decade, the people of Oberammergau have been performing the Passion Play. Each production brings a unique insight into Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. This time, for example, Judas was shown as a tragic figure, deceived by Caiaphas concerning the consequences of his betrayal of Jesus. He only intended to bring about a meeting of Jesus with the High Council. He did not want Jesus put to death. Judas repents of his action and ultimately hangs himself.

The performance which was in two halves of approximately 3 hours, with a dinner break between, was spectacular. The blend of drama, music and storytelling ensured that we were captivated by the whole moving experience.

Half the village, i.e. 2,000 people, young and old, devote a year of their lives to putting on this production. All performers are laymen and pursue their usual careers as wood carvers, house wives, etc. The role of Jesus in 2010 was played by a psychologist. There were also horses, sheep, camels and a donkey on stage! Because the performance is staged every second day from the middle of May to the beginning of October, all the principal character roles and solo parts are shared by two people.

We had an added bonus in that Otto Huber, owner of our excellent hotel, was a key figure in the production and also delivered the prologue at the start of each Act. Late night after performance coffee chat was enlightening and informative.

Whilst the new theatre is totally covered, the massive stage is outdoors. By the time of the crucifixion scene darkness had fallen, adding to the dramatic atmosphere of the enactment. The village of Oberammergau, set in the Bavarian Alps, has a beauty and tranquillity all of its own. There was a little time to explore the narrow streets of painted houses, the woodcarvers' shops, the museum and the quality gift shops.

Imagine strolling along a sunlit lane and meeting Jesus on his bike heading back to the theatre for the second half, or being served your ice-cream by Pontius Pilate!

All in all, our trip was a never to be forgotten unique experience. We are sure those of you who have been to Oberammergau will agree with us.

It is on again in 2020!

George and Kathleen Grant





Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is from 15th - 21st May. It will start with a 'Soup and Sweet' lunch on Sunday 15th May and throughout that week door to door collectors will have a busy time as they distribute Christian Aid envelopes within the parish and beyond. If you are a U.K. taxpayer Christian Aid can receive more from the government for every £1 you contribute, at no extra cost to you, and you are helping a very good cause. Christian Aid is a charity which is working to bring an end to poverty around the world, tackling its root causes as well as its effects. Also, by supporting Christian Aid appeals, you will be helping people whose lives have been affected by crisis, conflict and disaster. Due to holidays, illness etc. there is often a shortage of collectors so, if you are able to give a few hours of your time to deliver or collect the envelopes (or both) during Christian Aid Week please speak to Angela Stewart or Charlie Low, who would very much appreciate your help. A sponsored walk will be arranged for later on in the year with more details nearer the time. Thank you.

Bowling Club

We are looking forward to our outdoor season which should start in May, or earlier or later depending on the weather, at Gallatown Bowling Club. Watch out for intimations!

Our indoor session continues as usual at The Gunners Club (next to the Ice Rink) on Mondays from 2 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 £2. Bowls are supplied and all you need to bring along is a pair of flat soled shoes and, of course, yourself.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends soon.

*Roddy Sellars,
Treasurer*

86th Fife Scout Group

Ceilidh

Saturday 21st May

Abbotshall Church Hall

7.30 - 11.30 p.m.

Bert Pozzi Band

Buffet / Wine Bar

Adults £10 Children £5

Tickets now available from Eric Evans, 01592 262506

The Forth Valley Chorus - On Saturday 4 June at 7.30 pm 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. Their style is 'Barber Shop'. Further details and tickets available soon.

Do you know this person? - A recent visitor to our website, Julie Leibrich, is trying to trace a friend who was at Edinburgh University at the same time as she was (1966-70). At that time her name was Dorothy Hay. She came from Methven and would now be in her sixties. This is a long shot but, if anyone knows this person please contact Julie Leibrich (previously Julie Halstead) from New Zealand at seacoast@paradise.net.nz.

Funerals

- 14.2.11 John Harley, Methven House, Kirkcaldy.*
- 3.3.11 Anne Emsley, Abbeyfield Care Home, Kirkcaldy.
- 11.3.11 Jessie Duncan, 2 Craigie Place, Kirkcaldy.
- 14.3.11 Gordon Taylor, 8 Denend Crescent, Kirkcaldy.*
- 4.4.11 Bette Wilson, 34 Forth Park Gardens, Kirkcaldy
- 11.4.11 James Rice, 11 Rosebery Court, Kirkcaldy

*Non church members

Baptisms

- 6.3.11 Callum Robert William Bayne, son of Lorraine & Stuart, 7 Mellerstain Road, Kirkcaldy.
- 27.3.11 Jennifer Drummond and Anna Susan Drummond, daughter of Jennifer and Gary, 7 William Sinclair Street, Kirkcaldy.