

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

JUNE 2011



From the 'Manse'

I write this as the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is meeting in Edinburgh, and yesterday watched part of the debate on 'same-sex relationships and the ministry' streamed to my lap top.

There is no doubt that people hold passionate views on both sides of this debate, and we will now have to wait until a theological commission reports in 2013 to find out if this long running debate will come to some kind of conclusion.

This is not about the Kirk keeping up with the times, like using modern multimedia and communications tools, but seeking to discern the will of God on this matter. For the local church it is no different. How do we in Bennochy Church seek to be a faithful parish church in Kirkcaldy and discern God's way ahead?

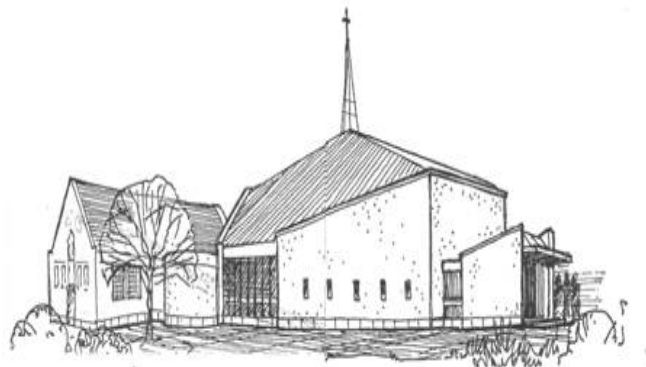
We continue to offer "the ordinances of religion" to the people of the parish, in public worship, funerals, baptisms, weddings and chaplaincies, but what else does God expect of us? How will we offer worship relevant to those who see no need to be part of the church or who seek their "spirituality" elsewhere? What does pastoral care to a parish look like in 21st Scotland? With so many means of communication today, how do we effectively teach people about Jesus, and share his 'Good news'? As with all challenging debates, there is no easy answer to any of these questions.

The 'Church without Walls' report to the 2001 General Assembly asked this question, 'What kind of church will make sense to the next generation?' I believe this is a church that takes risks, a church centred on faith in Jesus, and a church unafraid because we are people of the resurrection! The challenge to all of us is this, we are called to follow Jesus Christ down paths that are not easy.

I hope this is the kind of church you wish to be part of! Let us together seek God's way ahead for Bennochy church and the wider church here in Kirkcaldy.

Yours in Christ

Robin McAlpine

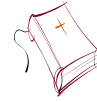


Summer Services

Sunday 19th June
Sunday 10th July
Sunday 17th July
Sunday 24th July
Sunday 31st July

Communion Service

Joint Service in Abbotshall Church
Joint Service in Bennoch Church
Joint Service in Linktown Church
Joint Service in St Bryce Church



Website Update

Two new regularly updated features have been added to the Bennoch Parish Church website.

Firstly, the Order of Service is now available on the Worship page, normally at least 24 hours before the Sunday service. This allows details of the readings and hymns to be made available prior to the service.

Secondly, Robin is writing a set of notes which relate to each week's sermon. These will normally be available a few days after each service and enable the sermon topic to be revisited during the week. As with the newsletters, the sermon notes will be retained as an archive and have their own page which can be found under the News menu.

Bennoch Prayer Group

At our May meeting we were delighted to be joined by Chris Beattie of KART (Kirkcaldy Area Outreach Trust) and some of his prayer support team. You may remember that Chris was present at one of our Sunday services last year and told us of his work with our young folk in schools and churches in our area.

2011 has started well for KART. Chris is involved with Assemblies and Scripture Union groups in four primary schools and two high schools. Forty young folk are meeting each week in Scripture Union groups. "Journey Through the Bible" classes are taking place. Plans are well in hand for a 'Kirkcaldy Weekend' to be held in Altnacriche, near Aviemore, in June. An In Service Activity Club in the Torbain area is also planned for June. Several Holiday Clubs will be held in the summer months.

As always we enjoyed Chris's enthusiasm and commitment to his work with our young folk. We were aware too of the commitment of his prayer support members, who keep us informed of KART. We are asked to pray for God's provision for KART for volunteers and financial needs. We give thanks to God that children from Kirkcaldy are attending KART events and enjoying their time learning about God. Chris will welcome any voluntary help, especially with his holiday clubs this summer.

Our next Bennoch prayer group meeting is on Wednesday 15th June at 2 p.m. in the prayer room, and it will be led by Bob Purdie. There are ten of us who attend when we can, and you are welcome to join us for our hour together. Prayer request boxes are in the church vestibule and in the prayer room.

Mary Sherrard

Funerals

25.4.11 Ian Grant, 5 Balfour Street, Kirkcaldy
26.4.11 Mrs Ina Michie, 91 Balfour Street, Kirkcaldy
30.6.11 Mrs Nan Steedman, Abbotsford Nursing Home, Methil



Christian Aid Week this year was from 15th - 21st May.

To commence Christian Aid Week, we had a "Soup and Sweet" Lunch after the service on Sunday, 15th May which raised £394.71. During the lunch there was time to enjoy the food and enjoy the chat, socialising with our many church friends, whilst also supporting a good cause.

Throughout Christian Aid Week collectors took to the streets within the parish and beyond. £3067.78 was collected, with an extra £202 to be reclaimed through Gift Aid, which every tax payer should be encouraged to do. This can be done by completing the little form on the red envelope and is at no extra cost to themselves. Donations also amounted to £39.10 .

Later in the year we are going to have a sponsored walk around the Beveridge Park, with a date still to be decided. Christian Aid has a vision - an end to poverty - and believes that vision can become a reality. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way during Christian Aid Week. Your efforts were very much appreciated and Christian Aid has benefited by your work.

World Mission Council

Action for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

The World Mission newsletter for June/July reflects on the theme for this year's Assembly report, Invest in Peace, and on their particular focus on Israel and Palestine. World Mission Council invited us as a congregation, and as individuals, to consider how we could make a difference as we seek to Invest in Peace in the Holy Land. The convener of WMC, Andrew McLellan, challenges us to do in the year ahead at least one thing on the following list.

- **Pray/Worship** Join the 'Wave of Prayer' every Thursday at noon – pray for peace with justice, remember all Church of Scotland staff working in the Holy Land.
- **Give** Donate money to projects; two examples are Christian Aid work in Gaza, and the Church of Scotland Guild project, Interfaith Action.
- **Read** Keep informed of the situation. Blogs and reports are written regularly by Church of Scotland mission partner and by Christian Aid.
- **Join** ...The Scottish Palestinian Forum, The Friends of Tabeetha School, Jaffa, The Friends of St Andrews Church, Jerusalem.
- **Write** ...to your MP or to the Israeli Ambassador to Britain reinforcing British opposition to illegal settlements; send a Christmas card to Christians living in Bethlehem.
- **Meet** ...with mission partners, visit Israel and Palestine on pilgrimage, twin your congregation with a church in the Middle East, invite Jewish or Muslim neighbours to talk about their faith.
- **Watch** ...films, TV, the Web; some examples are Budrus, With God on our Side, East Side Story., The Promise, Christian Aid videos. Visit the Church of Scotland website www.cofscotland.org.uk.

Bennochty Church Guild

Interfaith Action, highlighted in the World Mission newsletter of June/July, is one of six projects running from 2009-2012. It has given Guild members an opportunity to support the work of reconciliation in Israel and Palestine through contacts with Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities. Guild members, including the national convener, were part of a tour to Israel in 2010. They met with women involved in a crèche project, met those participating in the Rabbis for Human Rights movement, and saw the ongoing work with ecumenical groups. Bennochty Guild members look forward to hearing more of the detail of this project in the session ahead. To date over £30,000 has been raised by the Guild nationally for Interfaith Action.

The Guild has long been supportive of Tabeetha School in Jaffa. 'God's School began almost 150 years ago, has been run by the Church of Scotland since 1912. It provides education in English to young people of all religions, cultures, creeds, nationalities. Many Guilds in Fife, including our own, have had the pleasure of a visit from Moira Cubie, now living in St Andrews, but who recently served for a period as Head Teacher of Tabeetha School. Moira has just returned from a visit to Tabeetha and Bennochty Guild looks forward to hearing about it. "Making peace, one child at a time," is how the present Principal Teacher, Antony Short, puts it.

Guild projects run for a period of three years. Through them, members learn of the needs of so many in our world today and money is raised to help meet those needs. Alongside Interfaith Action, the present projects are –

- Mission Aviation Fellowship, reaching out this year to Madagascar.
- International Justice Mission, rescuing people from slavery and enforced prostitution in countries where they cannot rely on national authorities for help, focus this year on Cambodia.
- Crossreach, (Social Care Council), giving a support service to families visiting a relative in prison, working at present in Perth prison.
- Church of Scotland Ministries Council, helping to establish an ecumenical centre for reconciliation and peacemaking to help individuals, congregations, communities resolve their difficulties and restore relationships.
- HIV/AIDS project, helping people live with this virus, both in Scotland and overseas, focus at present on Malawi.

Doors Open Day

On Sunday 11th September Bennochty Church will be involved in the Doors Open Day in Kirkcaldy. We would like to put on a display of photos, and any other memorabilia relating to any of the former congregations/churches which came together to form Bennochty congregation. If you have anything you think would be of interest please let me know. We would like to have a display which would be of interest to our own congregation as well as to strangers. As well as a traditional display we hope to have a Powerpoint-style presentation using the projector and screen in the sanctuary.

Related to this venture, we have a framed photograph in the church office which I understand is of elders from St John's Church taken sometime in the 1920s. If you can throw any light on this, especially with regard to names of those in the photo, could you please let me know.

Ragnar Ingebrigtsen

A Note from the Treasurer

1. Financial Position January to April 2011

At the meeting of the Congregational Board on 23 May I reported on our financial position from January to April. During this period, our expenditure exceeded our income by £8,917. Details are given below. Taking into account the expenditure included on non-recurring items and tax due to be recovered on Gift Aid donations, I feel the result is acceptable at this point in time. However, the deficit does indicate that we must continue with our fund raising. The Strawberry Teas commence on Friday 3 June, the Annual Gift Day will be on Saturday 22 October, and the Christmas Fayre will be held in November. More details of these events will be available nearer the time.

INCOME	£
Offerings	22,591
Other Income	5,201
Total Income	£27,792
EXPENDITURE	
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work	21,420
Local Staffing Costs	3,480
Building Costs and other local costs	11,809
Total Expenditure	£36,709
Deficit for the period January to April 2011	£8,917

2. General Fund Budget 2011

The General Fund Budget 2011 was presented to and approved by the Congregational Board at its meeting on 23 May. Details are enclosed with this Newsletter.

The Budget shows an estimated deficit for the year of £12,810. This is to be expected as our Ministries and Mission Contribution this year is £5,354 per month compared with £4,240 per month last year. This is an increase of £1,114 per month or £13,368 for a full year. This matter will be further considered by the Congregational Board.

3. Ministries and Mission Contributions 2011

A letter from Rev Gordon D Jamieson, Head of Stewardship, is also enclosed with this Newsletter. The letter explains how our Ministries and Mission Contribution for 2011, £65,754, 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 our congregation 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 for a minister with at least 10 years service, plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions. This amounts to £39,600 in 2011. At Bennoch 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".

4. Special Offerings

There has been one Special Offering this year. This was for the Scottish Bible Society's appeal to make the People's Bible a reality. We were able to send £160.10, and the Scottish Bible Society is very grateful for our partnership with them as we take the Bible to our own people. We were also able to raise £307.78 at our Souper Day 2011 in aid of the Church of Scotland's HIV Programme. Thanks to our donation the HIV Programme will be able to continue to fund the work of their partners in Scotland and Overseas. The next Special Offering will be on Communion Sunday 19 June and will be for the work of CLIC Sargent for Children with Cancer. Since 1968, this charity has been available for children and young people with cancer, helping in so many ways. Please help this vital work to continue for future generations with cancer.

Your continued financial support to Bennochty Parish Church is very much appreciated. If anyone would like further details on our Financial Position January to April 2011, the General Fund Budget 2011 or our Ministries and Mission Contributions 2011, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brian A Booth,
Treasurer

Freewill Offering Envelopes

The envelopes supplied for Freewill Offering are becoming increasingly more expensive. I therefore urge everyone who uses this method of payment to consider changing to the simpler, more efficient way of paying by Standing Order. This method saves a lot of voluntary man-hours counting money, and the work involved in preparing and delivering the envelopes.

The Standing Order method is quite simple to set up, and then you can forget about it, although we do urge you to review the amount you pay from time to time, and to make sure there is enough money in your bank account to cover the amount you have decided to contribute.

As you review your method of contributions, please also consider signing up for Gift Aid. The only criteria is that you pay tax. It costs the individual nothing and gives the church funds approximately one quarter more income.

If you wish to change either the method of payment or to sign up for gift aid please see Audrey O'Malley who has the appropriate forms.

The envelopes do need to be ordered early for next year. If you decide to change your method of payment please do so as soon as possible.

Well done Brodie!

Brodie's entry in the recent Christian Aid poster competition was 'Highly Commended' and can be seen at the foot of the escalator in Tesco's. She received a book on Nelson Mandela, suitably inscribed, for Bennochty Sunday School from Gordon Brown, MP.



Fabric

Church and Halls

The Quinquennial Inspection by Chartered Surveyors has now been completed and we await their report which will be passed to the Fabric Committee for subsequent action.

Our Fabric Committee has now been reinforced by the addition of two Deputy Fabric Conveners, Ian Maxwell and Jim Neilson, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

We have recently commissioned a high level survey of our roof areas which will take place shortly and this report will also be considered by the Fabric Committee in conjunction with the Quinquennial Report.

Our new plaque to replace the marble First World War memorial plaque which was lost in the destruction of the old St Johns Church is currently with the joiner, who has manufactured a wooden surround to match our existing plaques. The new plaque will be mounted centrally on our Memorial Wall in due course.

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 telephone myself (202340) or Graham Harrower (201689).

Manse

The Quinquennial Inspection by Chartered Surveyors has also been completed, albeit while work by the Contractors was in progress, which should make the report interesting reading. Contract work is now complete and various clean-up operations are underway by volunteers.

We await inspections by Architect, Council and Presbytery.

We hope to have an Open Day around mid June to allow the Congregation to inspect the refurbishment before final carpet cleaning and occupation, which is targeted for end June. Thanking you for your continuing support.

*Roddy Sellars,
Fabric Convener.*

Bowling Club

Our 2011 outdoor season has now commenced at Gallatown Bowling Club (next to Sheach's) on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m., weather permitting (we do not bowl if raining). Indoor bowling 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 and biscuits and a chat.

We always welcome any newcomers as our Club is open to all, with no formal dress code, all equipment 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.

Why not come along and try your hand, forehand or backhand, bring a friend or friends and enjoy a little gentle exercise and a chat with us.

*Roddy Sellars,
Treasurer*

Choir

The Thursday evening Choir Practices have now finished, but will resume on Thursday 1st September at 7.15 p.m. until around 8.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room. Practices on a Sunday continue at 10.15 a.m. in the Elgin Room. New members will be made most welcome. Please see me if you would like more details about the Choir. The Choir members are enjoying the challenge of the new hymns and songs being introduced into our worship.

Brian A Booth, Organist

Bell Ringers

Q. What have we been doing since chiming carols at Christmas time?

A. We have turned our hands to something new; namely, folk songs which bring a great variety of rhythm, and waltzes which keep us to strict 1-2-3 time. The idea is to build up over time a repertoire of wide range.

The Hand Bells we ring were struck in the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, London, a well known family business and of high renown. They - the bells - are of an age unknown, over 70 years at least. They were acquired by the B.B. 4th Kirkcaldy Co. in the 1950s, when a group formed and played round the district with an accordion to accompany. Stored in the B.B. Halls, Victoria Road, there they lay until the sale of the building, thence to St Bryce Kirk basement and thereafter brought here for the B.B. to "have a go". Not so popular with teenage boys nowadays, the bells were set aside until a group formed, again to "have a go" for fun and on a trial basis. We have had an entertaining first session!

The Bells span almost 3 octaves; from deep bass G, which takes 2 hands to ring, right up to the tinkling sound of top C. Some have needed a repair to the clappers so sound and volume can vary. Some are sharps - no flats. Some are missing, such as top D, which we do miss! But all in all, there is great scope for playing and at present we are reading notes as an A-B-C format. Come and give it a try, if interested. Very welcome. Restart September.

Margaret Simpson

On Kindness

Be kind and merciful
Let no one ever come to you
without coming away better and happier.
Be the living expression of God's kindness;
kindness in your face,
kindness in your eyes,
kindness in your smile,
kindness in your warm greeting
May the Lord show kindness to you,
In the slums we are
the light of God's kindness to the poor
To children, to the poor,
to all who suffer and are lonely
give always a happy smile
Give them not only your care,
but also your heart.

'Mother Teresa'

Boys' Brigade

Under the watchful eye and careful guidance of Capt. John Methven and his officers, Roy Daniels and Ron Gregor, the company section of the Boys' Brigade has enjoyed an eventful and satisfying year, as is evidenced by the regular attendance and enthusiasm of the members.

During the past years the company section, presently numbering 10, has been involved in many activities, together with assistance from David Bease, ex-member and holder of the Queen's badge. Capt. John Methven has outlined the history of the movement and regularly reminds members of the aims and objects of the movement. The congregation will be aware of the close connection of the Boys' Brigade to the Church; while it is true that membership is much smaller than in years gone by, no doubt influenced by the many opportunities available in the community, the Brigade still has much to offer. In my capacity as a "helper" during the past years, it has been rewarding and satisfying to note in the older boys their increasing confidence, maturity and sense of responsibility as they work towards the President's badge.

Some among the congregation will be aware of what takes place at the meetings on Thursday evenings. However, for others, may I give a brief outline in the hope and expectation that the Church and its members will continue to be supportive - attendance at the Boys' Brigade for some of the boys may be their introduction to the Church.

Craft Work: Specific guidance is given by Ron Gregor enabling the boys to make such items as bird boxes, stilts, chess and solitaire boards, all requiring tools and practical skills.

Life Skills: Roy Daniels covers matters of First Aid, survival skills, map reading and compass work.

Talks: These include many subjects of local interest, e.g. trading and farming in Fife, heavy industry, buildings and benefactors in Kirkcaldy and Dysart, well-known characters of the town, the courts and the system of justice.

Sports: Table tennis, badminton, indoor bowling, outdoor bowls and others. Outside activities in this summer term include B-B-Qs and visits - Lochore Meadows with a round cycle ride - Loch Leven, Lomond Hills, Leven beach, Silverburn and Falkland Woods with an Easter egg hunt (all eggs found!)

Summer Camp: End of June in Dundee for Company sections from all over.

Weekend: In Forfar for badge work and presentations.

Junior section: With some of the younger boys progressing to the Seniors, i.e. Company section, and with competition from football clubs the Junior section has been recently depleted - sadly so. May I suggest to members of the congregation and others that they take an active role in commending the Boys' Brigade to children of Primary and Secondary age. If you know of any who may be interested, please speak to Capt. John Methven or to Pauline Rae for the Juniors.

By the same token, and in anticipation that new members will be forthcoming, please consider offering to be a "helper" with the Boys' Brigade; there are many subjects on which guidance, expertise and knowledge may be imparted and you may be the person able to give a little time to this group of young people.

Walter Simpson

Strawberry Teas

Summer is here! Strawberry Teas start on Friday 3 June, and then on 17 June, 1, 15 and 29 July and 12 August. If you are unable to come along on a Friday afternoon, Saturday 20 August will be the last Strawberry Tea for this year, when we will have our baking stall and strawberry jam for sale. Please come along and sample our delicious sponges, flans, pavlovas, ice cream sundaes and scones. We hope to see you all there in the gardens in glorious sunshine. If wet, teas will be in the Methven Hall. If anyone would like to help, please contact Senga Booth or Grace Morrison. All proceeds go to Church funds.

The Strawberry Tea Team



Wedding

14.5.11 Emma Catignani to Colin Waddell, both Glasgow

- The next full Newsletter is scheduled for September. A News Sheet should be available in August giving news of any forthcoming events, start dates for organisations, etc. This will be left at the front of the church for members to uplift. Meanwhile, for all the latest news on what's happening in Bennoch church at any time, just visit our website.

Website: www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk