

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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OCTOBER 2012



From the 'Manse'

I am sitting in the cafe at Sainsbury's and wondering, or is it just being nosy, what are the people at the other tables talking about? What is the main topic of conversation, an interesting news item, a local concern or an issue personal to them?

This observation got me thinking of how well we, as a local church, know the 'conversations' of our parish and what might be the best way for us to 'listen' to what is going on? We often talk of how we should be relevant to our community, but we cannot do that if we are not aware of what people are talking about, their concerns and issues that are important to them. If we do not 'listen', then all we can offer is a monologue and not a conversation. I wonder where such conversations can take place? Where are the 'safe' places that people would come and join us to discuss what people are talking about locally?

It might be a surprise to us, to find out what God is already doing in our local area without us! We need to believe that God is always ahead of us and we have the privilege of joining him where he already is. It is tempting to 'put God in a box', but our God cannot be contained!

Thinking like this moves our conversation from the 'internal workings of the church' to where people live their lives and will allow us to work together on our shared concerns. In a society where church is very low down on most people's agenda, this can only be good, not just raising our profile, but letting people know we are concerned about the same things they are, and allowing us to share our 'faith perspective'.

Our church faces many challenges in the years that lie ahead, may we never forget why we are here, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, in a way that is relevant to people's lives.

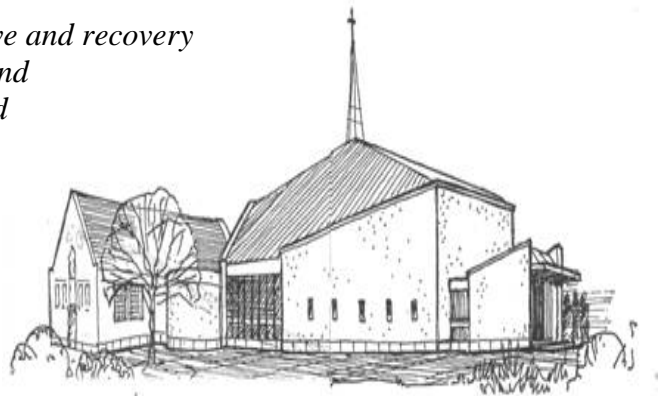
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captive and recovery of sight to the blind; to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people." (Luke 4: 18-19)

Yours in Christ

Robin

See back page for
Calendar of Events



Stewardship Pack

Enclosed with your Newsletter is your Stewardship Pack 2012 containing the following information relating to our Stewardship Season 2012:

- Letter from the Treasurer
- “Gift Aid Your Offering” - a leaflet with information regarding Gift Aid
- A Standing Order form
- Details of the members of the Finance Team

If you do not receive the Stewardship Pack, please contact Brian on 890972.

Church Contacts

With this Newsletter you should also find a small card entitled “Church Contacts and Weekly Programme” Please keep this in a convenient place. It gives you contact details in a handy form for future reference. It also gives you the ready means of informing non-members who may be interested in what our church has to offer.

Bennochy Prayer Group

We continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. for an hour. We have been thinking of our minister Robin and his wife Anne as they holiday in New Zealand, giving thanks for Robin’s ministry here in Bennochy Church. We have also been remembering Nicola, the former minister of St John’s, who encouraged us in 2005 to meet together as a prayer group. Nicola has now begun her service as an Army Chaplain, and our thoughts and prayers are with her.

As in 2005, we, in the prayer group, try to keep ourselves informed of happenings in the life of our church - now Bennochy Church - and of issues in the wider church, and also in the community. We remember in prayer those who are sick, those who are anxious and those who are sad. We give thanks for God’s blessings.

Future dates for our meetings are: October 17th; led by Lillian Haig; November 21st; December 19th. Join us if you can. You will be made most welcome. I would also draw your attention to the prayer request boxes in the church vestibule and in the prayer room, or tell us directly how we can be of help.

Mary Sherrard.

Alpha-Omega Course (Tuesday evenings 6.30 p.m., for 8 weeks)

This eight week course is run as a partnership between Bennochy Parish Church and St Bryce Kirk and it takes place in St Bryce Kirk Centre, commencing on Tuesday 30th October. It begins with a meal (the course and the meals are free!), then Robin or Ken (or both) will lead our thinking on several topics. The course gives you the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topics in small groups. Last year’s course was excellent, and we hope that more members from Bennochy will join in this year. If anyone is interested, please speak to Bob Docherty.

Deaths

- 12.5.12 Mrs Elizabeth Johnstone, 8 Prime Gilt Box Street.
27.7.12 Mrs Isobel Cameron, Gowrie House Nursing Home, W. Albert Road.
25.8.12 Mrs Euphemia Ritchie, Chapelhill Nursing Home.



Kirk Session

The Session meeting in June started with a discussion on our work with children and young people. Under Matters Arising from the previous meeting there was an update on the Fun Day; Pastoral Care; accommodation for the African Children's Choir; lack of progress on obtaining a Church Officer; the Family Service planned for September; and dates for the Harvest Service and Bible World. The resignation of Lorraine Fairful as Crèche Convener was received.

Mr Grant presented a report from the Business Committee covering the Church Officer Post, Welcome and Hospitality, Supporting the Community, Building usage & improvements and Unitary Constitution. He also reported on his attendance at the General Assembly.

Précis of Board Meeting, 17th September 2012

The following reports were presented to the board meeting on 17/9/2012

The Business Committee reported that the installation of the external notice board should be soon. A new church officer, a Mr Peter Shields, has been appointed and will take up the post on 1st November this year. There will be a service in the church on 2nd December to which the youth organisations within the church have been invited.

As regards communications, there will soon be a leaflet drop throughout the parish inviting those within the parish to our church. These leaflets will explain what occurs in Bennochty Church throughout the week. Secondly a Church information card for members and office bearers should be included with this Newsletter. Thirdly, you will have noticed that "welcome team" badges are being worn by those on duty at services. This is to help, not only visitors, but also members, identify office bearers who can be approached for help, advice etc.

We are also considering an "Open Door" scheme where we hope to offer hospitality and the opportunity to share in a meal (at a small cost). This is just in it's infancy but we will keep you posted.

A health and safety (H&S) group advise us that new fire extinguishers are to be sited throughout the church. A fire drill is intended on an unspecified Sunday. Carpet fitting has met a snag which will be overcome soon. The group comprises Senga Booth, George Grant, Ken Campbell and Grace Morrison. If you are aware of any issues contact either one of the welcome team or one of the H&S committee.

The Finance Team reported that there is a projected shortfall in the accounts this year. There will be a team on hand soon for members to discuss this on a one-to-one basis. Church insurance policies are being scrutinised by this group to identify areas where savings may be made. Our treasurer, Brian Booth, is also looking at simplifying the accounts to make them more understandable to those of us who are not up-to-date with current financial trends.

The Fabric Committee reported there are a few issues outstanding regarding building and services to the church. In this respect they are gathering together quotes and investigating the best way forward with regards to the works required.

Malcolm Walker,
Clerk to the Board.

Fundraising Afternoon - Cancer Research UK

Just in case anyone missed the presentation, I would like to say thank you to all at Bennochty Parish Church for their help, support and donations for the Fundraising Bash we held on Saturday 9th June for Cancer Research UK. We managed to raise the amazing amount of £1570.65, and my employers, Santander, who provide a matched donation policy for staff, doubled it to a huge cheque for £3141.30. This was presented to the manageress of the Cancer Shop in Kirkcaldy at the service on 17th June and she was absolutely delighted with our help and support. Thank you again. ***Brenda Fraser***

THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR



On the evening of Friday 21 September we hosted a Concert by the African Children's Choir in Bennoch Church. We were truly blessed by our time with the children and their chaperones. Their singing, dancing and drumming were very entertaining, and their friendliness and enthusiasm were inspiring. The offering for Music for Life uplifted during the Concert amounted to £1,713.70. As many donations were gift-aided, Music for Life will be able to reclaim tax at the rate of 25% on many of the donations so that every pound gift aided becomes £1.25.

"Helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow" is the vision of the African Children's Choir and Music for Life programmes across Africa. The children in the Choir:-

- attend a Choir Training Academy
- attend the African Children's Choir Primary School
- are sponsored in Secondary Schools
- are sponsored in Colleges and Universities
- attend Music for Life Centres offering music, dance, nutrition and life skills

At the Concert we heard from all the children of their hopes and dreams, and we have helped in a small way to inspire, encourage and support these wonderful children. These children are the voice for the millions of vulnerable children back home in Africa desperately requiring our loving support.

Thank you for helping Africa's most vulnerable children today, so they can help Africa tomorrow.

Brian A Booth

World Mission

Recent news from Jenny Featherstone, our Mission Partner in Zambia, was reported in our September News Sheet, and our Harvest Thanksgiving collection went towards the PLAY4ALL scheme, one of the projects she is promoting in Kamatipa, Zambia.

In her latest e-mail, Jenny writes that our gift of monies is just so timely for certain areas of need.

Ernest Sakala, now full-time Project Manager of PLAY4ALL will be sending us news of how it was put to good use. Jenny describes him as full of initiative; his latest idea was to acquire from a Water Co. in town a spare water kiosk, set up a system and sell fresh water to the public, but also and especially be able to offer pure water to the children - for them, apparently, like a glass of delicious lemonade!

The latest Partnerplan Newsletter follows.

PARTNERPLAN

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia September 2012

Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation
PO Box 21493
Kitwe
Zambia

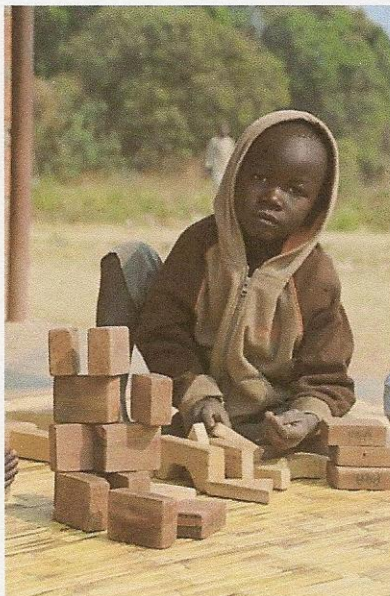
Dear Church friends,

Where does the time go! It just seems a few weeks since I wrote my last newsletter yet so much has happened since then.

Firstly, it is with great sadness that I announce the death of Agnes Zungu, the secretary of the Ipusukilo women's group. She was a brave and faithful member of DOWIZA and she lost her long battle with stomach cancer on the 3rd September 2012. Agnes was the mainstay of the HIV+ widows group which over the last year or so has had difficulties keeping numbers; and I fear her death and the recent burning down of our grass roofed Nsaka (meeting place) - probably by children; will have further negative effects on the group .



Agnes Zungu



Playing with Bricks

Secondly, we have been granted a small salary for the next 5 years under the Nationals in Mission scheme. This allows Ernest Sakala to work as a full time Project Manager for Play4all. We now have 20 volunteers and will be shortly be training a few more. Our football teams at last are emerging, and Auxillia and Memory are keen to get the girls organised for netball. The feeding programme started a couple of weeks ago but has had a few hiccups! The children are not used to thobwa as a cold drink, and prefer to eat it as powder straight from the packet, so we are re-thinking the way forward. The volunteers are hoping to start an income generating scheme, the profits of which will be split 50 / 50 between them and Play4all. At present they are looking at rearing broiler chickens, but this has yet to be properly costed. We are also in the very long bureaucratic process of registering Play4all with the government.

Thirdly, now the future of Play4all is secured, this frees me up to take up the request received a few months ago to change my job. At the end of this month I will move to Chodort Training Centre, Choma to fill in the gap left by the Rev David Nixon when his term as a mission partner finished in March this year. Chodort Training Centre is a small centre with 3 main programmes, carpentry, tailoring and computing. It also has a very successful carpentry workshop. It is situated in Choma, a small provincial town about 2 hours from Livingstone and 10+ hours from Kitwe. Rev Nixon

has worked very hard to develop this centre and procured nearly 40 plots on a nearby site for future building. This has already started, firstly building houses for rent in order to supplement the cost of building the new college and staff houses. A big and worthy project.

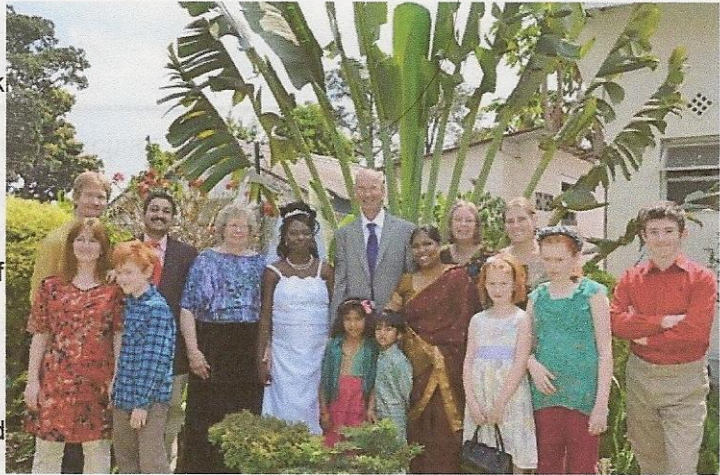
Life in Choma will be very different from my experience in Kitwe. It is an up and coming town with relatively

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Charity Number: SC011353

PARTNERPLAN

few facilities and the economy is mostly agriculturally based. People will no doubt have similar problems, but not on the same scale as in Kitwe, and my daily work will not bring me into contact with the abject poverty I have seen in the compounds, but it will still be vital for increasing the life chances and standards of living of all those connected with the training centre - not least the 20 or so staff as well as the events above, we have seen the wedding of Adrian Hendy (the EEP that just kept coming back) to Violet Zulu (and now we know why :-)) Congratulations Adrian & Violet a long and happy marriage to you. Farewell to Rev Rebecca Jones who has been a good friend in her year at TEEZ, and a mean



Adrian, Violet and their MEF family

player of rummykub! Now she has left to return to the States via Southern Africa and South America. Wende bwino Rebecca (travel well). She is replaced by Rev Andrew Ruth and his wife Claire, whom I wish an adventurous and fruitful year. We have also seen the return of Steve and Carol Jackson and Max, as Steve rejoins the teaching team at a local theological college, and the resignation after 8 years of service of Rev Dr Bwalya our UCZTC Principal. He will be replaced in January 2013. As well as moving to Choma, I will also be returning to the UK in January 2013 for furlough till 10th April. January is reserved for Carol's wedding, but I would be happy to link up with churches and friends after that.

Items for praise

- For such a wonderful group of volunteers in Kamatipa
- For the award of the NMA grant for a full time project manager. Secured for 5 years
- For the inspirational work of the Rev Nixon and his family during their years in Choma
- For the long years of service of Rev Dr Bwalya at UCZTC
- For all the very good friends I have made in Kitwe and the surrounding area

Items for prayer

- To uplift all those who mourn Agnes Zungu
- For Ernest as he starts his new and demanding job
- For Adrian, that all the paperwork goes smoothly so that he can bring his new family to the UK
- For Rebecca as she spends 2 months traveling before returning to the United States
- For the Theological College as it adapts to a new management team.
- For me, as I start my new job, that I may show the same commitment and love that the Nixon family did for Chodort Training Centre.

With every good wish to you all,

Jenny

Jenny Featherstone

email jenny.featherstone@gmail.com

skype jennyfeatherstone Zambia

Address from October 2012 Chodort Training Centre; PO Box 630451 Choma, Southern Province

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Charity Number: SC011353

Bennoch Church Guild

Seven members were present at the Annual Meeting of the Guild in Dundee in August, when we celebrated our 125th birthday. About 2,000 women and men were present and it was a wonderful and inspirational occasion. The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt. Rev. Albert Bogle, was with us throughout the day. His address focussed on Faith, Festivals and Families, delivered with humour and challenge. Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Council are hosting a dinner in November to further celebrate the birthday and around ten of us hope to be there.

Our theme for this year is A Faith To Proclaim, and on September 18th Rev. Marc Prowe led us in an exploration of pilgrimage; it was a splendid start to our new session. On 16th October, Aileen Yuille will outline the six projects we will be learning about and raising money for over the next three months. The Guild is enthusiastic in its support for the chosen projects: some overseas, some at home, some connected with the work of the the Church of Scotland. We would be delighted to welcome you to hear of our projects - 2 p.m. on 16th October. Wilma Wright will be glad to give further details of our meetings, which take place on Tuesday afternoons and Monday evenings alternately each week. All will be welcome.

Present membership of the Guild is 26,000, both men and women. Over our 125 years the Guild has constantly changed, but some 15 years ago a new programme was accepted by the membership. We in Bennoch Church Guild have planned to remind ourselves of some of these changes as we, too, celebrate the Guild's 125th birthday.

Get Together Club

If you are free, why not join us on Thursday afternoons. We have a good time - good chat and good fellowship. Jimmy and Grace have been off sick recently, but we hope to see them back soon.

Women's Group

The Group's new session began on Tuesday 4th September with a walk around Ravenscraig Park followed by tea/coffee and scones at the Royal Hotel in Dysart. Our first indoor meeting was a silent auction/taster evening on the 18th September. On the 2nd October our guest speaker was Claire Barnard, talking about working in Victim/Witness support. On the 16th October we welcome two members of Boots the Chemist staff.

Our Family Quiz Night is on Saturday 20th October at 7 p.m. in the Methven Hall. Tickets are £4 per adult and £2 per child and are on sale from group members. There will be a raffle and a delicious desert supper after the quiz. This is a great opportunity for all the family to come along and enjoy an evening where everyone can take part.

On October 30th our guest speaker will be Gavin Grant from Kirkcaldy museum. A members' craft night is arranged for the 13th November. We will be running the Body Shop table at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 17th November. Toiletries etc will be most welcome. Members have a visit to the Adam Smith Theatre to see the KAOS production of Singing in the Rain on the 20th November and Tom Smart will give a demonstration of Christmas Arrangements on the 27th November. We welcome Bennoch Bell Ringers on the 4th December and look forward to our Christmas Dinner on the 11th December.

- Mrs Elizabeth Martin has a 2008 mobility scooter – very good condition, almost new, only used 8 times. Anyone interested please speak to Mrs Martin at church, or see George Drummond or Ragnar.

KART CORNER AUTUMN 2012

Registered Charity No. SC037866



What's been happening

It has been a very busy summer! The KART weekend in June for secondary school pupils went well. 14 young people attended from local high school SU groups and churches. There was a good mix of kids and leaders from a number of the churches in the area.

At the beginning of July Chris co-led a soccer camp at Lendrick Muir. 3 children attended from Fair Isle Primary School which was very encouraging and something he hopes to build on.

Chris visited Kinghorn and Pathhead holiday clubs and helped at Whyte's Causeway Baptist's Holiday Club.

These churches, together with many others in the area, did an excellent job of leading their own holiday club for local children.

Chris led a summer holiday club in Burntisland. Over 20 young people attended and everyone had an enjoyable week.

At the end of August KART led a Back to school with God Service at Newcraigs Evangelical church. The service focussed on praying for pupils and staff as they return to school for a new session.

Coming Up

This term Chris will be leading assemblies in Valley Primary School and Viewforth High School.

The 5th Annual KART sponsored walk takes place on Saturday 6th of October. We will be climbing the 2 Lomond Hills. It would be great if any keen walkers would like to come and join us to support KART in this way.

Chris will be leading an Activity Day at St Bryce Kirk, with a team of volunteers, on the 16th of November. This will be for primary school aged children.

Points for Prayer

Give thanks for all the children who attended holiday clubs and summer camps. Please pray for God to be at work in their lives and for them to come to know Him more.

Please pray for the SU groups starting up again in schools after the summer break. Please pray for old and new kids to come along.

Please pray for safety and a good day for all taking part in the KART sponsored walk.

In March 2013 Chris will be leading a team going into Viewforth High School. They will be holding a Christian Focus Week for all S1 and S2 pupils. Please pray for the planning and volunteers required to hold such an event.

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

Email – chris.beattie@kart.me.uk Telephone - 07746373860

Thank you for your support ☐

EMMS Bike and Hike - 1st September 2012

I would just like to thank everyone who sponsored me on the recent Bike and Hike. A cheque for £258 has been sent to EMMS International, an Edinburgh based charity who work with partners overseas to help people in the poorest communities in Malawi, Nepal and India, and Bennochty Church should receive back half this amount for our own funds. I visited 21 churches, starting at Auchtertool then cycling to Lochgelly, Cardenden, Kinglassie, Glenrothes, Leslie, Thornton, Kennoway and Methil, before finishing with a tour of the Kirkcaldy churches - a total of 51 miles. Thank you again for your support.

Ron Steedman

Bibleworld Mobile comes to town

A high-tech, multimedia, mobile classroom, *Bibleworld Mobile* is visiting **Kirkcaldy** from Monday 29th October to Friday 9th November 2012. Brought in by the Scottish Bible Society, local school children and other groups will be enjoying this highly acclaimed education resource that has all of the latest technology to delight, entertain and educate its visitors. The huge 'Tardis-like' trailer, containing what is effectively a travelling classroom including six activity zones, will be parked at **Kirkcaldy Esplanade Basin Car park**.

Using the multimedia computer activities and involving visitors through hands-on experiences, the facility is designed to bring the story of the Bible to life. Since its launch in 2005, more than 50,000 children and adults have enjoyed the *Bibleworld* programme.

The 45 ft, 14 ton vehicle is being taken to towns and villages throughout Scotland and churches are encouraged to invite the trailer to their area for use by the whole of the community. **Bennoch, St Bryce Kirk, Abbotshall, Auchtertool, Linktown and Kinghorn Churches** are supporting this venture. Extending beyond the school day, local adults and accompanied children can experience *Bibleworld Mobile* for themselves by visiting open evenings (Dates to be arranged)

"This popular trailer is getting out and about throughout the country," says Elaine Duncan, chief executive of the Scottish Bible Society. "From lowlands to highlands, from cities to island villages, people are being delighted with what they are experiencing. "Our two experienced coordinators are working hard taking the story of the Bible to schools and youth groups wherever the invitation comes from." "We are showing that even after nearly 200 years of work we still have vital work to do. We are continuing to promote the Bible as God's Word for today, and to make it available to all in appropriate and relevant forms. It is important that people have the opportunity to experience the richness of the Bible's story and its place in our culture; Bibleworld certainly helps in that."

- Volunteers are required to man this project and forms and explanation leaflets are available in the church or speak to George Drummond.



Crossreach

This is a copy of a letter recently received from Presbytery.

My name is Gordon Campbell. I work for Crossreach Children's Services at one of the residential schools in Beith, Ayrshire. There is another near Balfron, Stirlingshire. We cater for the educational, emotional and social needs of boys aged 8-18.

I have the task of building with your help a data base of people who are willing and able to give of their time to a group of youngsters who need you. Ideally face to face contact would be wonderful but in the case of those of you far away, letters, e-mails or skype could help to enrich the lives of those I am privileged and proud to serve.

Our boys live away from home and are disadvantaged as a result. They lose touch with their home communities during their stay at Geilsland or Ballikinrain and often have to prepare to go back as 'strangers'. We need two types of support for them – one during his placement in school and the second when he is back in his home area. Must be a sermon in there!

Will you tell your congregations about this need? Ask them to think about what they could offer then contact me and I will attempt to convince them it's a worthwhile task and they can do it.

*Yours in hope,
Gordon Campbell*

- Contact: Gordon Campbell [mailto:Gordon.Campbell@geilsland.org]

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

15 OCTOBER	'Go Deeper' Study
20 OCTOBER	Gift Day
	Family Quiz Night
28 OCTOBER	Communion
30 OCTOBER	Alpha-Omega Course (8 weeks)
29 OCTOBER - 9 NOVEMBER	Bible World Mobile
17 NOVEMBER	Christmas Fayre



Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal 2012

You are invited again to fill a shoe box for people who have so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty in countries such as Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Kosovo, Serbia and Ukraine. By filling a shoe box with simple gifts, you can bring some joy and laughter to someone this Christmas. Covered shoe boxes are available in the church vestibule for a short time only, with the instruction leaflet inside the box. If you want to cover your own box, leaflets are also available. A date for the filled boxes to be returned to church has yet to be given but will probably be around the first and second weeks in November. Please fill a box and bring a smile to someone this Christmas.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A date for your diary is Saturday 17th November at 2 p.m. when once again our yearly Christmas Fayre will take place. Please come along, enjoy the afternoon, and visit all our usual stalls: Baking, Jam, Fancy Goods, Jewellery, Body Stall, Tombola etc. Please bring the children and grandchildren. Santa will once again be popping in to see us before he starts his preparations for Christmas.

If you would like to help in any way, details of contacts will be given nearer the time.



Travel Insurance

We have received the following invitation from Park Place Insurance in Kirkcaldy suggesting that we might be interested in setting up a scheme to assist members of the congregation in obtaining travel insurance.

“Through our travel providers, we can offer specialist travel insurance policies to customers with pre-existing medical conditions and the elderly. We are dedicated FSA regulated UK insurance specialists.

We can provide travel insurance policies to the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions over the phone, online or in person at our offices based on Kirkcaldy's High street.

Our policies can cover:

Pre-existing medical conditions – sometimes without any additional costs

- Customers aged up to 115
- Up to 92 days continuous cover – worldwide
- Cancellation up to £20,000”

If you are interested in this, either individually or as part of a group scheme, please contact George Drummond for further information.