

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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MARCH 2013



From the 'Manse'

Is Lent still relevant to a modern Scotland? Moving beyond the idea of giving up something we like, what is the church seeking to say to society at this time leading up to Easter? Although society gives a greater focus to exchanging gifts at Christmas, for the church, it is the Easter story that gives us the greatest story of faith that a man came back to life, and through God, he offers love and forgiveness to all.

That is all well and good, but I was watching a program on TV that was debating same sex marriage, and one younger person after another said, what has this to do with the church or what the bible says, this is not a debate about morality, it is about equality. So many people today cannot understand why the church is spending so much time on this issue.

I use this example to make the point that most people today do not see the great stories of faith as having any relevance to their lives. The church has a huge challenge ahead of it, to show by how we live and the message that we communicate, that not only God 'so loved the world', but that same God wishes to encounter people and challenge them to follow him. In other words, to make faith, personal

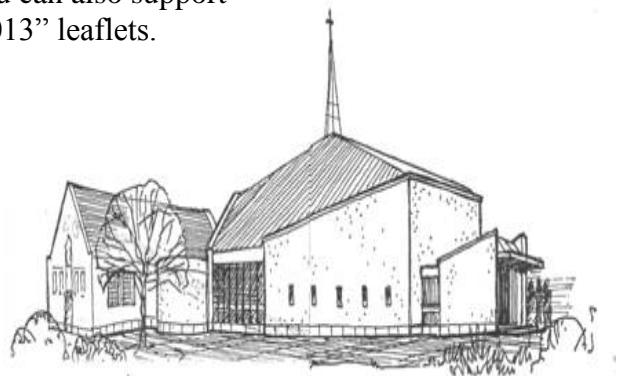
In a country that can no longer call itself Christian, the role of the church can now be likened to that of the prophets of old, proclaiming from the margins the message of God. The problem is, prophets don't tend to be liked very much! Maybe Lent is a time for us to be prophetic, to go beyond what we give up, to a message of sacrifice, of God's in Christ, and ours, for faith means being in the 'risk business'!

I don't think we will never win arguments of faith by debate, or what is moral and what is not. Society has already made up its mind on that! So instead, let us be story tellers, of the greatest story on earth, and leave what will happen after that, to God. That is our witness.

If you are able, please join us for our Lent studies and our joint services for Holy week (for both, please see church intimations for details). You can also support Christian Aid, by using the "Count your Blessings 2013" leaflets.

With all God's blessing at this time of Lent

Robin



You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the **Easter story**.

March 24 th	<i>Palm Sunday</i> celebrations @ 11 am
March 29 th	Good Friday reflections @ 7.00 pm
March 31 st	Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park, by the fountain @ 8.30 am
March 31 st	“Christ is risen!” our Easter morning worship@ 11 am, with informal communion



Bennochy Prayer Group

World Day of Prayer - Friday 1st March 2013 "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

The World Day of Prayer this year is on Friday 1st March. At this time, Christian people throughout the world will be joining in a service with the title 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' which has been written by the Christian women of France. Each year, the first service of the day is held on the island of Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, close to the international dateline, and services continue for a period of 36 hours until that same date concludes in Alaska, just to the other side of the dateline.

In Scotland, many Churches and other Christian Groups will be hosting the service. The times and locations of these services are widely advertised in local areas and are open to anyone who would like to attend. Apart from some small adaptations to suit local circumstances, the service held in a country kirk in Scotland will be just the same as the one held earlier in Tuvalu.

To reflect the theme of the service this year, people taking part are encouraged to wear bright and warm colours to represent the warmth of the relationships in our churches and communities. The service will be an opportunity to think carefully about how we treat the strangers we meet and the nature of the welcome we give to them. Everyone is invited, therefore, to attend a service to celebrate the positives and encouragements of life.

In Kirkcaldy services on 1st March are as follows:-

Torbain Church	11 a.m.
St. Marie's Church	2 p.m.
E.U. Congregational	7 p.m.

Christian Aid 2013

This year Christian Aid has joined forces with other major development agencies to launch ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF, the biggest mass campaign movement since Make Poverty History in 2005. There is enough food in the world to feed everyone yet nearly 900 million people - 1 in 8 of the world's population go to bed hungry every night and more than 2 million children die from malnutrition annually. While we are making important progress on many key development challenges, we simply aren't making similar rates of progress on hunger. Food prices are at a peak and set to rise further, hitting poor people hardest at home and around the world.

Christian Aid Week this year runs from Sunday 12th May - Saturday 18th May and hunger will be at the heart of this year's Christian Aid Week and Bite Back at Hunger is the message for us all. Today one in eight people are desperate for food. Together we could feed them all. Let's insist on living in a world in which everyone has enough to eat. Please give your support and be one of the thousands making a difference this year. You can help by joining the house-to-house collection group - new collectors are always needed and made most welcome, or you can hold an event of your own. The way we lead our own lives can have a tangible impact in the fight to end poverty. Christian Aid Week is the perfect example of this.

World Mission Council

The February/March edition of the World Mission Council newsletter is devoted to the celebration on 16th March 2013 of the 150th birthday of Tabeetha School in Jaffa. The school is the legacy of Jane Walker-Arnott, a Scotswoman, who visited Jaffa in 1858 and, shocked by the oppression the women suffered under the then Turkish rule, determined to empower girls by facilitating and aiding their education.

In 1863, 14 Christian, Jewish and Muslim girls were welcomed to Jane's home. They were taught to read and write, to make lace which was sold in Scotland to raise money each school year. Soon the number of students had outgrown the tiny premises, so the current building was erected in 1875. In 1911, when Jane died, the school was bequeathed to the Church of Scotland. In 1948 the school welcomed boys, too. There are now over 320 children from numerous tribes, tongues, nations and creeds, all educated side by side. They are aged 4 to 18; a wide range and variety of subjects are taught in English from Reception Class to A level.

The booklet includes contributions from Staff and former pupils of different nationalities, different religions. Plans are in hand for Friends of Tabeetha School to contribute to a bursary fund which has been started to offer support to those least able to afford Tabeetha. This helps strengthen Jane Walker-Arnott's vision of a school offering opportunities to the poor of Jaffa.

Mission partner - Jenny featherstone is now on home leave from Zambia. As her post is ecumenical, she shares her role with the Methodist church in England and at present is visiting churches and groups down south. We are expecting her to be in Scotland between 15th and 25th March and hopefully to visit us here during that period of time.

JUDGE NOT!!

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

Précis of Board Meeting, 4th February 2013

This meeting was the first to experiment with holding both Board and Session on the same night running consecutively, the Board meeting from 19.00 – 20.15, and the Session immediately afterwards. This is an attempt to lessen “*meeting overload*” experienced by some of our trustees.

It was reported that the sale of St Andrew’s Church building was nearing completion. (As you read this the sale will have been finalized). The building is in good order and both building and grounds have been looked after by some of our members.

A new induction loop for the hard of hearing has been fitted in the sanctuary. Any problems encountered should be reported to either the minister or Jim Neilson.

There are two concerts in the Church in March. They are Bruce Davies on the 2nd and the East Fife Ladies Choir on the 25th, both dates for your diary.

The “*Open Doors*” project is ongoing. We intend to start a pilot scheme in May for initially six months.

The new external notice board is ready for installation - the old one will be re-sited in the Church grounds.

Finally, could I, on behalf of the Board, remind all hall users to check the church is left secure after use.

Malcolm Walker
Clerk to the Board.

St Andrew's Church Handover

On Saturday 9th February, George Grant finally handed over the keys for the St Andrew's Church building to Pastor Joseph Aderbigbe. The building is now owned by The Redeemed Christian Church of God.

This is an evangelical church and the Pastor's congregation is relocating from rented accommodation in Glenrothes where they have been since 2006. Their other Fife branches are in St Andrews and Dunfermline. The church is originally from Nigeria, is about 60 years old, with Scottish Headquarters in Aberdeen.

I am sure I speak for the Kirk Session and Board of Bennochty Church in saying we are pleased to see the building continuing to be a place of worship and wish the congregation all the best for the future. My own impressions from brief meetings with the Pastor and some of his congregation were of strong faith, infectious enthusiasm, warmth and friendliness - surely a winning combination.

Ragnar Ingebrigtsen



Indoor Bowling Club



Bennochy Bowlers enjoying their Christmas party in the Church hall on Monday 28th January.

Following an excellent meal, courtesy of the Lady Bowlers, the annual match - Ladies vs Gents - took place. I have to say the Ladies won 22-19 !!

Graham Harrower

The Bells

At present all 42 bells are at Whitechapel Bell Foundry for assessment and report. Most are of Whitechapel origin, most are over 100 years old! All are in need of attention. The website makes interesting reading - www.whitechapelbellfoundry.co.uk.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight is from 25th February - 10th March and promotes the principles and products of Fair Trade. Many of our local shops and supermarkets now sell Fairtrade Products. Fairtrade is all about improving trade for farmers in developing countries by ensuring they get better prices and good working conditions. Fairtrade helps improve their lives and prevents discrimination against poorer producers.

Please look for the Fairtrade Logo, do your bit and take a simple step when buying your groceries by swapping your own brand for a Fairtrade brand.

There will be a Fairtrade stall in the Methven Hall after the service on Sunday 10th March when you will have the opportunity to purchase Fairtrade small gifts, sweets and some groceries. Please give your support.

Deaths

27.11.12	George Wemyss, 25 Forth Park Drive
20.12.12	Mrs Nancie Hurding, 14 Southerton Road
27.12.12	Mrs Grace Fyall, 35 Hillcrest Avenue
18.01.13	Mr David Loch, Abbotsford House, 7 Milton Road
10.02.13	Mrs Margaret Shand, 70 Myrtle Crescent



Calendar of Events

25 FEB-10 MARCH	Fair Trade Fortnight
1 MARCH	World Day of Prayer
2 MARCH	Bruce Davies Concert
10 MARCH	Fairtrade Stall in Methven Hall
17 MARCH	Communion Service, followed by Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation
24 MARCH	Palm Sunday Service
25 MARCH	Guild Concert with East Fife Ladies Choir
29 MARCH	Good Friday Service at 7.00 p.m.
31 MARCH	Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park, by the fountain, at 8.30 a.m.
31 MARCH	Easter Sunday Service followed by informal communion
12-18 MAY	Christian Aid Week

Annual Stated Meeting and Communion

The annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the service on Sunday 17th March, which is also our Communion Service. Please attend if you are able.

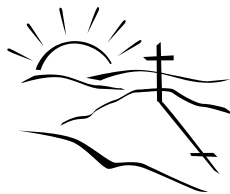


Guild Concert

The Guild concert is on Monday 25th March at 7.15 p.m., featuring the East Fife Ladies Choir. Tickets are £4 and are available from any Guild member.



Blythswood Care Round South Collection - The Round South truck accepts clothing, shoes, books & bric-a-brac etc. The lorry will be parked on the esplanade car park (at the old bus garage) on Wednesday, 20th March from 10.45-11.30 a.m. if anyone wishes to donate goods. If you have any item not mentioned above the driver will give you advice on what he can accept. The lorry comes every month. This is the same charity that we do the shoe boxes for at Christmas.



- Don't forget to visit our excellent website for up to date information on everything that's happening at Bennoch Church – you can also get a preview of the Sunday service and read notes on the minister's sermon.

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