

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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JUNE 2013



From the 'Manse'

Here's a challenge for you. Buy a large piece of paper (or use a piece of old wallpaper) along with pencils, felt pens and crayons and draw a picture of what you hope Bennochy church will look like in 5 years time. This exercise is not about reliving our childhood pictures, but tapping into our creative side, and using senses that we don't normally use to describe the church. As you use the other side of your brain and move away from words, I wonder what you will draw?

In my previous life, working for the Board of National Mission and Mission and Discipleship Council, I often used this exercise, and once people got over the shock of what they were being asked to do and the cries of "I can't draw" died down, some great pictures emerged. Having said that, some people did struggle with the concept, so it was done in groups and there was always at least one volunteer who was willing to pick up the pens!

Some of the drawings were 'predictable'. They were drawings of full church buildings filled with people of all ages. I wonder if that is what you would draw? It is often what people who are concerned for their church wish. The difficult question is how do you get to that point? It was interesting that many of the images were 'traditional' in nature, the expectation of people coming to the church building on a Sunday morning.

I do wonder if God is moving us beyond these traditional patterns and challenging us to think anew, of how we build relationships with those who see no role for the church in their lives.

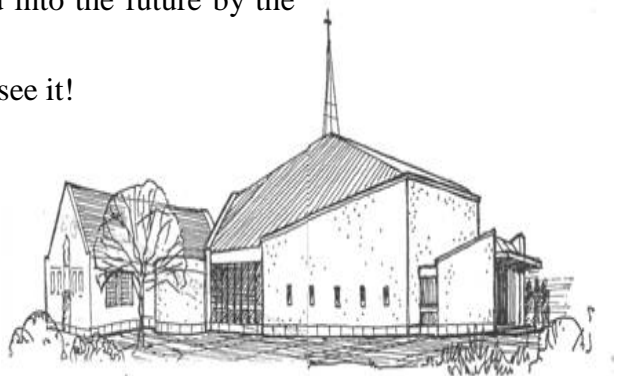
I am reading a book at the moment called *Christianity after religion* where the author makes a distinction between 'religion' and 'spirituality'. She says the institution of the church is associated with religion, being what you believe, whereas many people in today's world are seeking the experience of spirituality, and the one place where they are not looking is the church. Yet is spirituality not our 'core business'?

Some of the pictures certainly moved in this direction and looked at a church, not dominated by our buildings and traditions of the past, but a future vision and hope based on our relationship with God, our faith in Jesus and guided into the future by the Holy Spirit.

If anyone actually does draw a picture, please let me see it!

With all God's blessing

Robin



National Church Situation

The following is based on a recent article in Minister's Forum by Ian Strachan, a retired minister from Aberdeen, reviewing the structural problems that the Church of Scotland lives with.

In the introduction the comment was made that "keeping our house in order has much to do with how we proclaim the gospel."

There are approximately 230 vacant parishes at present, out of 1,100 total. Allowing for linkages, this makes about 300 congregations without a minister. All are slow to fill, and this means that one in five ministers is also an Interim Moderator. If most parishes adjust to the situation, others are worn down by it.

In the last 30 years, church membership has halved. In the last recorded year alone (2011) the fall in membership was 14,000, equivalent to about 46 average size churches. In parallel with this we have 9,000 fewer elders than in 2011.

The person in the pew does not notice this decline because the widespread trend is gradual, of the order of 3%. What we do see locally is the number of church deaths and the number of new communicants. In 2011 there were 10,000 deaths and 2,000 admissions. This numerical decline has not been matched by a corresponding decline in the number of parishes. The result is that hundreds of small congregations are struggling, with not enough money; premises that are tired; the worker who carries out two, three, or four tasks to keep things going; leaders who stay on too long because there seems to be no alternative.

It also results in ministers who cannot find the human resources for the developments they want; worship that is dutiful rather than inspiring; and, not least, members who have given up the struggle, and silently slipped off the life-raft. Perhaps the notion of "unrestricted call" has given a false sense of security with the thought that "Well.. this will see me out..."

In all this the Presbytery has a "duty of care" to ensure the well-being of the flock. Doctors are sometimes accused of giving their patients what they want rather than what they need, but we have been doing rather a lot of this in the Church. We need local and national leaders with a more active (interventionist?) approach; to take members out of present stress and show the prospect of rewarding engagement. Bill Clinton has recently said that one of the signs of hope is the number of people who are thinking ten years ahead. We need some of them here.

Christian Aid Week 2013



Thank you very much to everyone who helped us to "Bite Back at Hunger" - whether you were door-to-door collecting, baking, making tablet, organizing an event, donating or just being there to support Christian Aid. The amount raised is shown below:

Christian Aid Offering in Church	£405.63
Christian Aid Quiz sheets	24.00
Chocolate Cake after the service	38.25
Door-to-Door Collection	3086.86
Cake, Coffee & Candy Afternoon	<u>724.27</u>
Total	<u>£4279.01</u>

The total for 2012 amounted to £4061.30, which included £338.50 for a sponsored walk in September which of course hasn't taken place yet this year. All of this wouldn't be possible without people like you. Christian Aid has an aim - to end poverty. Thank you for being part of it.

PARTNERPLAN

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia May 2013

Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation
PO Box 21493
Kitwe
Zambia

Dear Church friends,

I am back in Zambia after quite an eventful trip – not least of which was on my return finding I had acquired a temporary new pet – a large frog in my toilet!



I am now however back in the routine of things and enjoying the “winter” sunshine. This is the season (April to August) the Zambians describe as the cold season. Nights can be chilly (as low as 8-10 centigrade), but the days are still in the mid-twenties and there is no rain now till October.

I was intrigued by a dispute one of our workers was having with a builder who absconded with the money and had not completed the roof. He was eventually caught and put in prison on remand – not a pleasant situation, but it reminded me of other incidents of justice I had come across this last year which would be peculiar to Africa.

Not long after my arrival, 6 years ago now, I heard of an incident where a young girl had been pushed into the road by her friends who were larking about, and had been unavoidably knocked down by a mission partner and his family. Instead of stopping to see how bad her injuries were, they simply sped on to the nearest police station, and handed themselves in, as they had been advised to do in their handbook. I thought this seemed a bit tough but was told that on no account should you stop if you caused an accident.



The Play4all volunteers clearing for a football pitch

This was verified in the most unfortunate way last August, when a lorry coming back from the Congo ran out of control and ploughed into 4 people, killing 2 of them. The driver was only a few miles outside the Zambian boarder, but he was caught by an angry mob and burned alive. This caused riots in Kitwe and Congolise traders kept a low profile for a week or so. Sadly, summary justice, or some would say mob rule, is fairly common here, but the rule of the law can also take unexpected turns.

When I was in Kamatipa last year someone stole my purse as I was helping clear the ground for the football pitch. I cancelled all my credit cards never thinking I would see them again, but someone in one of the bars noticed a man acting like a king (buying everyone drinks) and rang his friend in CID. They arrested him and contacted me through my driver's licence which was in the purse.

I was very relieved to have my purse and cards back again but, of course, no money. I filled in a report at the police station and then was asked if I would like to see the prisoner. He was roughly handled and made to apologise to me for his crime. The next question was what I would like to do

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with him now.

Clearly I am not yet fully Zambianised because I replied that now he was caught wasn't it up to the courts to decide? Apparently not. I then suggested he could help clear the ground/do some work at play4all to clear his debt. No, because that had to be prescribed by a magistrate. I was on the horns of a dilemma. If I let him go I would appear as the soft touch musungu and encourage theft from play4all, if I said take him to court, he would no doubt receive a harsh sentence and prison as he clearly could not pay a fine. I rang the head of the volunteers and asked his advice. Let him go, - maybe he has a family. The CID seemed happy with this conclusion and said they would keep him an extra 2 nights in gaol just to let him know he has got off lightly.

And what about the man who ran off with the roof money? The magistrate ordered that he stay in prison until he finished the roof. It took him about a week to do so, and the Chodort worker had to pay for transport for the man and a prison guard to the house and back each day. Somehow, I can't see that being a judgement in the UK!



Moira and I helping with the maize crop last year

One thing I did notice last month when I was driving back from the airport, was how poor the maize looked. On chatting with people when I was home I discovered the crop had failed in Southern province, this was a compound of several reasons; partly due to the rains coming late, so the planted maize got off to a bad start. There was also less rain than expected this year (there is usually one good downpour a day) and the government did not give it's subsidised fertiliser out to subsistence farmers till early January, 2 months later than expected. This has caused a huge hike in the price of maize this year and those who have little money will struggle to supply this very basic food for their families.

Another blow to the pocket has been the recent lifting of fuel subsidies causing petrol to rise at the pumps by around 12p a litre. We have yet to feel the knock on of a rise in transport costs and the cost of imported goods.

Items for praise

- For an enjoyable furlough where I made many new friends
- For a safe journey home
- For a dedicated team at Chodort.

Items for prayer.

- For the success of our proposals for Chodort's development.
- For Chodort Training Centre to flourish and continue to support vulnerable youths.
- For those whose crops have failed

With every good wish to you all,

Jenny

Jenny Featherstone

email jenny.featherstone@gmail.com

skype jenny.featherstone Zambia

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

Special Offering - KART

The Special offering on Communion Sunday, 23 June will be for KART (Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust) KART is a local charity. The aim of KART is to advance the Christian religion among school children in the Kirkcaldy Area. To do this they:

- Support teachers in teaching the religious and moral curriculum
- Establish Scripture Union Groups in Schools
- Support School Chaplains
- Support and develop Christian Youth work

The beneficiaries of the work of KART are the children - children in schools, at SU Groups, in churches and youth groups. The children have great fun, but it also shows that young people from various schools are interested in actively learning about faith. KART would love to see these children having the support and friendship of Christians at local churches and pray that churches are encouraged to start something new for teenagers.

The good work of KART cannot carry on without prayer and financial support. Your prayers and financial support will be very much appreciated.

Précis of Board Meeting 20th May 2013

The following reports were presented to the board meeting on 20/5/2013

The meeting of the Congregational Board was held after a Trustees Meeting held to finalise the decision of whether or not to change the governance of the church to Unitary Constitution. After a presentation and a wide ranging discussion the motion was voted on by a secret ballot. The vote was to maintain the current Model Deed of Constitution.

Roddy Sellars has stepped down as chairman of the Finance Committee, and has been replaced in the short term by Ian Maxwell assisted by Jim Neilson.

George Grant reported that the Business team has appointed a committee to run the "Open Doors" project, who are currently working hard to get the first phase up and running. We are slightly behind in our hoped timing, but nothing like the "Edinburgh Trams". When we are up and running we hope as many as possible will support this endeavour.

In tandem with the "Open Doors" project Ken Campbell has been liaising with the Health and Safety department of FHB to ensure the church has the proper facilities in place.

On the finance front the hand bells have been at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London for restoration and evaluation. These are now to be returned, unfortunately only 12 bells were repairable.

Malcolm Walker
Clerk to the Board.

Deaths

24.02.13	Mrs Anita Gourlay, Abbeyfield Home,
27.02.13	Mrs Jean Doig, formerly Linn Place
24.03.13	Henry Williamson, Gowrie Nursing Home, 18 W Albert Rd, KY1 1DL
04.05.13	Anne Proudfoot, Elizabeth House, formerly Strathkinnes Road



A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

KIRKCALDY : BENNOCHY MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS 2013

A letter was received in February from Rev Alan W Gibson, Head of Stewardship thanking us for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money we give in our offerings. As it is important that we should know what happens to this money, he explains how our Congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2013.

Our total Contribution for Ministries and Mission for 2013 is £68,208.

Ministries (86% £58,659)

£58,659 of our total contribution will go towards the cost of providing over 1,000 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and in the Presbytery of England. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training.

The 2013 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is **£39,895** (stipend plus employer's national insurance and pension contributions). As our contribution to Ministries is above this figure, then we are meeting the full cost of our ministry and supporting other congregations.

Mission (14% £9,549)

£9,549 of our total contribution will be used to support the Church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach: providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need: accompanying partners around the world on our shared Christian journey; contributing the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

As you will see the contributions Bennochty Church makes ensure a very diverse ministry is maintained and the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2013

At the meeting of the Trustees on 25 February 2013, the General Fund Budget for 2013 was approved. As agreed, a copy of the Budget for 2013 is attached to this Newsletter. The Budget shows an estimated deficit of £9,320 for 2013.

Although we are fortunate to have healthy Reserves, it is very important that every effort is made to ensure that our expenditure for 2013 does not exceed our income for 2013, and to ensure that our Reserves are not depleted. We must try to increase our income and also try to decrease our expenditure. As always, expenditure will be closely monitored. Fund Raising must continue, and we must all be continually challenged to consider how we contribute to the work of the Church, and be encouraged to seriously consider our financial contribution to the Church.

BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2013

		BUDGET 2013
INCOME		
Offerings	£	£
FWO Scheme (Gift Aid and non Gift Aid)	62,000	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	11,500	
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	4,000	
Other Offerings, Donations Gift Days etc	2,900	80,400
Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	4,900	
Regular Fund Raising Events	6,200	
Weddings and Funerals	1,600	
Income from Investments	2,100	
Use of Premises	3,800	
Gift Boxes	470	19,070
Total Ordinary General Income		99,470
EXPENDITURE		
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work		
Ministries and Mission Contribution	68,208	
Less: Endowment Income	(878)	
	67,330	
Presbytery Dues	950	68,280
Local Staffing Costs		
Minister's Travelling Expenses	1,700	
Minister's telephone and other expenses	350	
Pulpit Supply	400	
Other Salaries	11,400	13,850
Building Costs		
Fabric repairs & maintenance - Church	3,000	
Manse	1,400	
Heating and Lighting - Church and Halls	6,700	
Insurance	4,400	
Manse Council Tax	2,360	
Upkeep of Grounds - Church	1,250	
Manse	700	19,810
Other Local Costs		
Telephone, Postage, Printing, Stationery & Photocopying	1,750	
Publicity & Advertising	700	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	700	
Equipment	500	
Training	500	
Pastoral Care	500	
Cleaning Materials	500	
Other expenses	1,700	6,850
Total Ordinary General Expenditure		108,790
ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND DEFICIT FOR 2013		£9,320



The Olive Branch

There has already been input from the congregation by naming our new café ‘The Olive Branch.’ Twenty two people have come forward volunteering their services to make soup and sandwiches, wash dishes and serve tables. The Project Team has been given personal donations to help get the project moving and there has been no shortage of assurance that the Olive Branch will have plenty of customers from our own church family.

Now that’s what you call community spirit.

There is a lot of planning going on to source funding, recruit volunteers through the Volunteer Centre and of course, to organise the redecoration of the Methven Hall. This will take place over three weeks starting on Tuesday 9th July. Our congregation will be worshipping in other town centre churches during this period so we’ll come back to a fresh, vibrant look in the hall in August. The Olive Branch will open just as soon as all the plans come to fruition, optimistically late August.

The Olive Branch is only the first venture under the Open Door Project. Looking forward, it is envisaged that the café will expand and other schemes develop. The Project Team has engaged a researcher who will be carrying out a community profile in the neighbourhood over the next two months. The result of the research will hopefully tell us exactly what our neighbours would like their local church to provide and help us to channel our efforts in the right direction. Some of the elders are to conduct interviews with local residents and focus groups will come together to discuss how Bennochy Church can best serve the surrounding community.

Now, if you feel you would like to assist in the preparations towards the opening of the Olive Branch, the Project Team is currently trying to locate 5 unwanted plastic emulsion trays and 20 assorted *new* paintbrushes. We should be most grateful for any redundant items you discover in your garden shed.

Alison, Margaret, Graham & Dianne

The Haircut

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he’d make a deal with his son: “Bring your grades up from a C to a B average; study your Bible a little more: and get your hair cut. Then we’ll talk about the car.”

The boy thought for a moment, decided he’d settle for the offer, so they agreed on it.



After about six weeks his father said, “Son, you’ve brought your grades up and I’ve observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I’m disappointed you haven’t had your hair cut.”

The boy smiled and replied, “You know, Dad, I’ve been thinking about that, and I’ve noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair ... and there’s even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair.”



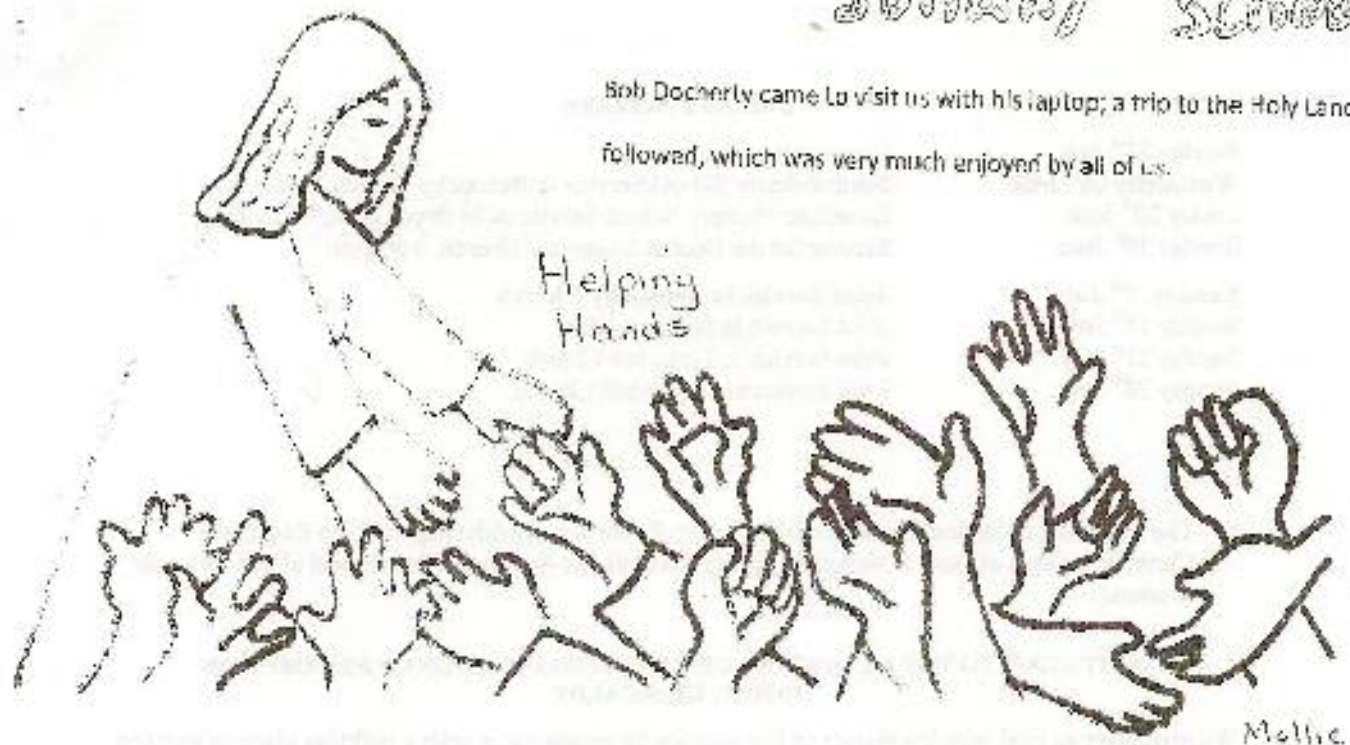
The dad said,

“Did you also notice that they all *walked* everywhere they went?”

Alex Stevenson

Sunday School

Bob Docherty came to visit us with his laptop; a trip to the Holy Land followed, which was very much enjoyed by all of us.



Mollie

We had a very hectic morning when we had visitors who were here for Iona's christening, this was very different from our normal Sunday School.

I'm Morgan and I've recently just joined Sunday School I like taking part in performances.

Morgan

William's inspirational line from the bible, 'Come LORD! Defeat my enemies and defeat them!'

Psalms 135:3

Amazing Sunday school has lots of activities in the day word searches.

Arthur Isaac

William and Brodie entered the Moderators Medal, the theme was David Livingstone. William made a game of his life in Africa and Brodie made a large poster about his life. No prizes this year but they were both highly commended, a good effort by both of them. There were over 200 entries.

Our Pentecost Wordsearch

Find the following sentence threaded through the grid:

YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES.

You could also find the following words in the grid: BAPTISED, HOLY SPIRIT, WAIT, ANGELS, READY, LIFE, TELL.



Our session will end on 16 June when we will have our usual presentations followed by an indoor picnic.

Summer Services

Sunday 23 rd June	Communion Service
Wednesday 26 th June	North Primary School Service in Bennoch Church, 9.45 a.m.
Friday 28 th June	Dunnikier Primary School Service in St Bryce Kirk, 9.45 a.m.
Sunday 30 th June	Service for the Deaf in Bennoch Church, 3.00 p.m.
Sunday 7th July	Joint Service in Bennoch Church
Sunday 14 th July	Joint Service in St Bryce Kirk
Sunday 21 st July	Joint Service in Linktown Church
Sunday 28 th July	Joint service in Abbotshall Church



- * The following invitation has been received from Pastor Joseph Aderibigbe of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Redemption House (formerly St Andrew's Church) and all are welcome to attend.

INVITATION TO THE RE-OPENING CEREMONY/DEDICATION OF REDEMPTION HOUSE, KIRKCALDY

We give glory to God who has shown us His mercies by providing us with a befitting place of worship in the heart of Fife, Scotland.

Formerly a Cathedral of the Church of Scotland, St Andrews Parish Church Building was built in 1903 and has served not only as a major place of worship for the people of Kirkcaldy and its environs for over 100 years, it was also the main hub for diverse community events. This imposing edifice was recently purchased by the Redeemed Christian Church of God so that it will continue to preserve the Godly heritage for which it was originally built.

With excitement in our hearts, we are inviting you and the members of your congregation to the official Re-Opening Ceremony/Dedication Service of this building now renamed Redemption House.

Date: Saturday 8th June, 2013 Time: 2 p.m. prompt.

RNLI Concert

The Kirkcaldy Branch of the RNLI is holding a concert in Bennoch Parish Church on Saturday 29th June at 7.30 p.m. by the Inverkeithing Community Big Band. This band plays a selection of various types of music.

Tickets, price £6, are available from Grace Morrison over the next few Sundays.



Strawberry Fayre - This year there will just be one grand Strawberry Fayre on Saturday 17th August. Please put this date in your diary.