

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

OCTOBER 2013



From the 'Manse'

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

As it is stewardship season, let me challenge you to think about what you can offer in service to Bennochy church. We have all been born with talents, we can all develop new skills and God has promised his gifts to us.

The apostle Paul gave us the great image of the Body of Christ; he says, there is one body, but there are many gifts, all given by the same Spirit of God. So our role is to serve God, working together, using the talents, skills and gifts given to us.

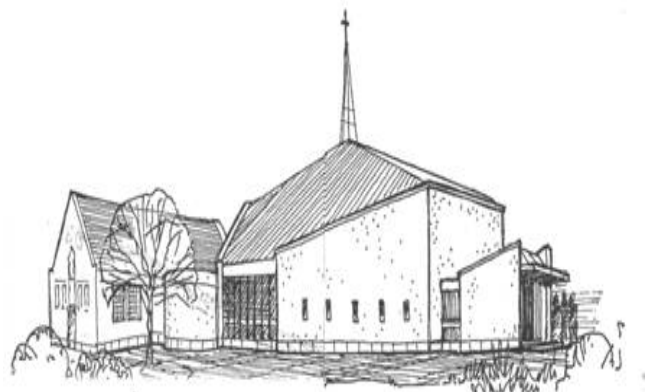
As we face a difficult future, the stronger the Body is, the better we will face the challenges that lie ahead. No matter what our role is, the church is incomplete and weaker, without everyone playing their part. Even with only one person missing, the jigsaw is incomplete and we will never see the full picture.

Let us also see everyone else as a gift from God. We might not get it right all of the time, but we are all striving to serve God as part of the Body of Christ. So let us encourage one another, as we use and develop our talents, skills and gifts, in the work of the church that is the mission of God.

Don't be shy! Tell us what you are good at. Not that we might promote ourselves, but with the Body strong and the picture complete, we will point and give glory to Jesus Christ

With all God's blessing

Robin



25 Years in the Ministry

Sunday 9th June 2013 was a significant date for our minister, Rev Robin McAlpine. It marked the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the ministry, and at our service that day, much to his surprise, he was presented with a card from the Sunday School and a celebration cake to be enjoyed by us all with our cup of tea.



Fun and Find Out Day – A Great Success!

On the 24th of August Bennoch Church was a hive of activity when over 140 mainly local residents spent the afternoon taking part in activities, were entertained and offered free refreshments. As the event's name suggests, 'fun' was very much the theme and there was something for all ages and interests. Outside there was a range of traditional games in which children (and quite a few adults) got totally involved, culminating in a 'tug of war'. Fortunately there were plenty of hot dogs to help keep up energy levels.

Inside, all the halls including the sanctuary, were home to quizzes, robot demonstrations (B.B.), learning origami (Brownies), a local history display (Kirkcaldy Civic Society), a Tae Kwondo demonstration (Bennoch Tae Kwondo Club) and a piece of community theatre intriguingly entitled 'Do Elephants Live Upstairs?' (Suit and Pace). Meanwhile George the Clown wandered round encouraging folk to have a go at all the activities. Refreshments were available from our new community café 'The Olive Branch'.*

The purpose of the event was not only to show what happens in the church throughout the week but also to ask members of the local community what else could be offered. At the 'Community Evaluation Stall' everyone had the opportunity to comment on the local area and make suggestions. This was part of our on-going commitment to reaching out to the local community.

The organising group would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day such a success.

*The Olive Branch now operates every Thursday from 10.30 until 1.30



Other photos of enthusiastic participants and hard-working volunteers can be seen on the Church website.

A new minister was visiting the homes of his parishioners to introduce himself.

At one house there was no answer when he rang the bell, but he did see the drawn curtains twitch a little. Not wishing to impose, he left a visiting card with a note which read "Revelations 3 : 20" If you look that up you'll find it reads: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in."

When the offering was collected after his service the following Sunday, the minister noticed his visiting card was in the collection plate with an additional Bible reference: "Genesis 3 : 10". He quickly looked up the quotation and chuckled as he read the parishioner's reply: "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked."

Mission Partner - Zambia: News Update.

Jenny Featherstone is now Head of Chodart Training Centre in CHOMA, newly proclaimed as the provincial capital of Southern Zambia. This decision has seen the move from Livingstone to Choma of thousands of civil servants to the area, which, in turn, has brought business for builders and, downstream, for the building programme in the College with its grounds adjacent; the 7th and 8th houses for rent now under construction.

Prospects are therefore good. However, there are always difficulties in recruiting students who can pay £300 for the year's Carpentry Course. At interview, they give assurance that the money will be found from among the family. This does not always come about - there is illness, no work, poor harvest etc.

In this academic year 2013, only 13 students enrolled (10 in number make the class viable). Staff have to be paid. Actual cost of Course £648 approx. So, funding is sought from Charities and Churches.

We contributed to the Carpentry Course for 1 student for the coming year 2014 during our Harvest Festival service recently. In fact, any donation acts as a safety net when family finances collapse.

The Course is TEVET approved, with final exams, and includes modules such as H.I.V. education and entrepreneurial skills, 2 hours a day. There is then opportunity for work to hand on the construction site.

Jenny is working on several initiatives - to convert a shipping container into an internet classroom, run by solar power, and under the umbrella of the charity PEAS which intends to roll out 100 secondary schools in Zambia. They would then be on the national grid; a double classroom planned to be built on the site; this would accommodate more vulnerable students; a clerical clothing project - slowly developing; "Days for Girls", an important facility for girls - particularly those from rural areas, whose education is considered less than that for boys. One example of the programme is that re-usable hygiene wear is provided; contacts abroad; one in New Zealand is requesting small goods e.g. cheeseboards from the Carpentry Course.

As regards personnel, a volunteer, Mike Rosen, has arrived from Sweden to help with I.T. and marketing. Another, from Canada, Andrew Potts, is giving 2 days a week in production. The site manager has left earlier than expected - hopefully and prayerfully, the Church of Scotland in conjunction with Challenges Worldwide, is looking for someone to fill this post.

Regarding the project PLAY 4 ALL, a wonderful Childrens' Education Programme in Kitwe, which we supported last year - equipment - training - tools (see photo display in vestibule), now the Management team has been disappointed in Play Leader, Ernest, who is no longer in the post and has yet to hand back the laptop. However, a newly qualified teacher, Jane, is doing a good job with Play4All running again 5 days a week.

Then there is the matter of Jenny's transport - vital for visits over long distances and mostly tough terrain. Soon she is to get a car from Japan, 13 years old and hopefully in good condition. The pickup truck she uses has had a severe breakdown, nearly £2000 has been spent on it; it has to be kept on due to the contract of import (a 3 year tax free import for the church). There is also available a 3 ton truck. It also needed £300 of repairs

In the Southern Hemisphere, it's now the season for planting - usually maize. The College site has spare ground for use: grubbing up tough bushes and small trees before sowing seed. Hopefully and prayerfully, the produce will be good for sale.

The rains are due mid-October. Given ample water supply, good ground can give 3-4 crops a year. For example, Jenny has a well in the College garden and at present has a crop of broccoli, carrots, courgettes, strawberries, spinach, lettuce and spring onions !

Much to reflect on -

Jenny asks for our prayers over all the work and issues on-going. She sends her best wishes and thanks to everyone for contributing to the scene in and around Chodart College.

GIFT DAY SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2013

To all members of Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland, Kirkcaldy

On behalf of the Finance Team I wish to thank you once again for your continued participation in God's work through Bennochty Parish Church. We hope that in Bennochty Church you continue to have a church home where your life is enriched by our worship and Christian fellowship.

We are conscious of the continuing challenges that we face in sustaining and developing our ministry. We seek your prayerful and financial support so that we can continue to :

- Give glory to God in our worship
- Sustain our activities for all ages
- Offer a place for community organisations to meet
- Extend our outreach to the wider community, and help those in need, both at home and abroad.

As we all continue to face increased living costs, we have once again seriously considered asking you to contribute to the Gift Day Appeal. Again we hope that, where personal circumstances allow, you will support the Appeal in grateful response to all that God has done for the people of Bennochty Church, and with confidence that God will continue to journey with us. Our Christian giving is a sign and a measure of our Christian faith and commitment.

We invite you to come along to the Methven Hall with your donation on Saturday 19 October between 10am and 12 noon and, if possible, stay for refreshments. If you are unable to come, but wish to contribute to the Gift Day Appeal, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Gift Day" in the collection plate when you are next at Church, or hand it to your District Elder.

If you are a taxpayer, please consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration Form if you have not already done so, as the Church will be able to recover the appropriate level of income tax from your donation. Every £1 becomes £1.25. Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available from Audrey Taylor or myself. If you give in this way, please ensure that your donation can be identified, as the Church must show OSCR, the Scottish Charities Regulator, an audit trail recording each individual donation.

Brian A Booth

Treasurer

On behalf of the Finance Team

Mother & Toddler Group

On behalf of the Kirk Session I would like to thank Carrie Lowndes, Marion Brewster and the previous leaders and assistants for their commitment in serving the Community during their term in our Mother and Toddlers Group, which unfortunately has had to close.

The group has run for about 20 years and by doing so has allowed young mothers with their children to meet and share experiences whilst bring up their families. Through these meetings many have formed valuable friendships which have remained for the years to come.

To those who have assisted over the years, please take heart from your input to the group and the community at large and for contributing towards the opportunity in allowing the Mothers and their children to meet regularly and gain the friendship of others over the years.

George Drummond

Session Clerk

Guild

Members of the Guild plus friends made a trip to Luss on 12th September. On arrival we were treated to an excellent lunch provided by the Guild. In the afternoon we visited the church where the Rev Dane Sherrard talked on the history of the church and all that has been achieved over the past 10 years. We then had a tour of the Heritage centre and loom room where we had a demonstration of a working loom. We finished the tour with a walk round part of the pilgrims' way. On the way home we stopped for High Tea at the King Robert Hotel in Bannockburn.

A good day was enjoyed by all.

Get Together

We were pleased to welcome two new members to the club. If you would like a game of whist, dominoes or scrabble why don't you join us on a Thursday afternoon from 2.00 till 4.00 in the St Andrew's Hall.

Bennochty Women's Group

The Group's 2013/14 session began on Tuesday 3rd September with a walk at Burntisland, followed by supper at the Kingswood Hotel. At our first indoor meeting on 17th September we had an excellent craft demonstration by Liz Houston and our speaker on 1st October, Duncan Gilfillan, chose art and rhymes as his topic. On 15th October Bill Stewart will be talking about murder/mystery.

On Saturday 26th October at 6.30 p.m. in the Methven Hall we will be having our main fund raising evening, our popular Family Quiz Night. Tickets are on sale from members of the Group. £4 adults and £2 children. This will include a raffle and a delicious desert supper. Show off your general knowledge talents! Come along and enjoy a family fun evening. All ages very welcome. Teams of four persons please.

On 5th November Steve Mitchell from Puddledub, Auchtertool will be talking about buffalo farming and a visit to the Adam Smith Theatre to see the KAOS production of the Witches of Eastwick is on 19th November. On Saturday 23rd November at the Church's Christmas Fayre we will be serving at the Body Shop table. Toiletries etc can be given to members of the Group or handed in to the Methven Hall on Friday 22nd November. A Christmas craft evening is arranged for 26th November and our Christmas Dinner is on 10th December.

The first meeting in 2014 will be a games/quiz night – coffee and chat on 7th January.

We meet, usually, every fortnight at 7.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room.

Ladies, if you want to come along to any Women's Group meeting please speak to a member of the Group or phone Irene Wood. New members most welcome.

Irene Wood

Church Liaison Member

Deaths

04.06.13 Mrs Nancy McEwan, 43 Longbraes Gardens.
20.06.13 James Struthers, 52 Hendry Road.
16.07.13 Mrs Mary Cook, 8 Balsusney Road.



Bells at Bennochty

The year 2013 has been one of repairs, refurbishing and restoration - all with the purpose of having a working set of bells that are reliable and viable for the future.

The Handbells we use came from the Foundry at Whitechapel, London, and some from the Shaw Foundry in Bradford which ceased production in 1912. As many of the bells date from before this period, these ones are at least 100 years old! Hence the condition of many was in need of attention.

Thanks to the generous contribution of funding from 4th Company, The Boys' Brigade, we have been able to purchase a brand new bell - high D, i.e. one above top C, which was previously missing. More particularly, we have had a "set" restored, i.e. from middle C to top G - a case of new fittings, clapper pegs, staple pins and washers, all where necessary among other adjustments.

In earlier years, the then St. John's Boys' Brigade had a regular band which became a concert group and could make visits to the Hospital and Community Halls, often accompanied by an accordion. The present Company Directors saw fit, in today's world, to have a working "set" in hand for use and general enjoyment. All this is much appreciated by the present day Bell Ringers.

A further generous donation was recently made by Mrs Beth Christie in memory of her dear husband, Jim Christie, who had been a member of a Boys' Brigade Company in town; although not immediately involved in the music side of activities, he enjoyed his many years in the group and spoke warmly of them.

We have, therefore, been able to extend the scope of the working "set" with refurbishing and, where needed, new fittings to a further 7 Bells, which include three sharps - C, F and G, allowing us to play music in the keys of D,G and A - a real bonus. We are most grateful to Mrs Christie for her thoughtfulness and generous support.

The year has therefore been a broken one as regards practices; it takes weeks in the Foundry queue to get the work done. However, we are ready to start in October and would welcome anyone interested in "giving it a go".

Recommended as good fun, good company, good for concentration and a learning curve for the arm!

Margaret Simpson

Please consider helping to save our units!

Do You

Want to find out how resourceful you are?

Want to sing silly songs with abandon?

Want to put smiles on girl's faces?

Want to do something worthwhile with your spare time?

Want to meet new people?

Do you want a warm and glowy feeling?

Are you over 18?



Then being a Guider is for you!

At the moment our Rainbow unit will close in December unless we can find someone to take over and our Brownie unit is in need of another unit helper.

Rainbows meet on a Wednesday night during term time between 5.45 and 6.45 and Brownies meet on the same night between 6.30 and 8.00 in Bennochty Church Hall.

If you feel you can help please contact Kirsty Robertson
or email bennochtybrownies@hotmail.com

4th Kirkcaldy Company – The Boys’ Brigade – Bennochy Platoon

At Bennochy Kirk, every Thursday night the boys with ages ranging from 6 to 18 enjoy their evenings and the other events that the Boys Brigade hold through the year.

Through our programme that is deliberately created for the mixture of youth that attend, our aims are

Engagement:

- The Boys Brigade aims to provide opportunities for our local children and young people to meet together in their community and engage in a range of fun and developmental activities.

The fun and developmental activities include building go carts, mechanical robots, bird boxes, chess boards and a host of other activities.

- We attempt by empowering the boys to involve them in decision making and give them responsibilities, appropriate to their age and aptitude

The boys set and agree the range and timing of the badge work. This includes cooking and camping skills, first aid, compass and map reading, etc.

- Enabling our local children and young people to engage with the needs of others, especially other young people and the vulnerable in our community and encourage them to participate in activities and projects in which they can make a difference.

Boys currently work in the community, e.g. The Victoria Hospital, to provide support for ‘The WRVS’ and at various charity shops or similar providers on Kirkcaldy High Street to enable the boys to provide positive community action that can be recognised so that the boys can obtain their Community badges, the Boys Brigade Presidents and Queens Awards and leading to the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Partners:

- Bennochy Platoon are so happy that we can work in partnership with the members and the Minister, Session and Board of Bennochy Kirk who encourage us in our development of the boys, that can often equate into personal Christian faith.
- We are delighted in our partnerships within the communities that we have where many of the senior boys work at night and weekends at charity shops or similar providers on Kirkcaldy High Street or Victoria Hospital.

Support:

- Bennochy Platoon, 4th Kirkcaldy Company, The Boys Brigade could not exist without our greatest assets, the officers and helpers.

The Officers and helpers include Pauline Rae, Diane Rutherford, Walter Simpson, Ron Gregor, Roy Daniels and John Methven, without whose help we could not provide the programme that we do; they are deeply appreciated for their support to the boys at Bennochy and ‘The Boys’ Brigade’.

- The Officers of Bennochy Platoon always attempt to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of all the boys and take account of their needs regardless of differing abilities, backgrounds or culture and always endeavour to provide the appropriate support, advice or guidance.
- In line with Church of Scotland guidelines ‘The Bennochy Platoon, The Boys Brigade’ take every effort to maintain the safety and wellbeing of the boys through the implementation of robust procedures, development and supportive leaders.

St John's Taekwondo Club

We now have 3 new black belts in Kirkcaldy Mrs Moira Greentree, Miss Ellie Greentree, and Mr Ben McKay and 1 in Meikle, Mr Martin Hogg. During the summer we welcomed Mr Miguel Loureiro 5th Degree black belt from Lisbon, Portugal to be a guest judge at the black belt testing on July 5th along with Miss Nicola Frail, Miss Hannah Higgins, Miss Michelle Fairful and Mr John McCulloch from Kilmarnock. The new black belts we're put through their paces showing excellent perseverance to reach their goals. Mr Loureiro also did some training with all black belts teaching them new material.

At end of October there is going to be a leadership camp in Kilmarnock where they welcome guest instructors from Portugal Mr Miguel Loureiro and Mr Pedro Tanger, as well as Senior Master Rick Abair from America. During this camp the Kirkcaldy club will be sending, Jennifer Spence and Rosheen Wallace for their level 2 instructors course, while Michelle Fairful will be sitting her certified instructors course.

Anyone interested in joining taekwondo are welcome to come along on a Friday night at 6.45 p.m. from age 5. Or contact Lorraine Fairful for more information.

Indoor Bowling Group

Our indoor seasons continue at The Gunners Club at Gallatown (next to the Ice Arena, entrance from School Lane) on Monday afternoons between 2 and 4pm with a mid session break for tea, biscuits and a chat.

Newcomers are always welcome whether Church members or not. We have no joining or membership fees, no formal dress code, all equipment is supplied apart from a pair of light flat soled footwear with the only charge being £2 per session which is shared between our Church and The Gunners Club.

We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch towards the end of November and our annual Boys versus Girls match in mid-January with the Boys hoping for revenge (no bias intended)!

Why not come along and try your hand, forehand or backhand, bring your friend or friends (and yourself) and enjoy a little gentle exercise and a friendly chat with us over a cup of tea?

Mini Marathon

Over the summer months my brother Simon and I did a 10 mini marathon walk around Beveridge Park which was organised by Dee Watson, in aid of the physiotherapy department at Victoria Hospital. The mini marathon walk raised £1,227 in aid of new equipment which the department needs. On Thursday 26th September Dee Watson and I and a small group handed a cheque over to the Physiotherapy Staff who were delighted with the amount the group managed to raise.

Peter Chapman





KART CORNER - AUTUMN 2013



Registered Charity No. SC037866



What's been happening:

What a great summer! The KART weekend in June for secondary school pupils went well. 10 young people attended from local high school SU groups and churches. There was a good mix of kids from some of the local high schools.

At the beginning of July Chris led a soccer camp at Lendrick Muir. 4 boys and 1 girl attended from Fair Isle Primary School which was great and builds on the work Chris is doing in the school through the Football Club he runs there.

During the summer holidays Chris visited Kinghorn, Pathhead and Burntisland 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.

In August KART took part in a Back to School with God Service at Kinghorn Parish Church. The service was jointly run with an American Mime and Drama team who visited Kinghorn and Burntisland in August and held a number of events for children and young people.

KART held a Café and Booksale in Kinghorn Parish Church hall on 17th of August. Just over £520 profit was made and a big thank you goes to all who supported this event.

Coming up

On the 29th of September KART is holding a sponsored walk, run or cycle at Lochore Meadows. Please contact Alison (Tel:07939313037) for more details if you would like to take part.

A new group has begun this term for S5 pupils at Balwearie HS. The group called 3:16 meets each Wednesday from 7pm-9pm at Costa Coffee.

Chris is now one of the chaplains at Balwearie High School. Alongside Rosie Frew he will be working with S1 and S2 pupils.

Chris will also be leading a number of assemblies this term. These include assemblies at Capshard and Valley PS.

Points for Prayer

Give thanks for all the children who attended holiday clubs and summer camps in the area. 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 event on the 29th of September.

Please pray for the young people from Kirkcaldy who have signed up for the SU November weekend away. Pray that the young people will enjoy themselves and draw closer to God as a result of the weekend.

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 - 7th September 2013

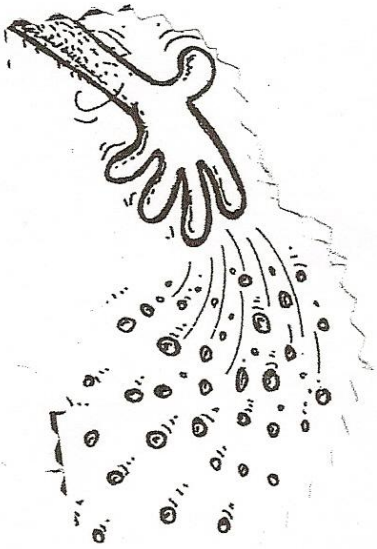
I would just like to thank everyone who sponsored me on the recent Bike and Hike. A cheque for £424 has been sent to EMMS International, an Edinburgh based medical charity who work with partners overseas to help people in the poorest communities in Malawi, Nepal and India, and Bennochry Church should receive back half this amount for our own funds. I visited 18 churches, starting at Auchtertool then cycling to Lochgelly, Ballingry, Cardenden, Kinglassie, Glenrothes, Thornton and Methil, before finishing with a tour of the Kirkcaldy churches - a total of 43 miles. Thanks to Charlie Low, who kept me company for the first 22 miles, and thank you again for your support.

Ron Steedman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We closed our last session of Sunday School with our prizegiving, each child was presented with a book. We then had our now usual indoor picnic. Good food, fun and games.

Our new session started on 1 September. We aim to learn through games, craft and drama. If anyone wishes to join us they would be made most welcome. We have 2 sections in Sunday School from 3 years to 5 years and from 6 years to 16 years.



We closed our last session of Sunday School with our prizegiving, each child was presented with a book. We then had our now usual indoor picnic. Good food, fun, and games.

WILLIAM'S HARVEST VERSE.

LUKE CHAPTER 8 VERSE 8

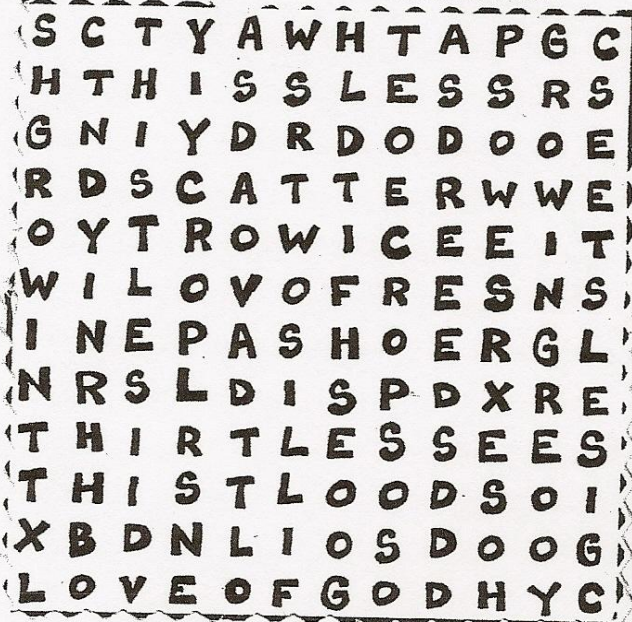
"And some seeds fell in good soil;
the plants grew and produced a corn,
a hundred grains each."

And Jesus concluded,
"Listen, then, if you have ears!"

There will be no Sunday School 13th and 20th October during the school holidays.

HARVEST ACTIVITIES

BRODIE'S CHOICE
TO DO A WORDSEARCH



Find the following words in the grid:
SOWER, CROPS, PATHWAY, SCATTER,
BIRDS, THISTLES, GROWING, DYING,
LOVE OF GOD, GOOD SOIL.

MOLLIE'S CHOICE
TO FIND THE 10 DIFFERENCES.



These pictures may look the same but can you spot 10 differences?

MORGAN'S CHOICE
TO FIND THE GOOD THINGS
AMONG THE WEEDS



Can you find the good things among the weeds?

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 19th October
Saturday 26th October
Sunday 27th October
Saturday 9th November

Gift Day
Family Quiz Night
Communion
Christmas Fayre



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday from 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. for teas, coffees, home baking and lunches.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 9th November at 2 p.m. in the Methven Hall. Come along and visit all our usual stalls – baking, jam, fancy goods, body stall, tombola, plants etc and bring your friends and family.

Donations for stalls are always welcome and help on the day will also be required. More details nearer the time.

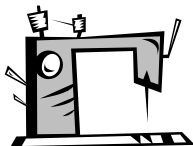


Tools for Self-reliance

TFSR is a group who renovate old tools and send them out to Africa. Do you have any tools which are no longer of use to you - chisels, saws, planes etc.? Any woodworking, plumbing, shoe-mending or blacksmiths tools would be suitable. We even take garden tools, and also old sewing machines.

TFSR train people how to use the tools and how they can set up their own business using the refurbished equipment. It is said that a family can feed itself on the proceeds from making and selling garments with the use of a sewing machine. Similarly they can make a living from a carpentry kit or a plumbing tool kit.

If you have any old tools or sewing machines that you would be willing to donate, can you please speak to Margaret Kinnear.



Website: www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk