

# Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: [www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk)

OCTOBER 2014



## *From the 'Manse'*

We live in a world of change. The aftermath of the Scottish referendum seems to point to future change for all of us, not just more powers for Scotland, but also change for the rest of the United Kingdom as well. I think it is true to say that most of us are not really comfortable with change. There is always that risk factor, the look into the unknown, as we wonder what will actually happen.

Hindsight would be a great thing and would make life so much easier if we knew what lay ahead of us! How easy our decision making would become, but life would also lose part of its excitement as it seeks to tackle challenging issues and the use of creativity in our problem solving. I believe that simply retaining the status is not a reality, for the society we are a part of moves on, and the church is not immune from that pressure of change.

So letting the world of change pass us by or trying to isolate ourselves will not work. Whether we like it or not, we are part of the changing society, and as such, must always be asking the question, how do we make the gospel message relevant to the many generations now missing from our churches.

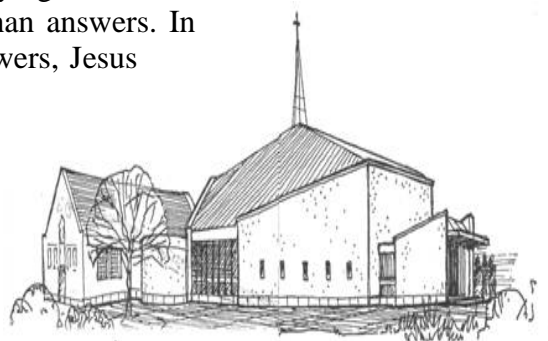
Change brings no guarantees. That is the hard part. As we start to discuss changes to the Bennochty church building, people might ask, will this bring more people to church on a Sunday morning? In seeking to engage our community, this brings no guarantees of increased worship attendance, but that is not the point! The building, which is our resource, is 'church' Monday to Saturday and not just on a Sunday.

It is about our good stewardship of this building that we hold in trust. It is about creating an 'open door' and asking ourselves, what does our building say to the people round about. How do we welcome people into this space we call church; in our witness how do we offer the love of God and the grace of Christ to friend and stranger alike, and how can we enhance the worship experience where people encounter God, in Christ, on Sunday and throughout the week?

To not know what lies ahead is to be a pilgrim, travelling new journeys, turning corners not knowing what to expect, and always journeying with trust and hope in God. There are always more questions in life than answers. In following God it is no different. We might seek the answers, Jesus says, follow me.

With all God's blessing

*Robin*



## **Zambia - Our Sponsorship Aim.**

Do you remember the two boxes that arrived from Zambia? - one in rosewood, one in mukwa, both local hardwoods. These boxes were used on Harvest Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> September, one in the church, one in the Methven Hall to receive our donations which were very much appreciated when sent out to our Mission Partner, Jenny Featherstone. They are designated for the continuing support of a vulnerable student for payment of education fees at Chodort College where Jenny is Head Teacher. Our aim is, therefore, to sponsor another student in the next academic year, January - December 2015. Fees can be up to £400 or the equivalent.

Do you remember that this year we gave support to, firstly, Stanley Mweetwa, who had to abandon the Carpentry Course due to family reasons, then, secondly Priscilla Handima, an existing student in the Tailoring Course, whose finances fell apart. Here is her letter to us in June of this year:

*The Minister in Charge, Bennoch Church, Kirkcaldy, Scotland*

*Dear Sir,*

*My names are Priscilla Handima. I was born on 1st July 1984. I am 4th in a family of seven. My educational background is that I was able to go up to grade seven because of lack of finances. My father who was helping with School fees failed to do much because of sickness which resulted in a stroke.*

*Currently I am doing Tailoring Course at Chodort Training Centre. In between I am married with one child and currently I am pregnant My husband is not in gainful employment.*

*All in all I shall be very grateful if you will sponsor me because the Knowledge I will gain will go a long way in uplifting my living standard and that of my family.*

*yours sincerely  
Priscilla Handima.*

Mission Partner's response to our donation of over £300.

*Dear Margaret,*

*Thank you so much for your most welcome email, and for the generous donation from your Harvest. Please say thank you from me to Robin and all who contributed.*

*Most of our students are doing well and those who have sponsors are managing to pay their fees, except for one person in tailoring, Bertha Lubinda. Her brother who was helping her has lost his job and she is left with arrears of K1,270 (about £125.00) I was only just talking about her today with Mr Simataa who handles student affairs.*

*She stays in Choma with a cousin who sells dried fish from a basket she carries about on her head. Her mother lives in the village, a pseudonym for an inaccessible place! This just about pays for the rent and food so there is no money left over to help with school fees. I suggested that Bertha try and find K50 a month from weekend work and we would not bar her from exams (which is the usual practice in some other schools). However, I think we may use £100 of the money given towards her fees this year as I fear she will not be able to manage K20 let alone K50. I have just talked to her and I think we, from such privileged backgrounds, find it hard to understand just how important education (or learning a trade in her case) is to our students. I am fairly sure the family in the village will be depending on Bertha's new found expertise to lift the family income. (she has 2 younger sisters and a younger brother & no father).*

*One thing we are doing at graduation this year which may help, is giving entrepreneurship prizes to our trade test classes (2 each class). These are on their way to us from [www.tradeaiduk.org](http://www.tradeaiduk.org) which makes up gift boxes which we intend to give out as prizes to the 2 small groups with the best ideas for starting a business. We hope this will send them well on their way to making a good income for themselves.*

*every good wish,  
Jenny*

**BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY**  
**Meldrum Road/Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR**  
**Tel: 01592 201723**  
**Charity Registration Number SC 005628**  
**(Registered Scottish Charity)**

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY**

**September 2014**

**GIFT DAY SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2014**

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

Again we are conscious of the continuing challenges that we all 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.

In previous years, the Gift Day and the Christmas Fayre have been our two main fund raising events. This year there will be a Christmas Tea instead of the Christmas Fayre. 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 Parish 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.

The Gift Day will be held on Saturday 18 October between 10am and 12 noon and we invite you to come along to the Methven Hall 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 (Tel: 266169) or Brian Booth (Tel: 890972). 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. 80% of our annual income comes from our Offerings, Gift Day and Tax Recoverable on Gift Aid Donations. The remaining income comes from contributions from our Organisations, Regular Fund Raising, Income from Investments, rental of our premises and from Gift Boxes. If you do not at present use the Weekly Freewill Scheme, and wish further details of the Scheme, please contact Ena Thomson (Tel : 269630).

*With all God's blessing from the Finance Team*

*Brian Booth, Bob Colville, George Drummond, Christine Low, Angela Stewart, Audrey Taylor and Ena Thomson*

## **An update from your Fabric Team**

Some members will now be aware that the St Andrew's Hall is being renovated - older members will remember it as the Small Hall.

Your Fabric Team were asked by the Congregational Board to come up with some ideas to upgrade the hall, and eventually accepted our proposals.

To date new windows have been installed. This gives the impression that more daylight is available and the hall is certainly brighter. A working squad was recruited and last Monday removed the wood panelling round the walls. These will now be plastered down to floor level and will give the space a more modern appearance.

More electrical wiring has been installed and on Wednesday Audio Engineers fitted cabling for the induction loop and loud speakers. In time a TV screen will be fitted on the end wall nearest the kitchen which will operate using a laptop computer. This will allow user groups to give visual and audio presentations.

An Acoustic Door has been installed so that if necessary the hall can be divided into two good sized areas each suitable for 20 persons. Hopefully the door will be of sufficient audible strength so that each area can be used simultaneously.

Unfortunately it is difficult to move the acoustic door on the current floor covering so this will be replaced.

Once all the work has been carried out a complete redecoration of the hall will take place. We hope that the finished article will be a strong addition to the facilities in Bennochty Parish Church.

Unfortunately the old radiators had to be removed, this means that portable electrical heaters will have to be used to heat the hall.

Since the Meldrum Room and Ladies toilet were all part of the hall heating loop electrical heaters will have to be used in these areas.

## **Other Fabric Snippets**

**Heating.** Plans for new heating are well underway. The modern trend is to have Boilers at ground level. This means that the old boiler house will soon be permanently out of use. There will be three new boilers, two in the passage which used to lead to the original back door and one in the Kitchen cupboard.

This will give us better control of the heating and hopefully reduce the heating bill.

**New Store** You will have noticed that the Methven Hall stage is gradually filling up with items which have lost their storage space and are looking for somewhere new. This is in hand. The stage is to be removed and a new store built in its place. Plans are well advanced but the architect is experiencing problems with the Fire Regulations and is at present in discussions with the Council's Building Control. Until these matters are resolved we cannot obtain a Building Warrant.

I am fully aware that all these changes are causing disruption to the normal working of the Church and the organisations but it is not possible to do change without disruption. I cannot put a timescale on matters. I do not know when the work will be finished.

All I can do is keep the work moving and hope that our efforts are being appreciated throughout the Congregation.



## Life & Work

**Q.** Would you like to receive a monthly news bulletin from the Church of Scotland?

News and views, stories and issues of the day, prayer and study reports from overseas. It's all there. January – December each year. Contact Margaret Simpson.

In this month's issue -

### **Caring for Creation**

Thomas Baldwin examines the relationship between faith and stewardship of nature

### **Reforming the Kirk**

In the first of a six-part series, the Rev Dr Doug Gay outlines the challenges that lie ahead for the Church of Scotland

### **Blessing 'the Animals Who Grace Our Lives'**

Jackie Macadam looks at the growing numbers of 'blessing of the animals' services

### **The Radical Behind the 'Ragged Schools'**

The man who helped educate the poorest in Victorian Scotland

### **An Act of Liberation**

The Rev Professor David Fergusson considers Jesus' message in healing the bleeding woman

### **All Are Welcome**

The Very Rev Dr James Simpson urges congregations to become more accepting and inclusive

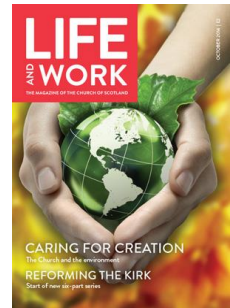
### **A Narcissistic Culture?**

Ron Ferguson reflects on the issues created by the 'cult of celebrity' and technology

### **'Many Generations of Christians'**

John R Hume visits a Perthshire church with links to early Christianity

**Plus** news, letters, reviews and crosswords – all this for under £2.



## Deaths

30.05.14	Mrs Elizabeth MacDonald, 8 Victoria Gardens
22.08.14	Ian McLeod, 3 Lina Street.
03.09.14	Mrs Mary Lawson, 63 Hendry Road
06.09.14	Mrs Euphemia Todd, 13 Rosebery Court

## Blythswood Shoebox Appeal – Love in a box



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal celebrates 21 years this year.

A few covered boxes with instruction leaflets inside are still available in the church vestibule and the Methven Hall. If you wish to fill a shoebox but have not yet uplifted your covered box, could you please do so now, to make sure that we have enough covered boxes available for those who require them. The shoeboxes are being uplifted from the church on *Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November*, so please bring your filled box to church on *Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*. If this date is not suitable, then please bring it on the Sunday nearest to 2<sup>nd</sup> November. By filling a shoebox with simple gifts you can bring joy and laughter to someone this Christmas.

## Bins

Bennochty Church is now on the new bin rota system, with extra bins for recycling - Grey bin – paper & card; Green bin – cans & plastics; Brown bin – garden waste & food (raw & cooked); Blue bin - all other waste.

**It is important to put all waste in the correct bin**, or that bin will not be emptied. If in doubt use the blue bins (landfill). A leaflet giving full details can be found in the kitchen.



## Fun and Find Out Day 2014

This year's Fun and Find Out day went well, although numbers were down slightly on last year. There were the usual free hotdogs served outdoors and traditional fun for children **and** adults in the church garden.

Our internet café was officially opened by MSP David Torrance. As well as school children using the laptops after school one day per week, we hope that the community and volunteers will use them during café hours to develop their skills and help with job-seeking.

Find Out took the form of taster sessions at the internet café, Storytelling by Suit&Pace, carpet bowling in the sanctuary and a community choir. The Olive Branch café provided tea and biscuits and reps from Fife Advocacy and Fife Community Mediation were present.

## Bruce Davies in concert with Songs for the Season

For this concert of seasonal music, Bruce blends Christian and secular Christmas favourites with other winter songs in a show that truly captures the spirit of Christmas. You can expect to hear everything from "Rudolph" to "Oh Holy Night" at this very special show which has wowed audiences regardless of whether they would normally find themselves in Church or not. Bruce said, *"I am a Christian and see my work, not as 'evangelism', but as 'thought-provoking entertainment'. It's my hope that people of all Faiths and none will be entertained, stimulated and encouraged by the songs and feeling of each performance."*

Come along for this perfect 'warm-up' to Christmas, and bring a friend along, too.

- Watch out for details of Bruce Davies' next concert in Bennochty Church on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December, and put this date in your diary now.

### Dust if you Must

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter,  
Bake a cake or plant a seed,  
Ponder the difference between want and need?



Dust if you must, but there's not much time.  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to hear and books to read,  
Friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there,  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain.  
This day will not come around again.



Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind,  
And when you go – and go you must –  
You, yourself, will make more dust.

## **KIRKCALDY AREA REACHOUT TRUST**

*"We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders" Ps 78:4*

### **KART – securing the future**

Over the past 5 years Chris Beattie, the Christian youth worker employed by KART has established sound relationships with two high schools and six primary schools in this area as well as working with local school chaplains. His involvement includes assemblies, RME classes, activities such as 'Journey through the Bible' and 'Easter Code' presentations, football coaching and a high school 'Personal Search Week'. Three school SU groups have been established with volunteers from local churches and a group of churches in the Pathhead area is working together with Chris to put on out-of-school youth events. Chris is also involved with holiday clubs and in-service 'activity days' at local churches, and SU camps in which some local youngsters have taken part.

All in all Chris has contact with up to 1900 young people during the course of a year.

Having established KART as part of the local Christian outreach to young people, we now need to secure KART's work into the future. KART already receives support from some churches and individuals locally. However to remain viable KART requires more support from local churches and church members in two ways.

- More volunteers to be part of the KART team – committee and working group members (reachout, finance, publicity, prayer), a prayer coordinator, SU group leaders/helpers
- Financial support – from 2015 KART needs to raise an additional £10000 each year as start-up grants from external funders come to an end.

Your church leadership team will soon be sent a comprehensive information pack about KART's activities and ways in which churches and individuals can help. Please consider what you can do to support this essential work of outreach to young people in your area.

Thank you, KART management committee

Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART, K.A.R.T.) is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC037866

To contact KART email the secretary: - [enquiries@kart.me.uk](mailto:enquiries@kart.me.uk)

or the treasurer: [finance@kart.me.uk](mailto:finance@kart.me.uk)

KART website can be found at: <http://www.kart.me.uk>

You can donate to KART:

- via standing order (SO and gift aid forms are on the website or available from the treasurer. Some copies of the forms have also been sent to your church leader),
- online at <http://www.btplc.com/mydonate> (charity name KART),
- when you shop online by using the <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> website (charity name Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust)
- by using the <http://www.easysearch.org.uk> search engine
- and by text at JustTextGiving (text to 70070 with the message KART07 £x showing how much you would like to donate eg KART07£10).



# The Sunday School



## NEWS UPDATE

We are all back from our summer holidays.

We started this session with our welcome back and promotion ceremony.

Welcoming back Ollie, Callum, Anna, Rebecca, and Morgan.

Promoting Mollie, Scott and Brodie. William we hope will be able to come when he can fit us into his busy shedule.

If you know of any other children who would like to join our happy group they would be made very welcome.

## MORGANS NEWS

Congratulations to Morgan, who has once again been successful in her audition, this time for the Christmas Pantomime. We wish her all the best. Many of us are looking forward to seeing her in the show. Jack and the Beanstalk

## HOLIDAYS

It seems strange to start back and have to mention holidays again but here are the dates for the October School Holidays.

There will be no Sunday School on 19 and 26 October. So once again its Happy Holidays.

## WILLIAM'S INSPIRATIONAL VERSE

1 Corinthians 10. 5,6.

But even then God was not pleased with most of them, and so their dead bodies were scattered over the desert. Now, all of this is an example for us, to warn us not to desire evil things.

## ACTIVITIES

We started this session back to the beginning learning about creation. Have a go at our wordsearch below.

**WORDSEARCH**  
Find the following words in the grid:  
CREATION, UNIVERSE, LIGHT, DARK, SUN, MOON, STARS, EARTH, SKY, WATER, SEASONS WORK, REST, RHYTHM, NIGHT, DAY, MORNING, EVENING, BIRDS, ANIMALS, PEOPLE.



S	K	C	Y	M	O	R	N	I	N	G	B
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P	C	E	S	O	S	L	A	M	I	N	A
E	T	A	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	E	H
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P	N	I	C	F	D	T	D	A	Y	R	K
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## Forthcoming Events

Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Gift Day
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Family Fun Quiz Night
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Communion
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Christmas Afternoon Tea
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Bruce Davies Concert

## Family Fun Quiz Night

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014

6.30 p.m.

Come as a team of four or come and make up a team . . .

No individual questions. The quiz will be followed with a dessert supper.

## Christmas Afternoon Tea

This year we are having a Christmas Tea on the afternoon of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November with stalls, cake and candy, teas, etc. Watch out for details.



**Date for your Diary -**

**Bruce Davies Concert** - Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Details available soon.



## The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. for teas, coffees & home baking. Soup and sandwiches served from 12 noon.

Please note that the Olive Branch will be **closed on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October** as the Methven Hall is being used. The café will be open again on 23<sup>rd</sup> October with the usual wholesome fare on offer.

Our internet café is now open from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. If you feel you would like to learn how to send an email, look up something on Google or just watch as one of our volunteers helps you to access what you want to find out, then please come along on a Thursday or speak to Phil, Alison, Graham, Christine or Dianne for information.



**Now with free Wi Fi.**

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