

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

Registered Scottish Charity SC 005628

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2014



From the 'Manse'

I had the pleasure of dedicating the Blythswood shoe boxes at a short event at Templehall church just before they set off for people in Ukraine; going to children, families, older people and people with special needs. Over 90 boxes came from Bennochty Church, so a big thank you to you all. It may well be that your shoes box will be the only gift that person receives this Christmas.

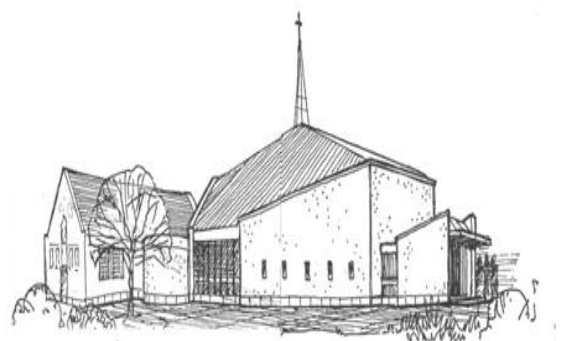
I asked the children from two primary schools, who were at the event, two questions, and I got some really good answers, but not, however, the ones I was thinking of! The questions were; *what would be the most useless gift you could think of and, what would be the best gift you could receive.* I am not going to tell you the answers here; you will need to ask me!

It was very noticeable how little of the Christmas story is known today. The gift of Christmas is much more likely to be Santa than Jesus! It just shows how far many people today are removed from the story of Jesus, a story we take for granted. I wonder if this Christmas we can take the opportunity to share the real story of Christmas; not just of a baby born, but God entering his creation. Think on that, God entered the world; an event far more powerful than the gifts of the travellers from the East, and more full of love than all the voices of the angels who sang over the shepherds fields.


As we celebrate this Christmas, look at how our society tells the story; in its advertising, the cards sent and the songs sung. May we add to the story, the "reason for the season", who is Jesus Christ, incarnate, who *'pitched his tent'* right in the midst of humanity, to show God's love for all his creation.

May you and yours have a most blessed Christmas.

Robin



Advent services

30th November	Advent meditation and informal communion after the service	
7th December	Family 'gift' service	
14th December	Lessons and Carols, led by the choir	
21st December	Contributions by our Sunday School	
24 th December	Watchnight Service (to be confirmed)	
28th December	Joint service at St Bryce Kirk	

- The Family service on 7th December is also our 'Gift Service'. Please bring a gift or a toy for a child up to 15 years of age. All gifts must be new and unwrapped, and will be distributed by the Salvation Army to the needy in the District. No clothes please.

Christmas/Spring Lunch

The annual Christmas Lunch for members of our congregation, which normally takes place in December, has unfortunately had to be postponed due to the uncertainty over hall renovations and availability, and will now take place on 16th March 2015. More details will be available in the New Year.

Get Together/Guild - joint Christmas party

The joint Christmas Party for the Guild and Get Together will be on Thursday 18th December at 2 p.m. in the Methven Hall. Visitors welcome. Anyone interested please contact Helen Lundie on 205750 or Wilma wright on 262942.



Poinsettias in the Church

If you wish to have a poinsettia(s) in the Church for a friend or in memory of a loved one, please put your name on the Poinsettia List in the vestibule of the Church by Sunday 7th December. These plants will decorate the Church on Sundays 14th and 21st December. After the Service on 21st December you can take the plants home. The cost of a plant will probably be £5 and these are large plants. Payment should be made to Senga Booth.



The Flower List for 2015 is now in the vestibule of the Church. If you wish to provide flowers for the Sanctuary, please write your name against the appropriate Sunday(s). If you wish further details, please speak to Senga Booth.

Deaths

01.10.14	Mrs Susan Pryde, 37 Roomlin Gardens.	
.10.14	Mrs Agnes Rae, 18 Cairngorm Crescent.	
25.10.14	Archie Campbell, 3 Woodlands Way, Dunnikier Park.	



PARTNERPLAN

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia November 2014

Chodort Training Centre, Choma
PO Box 630451
Kitwe
Zambia

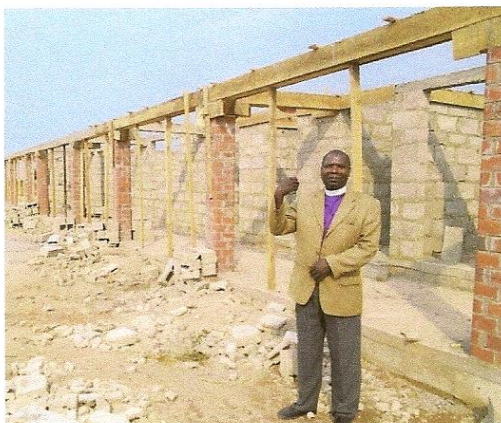
Dear Church friends

This letter will be about big events that are happening just now, for Chodort, the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) and Zambia itself.



Firstly, the sad news that our president, Michael Sata, died on 29th October, just 5 days after Zambia celebrated its 50th Year of independence. Michael Sata headed up the Patriotic Front, a left of centre party which campaigned for minimum wage and improved infrastructure. He is succeeded for three months, until the general election in January 2015, by Guy Scot the vice president. Mr Scot cannot run for president as his parents were not born in Zambia, so there will be jostling for position in the party amongst the 3 or 4 main candidates. The late president will lie in state till 11.11 when the burial will take place.

The 50th anniversary of independence was a big occasion in itself. Men and women wore shirts and dresses made from material in bright Zambian colours proclaiming the anniversary, and bunting and banners decked every shop and government building. This happy occasion was marred by two things however. One, that the President was in hospital in London and could not attend, and the other that 26 people, mostly children, died on their way to celebrations when their boat capsized on Lake Kariba. The boat was, as is often the case here with all forms of transport, dreadfully overloaded, taking 34 people in a 14 seat boat.



A big event that happened the first weekend in November was the retirement of Rev Mundemba who was the minister for St Stephens where Chodort Training centre is located. As well as being a good supporter and friend of Chodort, Rev Mundemba is very special because 33 years ago she was the first woman to be trained and ordained in Zambia for UCZ. UCZ now has a high proportion of women ministers, not least of them being Rev Dr Peggy Kabonde our General Secretary and ministers and friends from all over Zambia attended this very special occasion.

Another big event for Chodort is the raising of the first classrooms on the new college site. They will have

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Charity Number: SC011353

PARTNER PLAN

teacher's studies and toilet block too. It looks as if it will be finished this year and we will be able to open to a grand fanfare in 2015. Here is a picture of Rev Mutale Mulumbwa our Synod Bishop as he viewed the site last month. Being the only building on the new campus it is quite isolated though, and needs extra security guards at night. We hope to cover the cost of this with short courses in 2015 and start a full programme in 2016. Two added security guards who are a bit less costly are Rocky and Jet. They are young brothers of the four legged variety who are staying with me at the moment until we can train them suitably. They are just 18 weeks old now but will each team up with a new college classroom guard on their night round. when they are about 6 months old. When they are "off shift" they will guard my house.



With just a few weeks to go our tailoring and carpentry students are working hard for exam week which begins on 24th November. Most of them will sit a theory exam, and then all will take the practical test over two days. Those who don't take the theory exam are our students who are not confident in reading and writing. This is usually because they left school at an early age, or in one case, did not attend at all. We are pleased to be part of an institution which gives those who have had few chances in life the possibility of proving themselves and getting a qualification.

Finally, we are also officially adding Peter Mukupa to our management team. Peter has been acting production manager for over 6 months now and has done a fine job. When I first came to Chodort carpentry production was making a substantial loss, but thanks to a lot of hard work from our volunteer Malcolm Evans earlier this year and the diligence of Peter, we are now on target to make a small profit which will be ploughed back into training. We are also hoping for a new volunteer, a marketing advisor, to help us market our products effectively.

Items for praise

- For the long service and good example of Rev Mundemba.
- For the classroom project taking shape under the watchful eye of Mr Siakasassa. The project manager.
- For a steady stream of orders for production, despite raising our prices.

Items for prayer

- For continued progress for Mr Mwango's health.
- For the decisions we make about the use of the new college classrooms and the new courses, that we will have wisdom and insight.

Every good wish to you all.

Jenny

Fabric Report - An update.

St. Andrews Hall. The work undertaken to modernise this space is nearly complete, comments have been made with regard to the colour of the floor covering but since this was donated by Forbo Floors we must consider ourselves fortunate to have received it as a gift.

Some problems still exist with the Acoustic Doors, these are being resolved and should be usable quite soon. The Audio and Visual facilities have been tested in use and have been found to be satisfactory.

Four temporary 3Kw. Electric Wall Mounted heaters have been installed.

New Heating This is making good progress, the layout drawings have been accepted, the Consultants are updating the Specification before it is sent out to appropriate installers so that we can get a guide as to the cost of the new system.

Because of hall usage commitments the installation of the new heating will be delayed until the spring. The target date is 6th April 2015, more on this later.

Temporary heating will be installed in the Ladies Toilet and Meldrum Room.

Structural Defect Cracks have appeared again in the walls of the Ladies Toilet and Kitchen. Over the years they have been filled in and painted over so this is not a new problem. Since they have reoccurred it was decided at the last Congregational Board meeting to have the foundations inspected. Pits were dug which exposed these foundations, and allowed inspection by a Structural Engineer. Remedial work is being considered to eliminate this recurring problem.

New Store This project is at a standstill until Fife Council issue a Building Warrant, problems exist with Fire Regulations and Health and Safety concerns. We may have to revisit our ideas and look at modified design which will overcome these stumbling blocks.

For the same reasons as the heating delay, construction will not start until April.

Main Entrance to Church Now that the dark evenings and nights are with us concerns have been raised about the use of the door recess by some members of the public for undesirable activities. Means of discouraging this are being considered.

Painting the Church

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings..

Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by tell tale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, So he got down on his knees and cried:

"Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?"

And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke..

“Repaint! Repaint!
And thin no more”



Bell Ringers

We meet on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. We try all sorts of music and at present are playing

Xmas Bells,
New World Symphony (modified version)
Silent Night.



Welcome to anyone interested in having a "ring"!

Margaret Simpson

Bennochty Women's Group

The Group's 2013/14 session began on 2nd September with a walk around Letham Glen and supper at the Agenda Restaurant, Leven. We had four splendid speakers talking about Kirkcaldy Breath Easy Group, the Luminate Festival for over 60's, Living in Japan and Local Owls and Birds of Prey.

Our ever popular Family Quiz Night on Saturday 25th October, which was enjoyed by all, raised the excellent sum of £515.

Ladies of the Group and friends visited the Adam Smith Theatre on 18th November, where we all enjoyed the KAOS production of White Christmas.

We are busy preparing for the Christmas Afternoon Tea @ Bennochty on Saturday 22nd November from 2-4 p.m. Tickets £3. Our members' craft night is on 25th November and we look forward to 9th December, when we will have our Christmas Dinner at Dunnikier House Hotel.

The first meeting in 2015 is on 13th January, when we will have a Quiz Night/Coffee and Chat, followed by our Burns Supper on 20th January.

The Group usually meets every fortnight at 7.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room. Please speak to a member of the Group or phone Irene Wood on 267995 if you are interested in attending any of our meetings. New members will be made very welcome. Come along and enjoy the fun!

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas time.

Irene Wood

Church Liaison Member

easyfundraising

For those of us who choose to buy goods and services online, this is a very simple way of raising funds for The Olive Branch Cafe as we do so. There are over 2000 companies linked to easyfundraising.org.uk who will reward customers for making their purchase online by donating a percentage of the purchase price to their preferred charity. Amazon, M & S, Waterstones, John Lewis are 4 of the major companies who participate in the scheme. So as Christmas shopping begins to filter into your thoughts, why not consider becoming a supporter of The Olive Branch by using easyfundraising as a means to get some free cash. Anyone can become a supporter of The Olive Branch so please tell the good news to your family and all your friends. Here is what you do:

- A. Go to easyfundraising.org.uk
- B. Register as a supporter of The Open Door Project (you are not required to give bank details)
- C. Start shopping and earning free cash for our cafe.

No catch. No risk. It really is as easy as A, B, C.

Free Will Offering Envelopes

Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, Free will Offering envelopes for the coming year. If you no longer require these for any reason please inform Ena Thomson, our FWO Convener (tel 269630) or tell your elder. If you would like to set up a standing order for your weekly offerings please speak to Audrey Taylor, our Gift Aid Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Team.

Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

For the last two months the congregation has been busy covering and filling shoeboxes for those less fortunate than us who live in poverty in many of the Eastern European countries and who would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas. Scarves, hats and gloves, toothpaste and a toothbrush, soap, a toy and sweets are some of the items which go into a shoebox. Things which seem like everyday items to us are luxuries to those living in poverty. Boxes are filled for adults as well as children and this year our boxes are going to the Ukraine. Dunnikier Primary School and Nursery filled 38 boxes while £70 in donations and 92 boxes were filled by members of the congregation.

What a wonderful response and a big thank you to all those who took part in the appeal, which will bring joy and laughter to many at Christmas. After a short service on 6th November, taken by our minister, Robin, at Templehall Church and attended by schoolchildren and adults, the boxes (approx. 700) from the Kirkcaldy area were loaded onto the lorry for the start of their journey to the Ukraine.

Thank you to all those who covered boxes, helped load the lorry and for just being there to help in any way. I am sure everyone will enjoy opening their boxes as much as we enjoyed filling them!



This letter was recently received from the management team of KART.

Dear Brian,



Thank you for the donation of £272.93. We are touched and encouraged by your church's support.

We had a wonderful October holiday club. It was truly blessed and evident that we were being covered by prayer. It was just wonderful to see children learning about God and to see the evidence of seed being planted/growing in their little hearts.

We really thank God for you all, and may he continue to bless the work that you all do at Bennochty for "you do take joy in doing His will, for it is written on your hearts." Psalm 40:8.

/. . . things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from /their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. Ps 78:3-4.

Best wishes and blessings,

Maureen Latto

For and on behalf of KART Management Team.



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

- Our 3 Special Offerings this year for KART amounted to £906.70.



KART CORNER WINTER 2014



Registered Charity No. SC037866



Football Camp



In July Chris led a Football camp at Lendrick Muir. The camp was a great success! 17 boys and girls attended the camp from the Kirkcaldy area. This work builds on the Football clubs which Chris leads at Fair Isle PS and North PS. Chris also hopes to hold a small follow-up event for those children who attended the camp. He is in discussion with Raith Rovers Football Club at the moment.
Watch this space!



Pray for Christmas school assemblies that children come to know that the best Christmas gift anyone could receive is Jesus Christ.

Pray for strength and stamina for every one working with children up to the Christmas break.

Pray for the appeal sent to Churches and individuals from KART will be fruitful.

Pray for Chris and Laura as Laura is expecting Baby Beattie

Pray for the Inset Day Club taking place at St Bryce on 14th Nov. That the children grasp how wide and long and high and deep is God's love for them.

Missions Week

Bennochty Church hosted a Holiday Club from 13th - 17th October. 15 children had fun each day learning about key bible stories through songs, drama, crafts and group time. The leadership team was made up of members of the Costa Group (all older teens) and members of the KART management team. Please pray that God will bless all who attended the week and that seeds of faith will grow.

Pray For Schools Scotland



The vision of *Pray for Schools Scotland* is to mobilise Christians to support their school communities through prayer.

If you would like to pledge to regularly pray for a particular local school please can you contact Maureen Latto for more information. The school can be then be registered as a prayed for school.

Join Chris and Maureen at Whytescauseway Baptist for an hour from 11am on Tuesday 18th November.

Maureen - 07961733120

If you would like to contact Chris:
Email - chris.beattie@kart.me.uk
Telephone - 07746373860

Please help

Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust

Raise £150

in FREE donations just by shopping online via easyfundraising.org.uk for many of your **Christmas** purchases.

Just visit

Easyfundraising.org.uk/Kirkcaldy

Area Reachout Trust

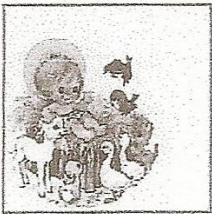
Or speak to Maureen Latto

Tour 2 France Sponsored Event

This year KART are holding a very different sponsored event. Supporters are being sponsored to complete a 2 week fitness challenge. Each participant is to complete as many kilometres either by walking, running, cycling, skating or swimming from 8th 'til 23rd of November. They will keep a daily tally of the distance travelled and we will then add up the total number of kilometres completed. We hope to meet our goal of travelling the equivalent distance of Kirkcaldy to France.

Ooh La La!

Pray for stamina and energy for all taking part!



The Sunday School



NEWS UPDATE.

Since the last newsletter we have had a few birthdays. Anna Drummond was 4 in September, Callum Bayne was 4 and Mollie Rae was 6 in October, Rebecca Thomson was 9 in November and Brodie Green will be 12 in December. Happy Birthday to all of them.

We had a surprise visit from our elder Charlie Low on Remembrance Sunday. He seemed to enjoy joining in with our activities, doing our word search and was quite proud of the poppy he made.

We are now starting to concentrate on the Christmas Service on 21 December. The children are all very keen to perform and we all hope you enjoy the fruits of our labour.

The service will be followed by our usual party with food, games and hopefully a visit from a special person bring gifts for all.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

It seems we always have to be giving holiday dates so here we go again.

We shall be on holiday 28 December and 4 January starting back in Sunday School on 11 January 2015. Looking forward to seeing everyone then.

BIBLE VERSE Psalm 127 Verse 3

Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a real blessing.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

We would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Remembering that the reason for the season is JESUS.

Do try our wordsearch

NATIVITY WORDSEARCH

C	A	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	D	N	S	H	S
Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	R	F	A	L	L	U
R	A	T	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	T	E	J	S
N	E	M	E	S	I	W	S	H	E	E	P	I	G	O	E
J	G	N	I	K	M	A	R	Y	G	I	U	V	N	S	J
M	O	S	Y	I	H	X	Q	U	R	Q	W	I	A	E	T
D	O	N	K	E	Y	R	E	G	N	A	M	T	D	P	M
Z	I	L	I	N	N	K	E	E	P	E	R	Y	O	H	F

ANGELS	JOSEPH	SALVATION
CHRISTMAS	KING	SHEEP
DONKEY	MANGER	SHEPHERD
INNKEEPER	MARY	STAR
JESUS	NATIVITY	WISEMEN

Bruce Davies
Songs For The Season
The perfect warm-up to Christmas!

Saturday
6th December
at 7.30

Bennochty Parish Church
Meldrum Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY2 5HR

*Christian and secular Christmas and seasonal songs
in an entertaining mix
that keeps Christ very firmly in CHRISTmas.*

www.brucedavies.com Call 01592-643518 for details

Come and enjoy an evening of festive music and favourite songs. Tickets £6 on sale now or at the door. Mince pies and mulled wine included in the ticket price. All proceeds to Bennochty Church.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 6 th December	Bruce Davies Concert
Thursday 18 th December	Get Together/Guild Christmas Party
Monday 16 th March 2015	Spring Lunch



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.

Our internet café is also open from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Now with free Wi Fi.



- The Café will be open for business on TUESDAY 16th December
- It will be closed on Thursday 18th December (halls in use), as well as 25th December and 1st January 2015. We wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.
- Don't forget to visit our excellent website for up to date information on events and organisations at Bennochty Church – you can also get a preview of the Sunday service and read notes on the minister's sermon.