

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

March 2016



We wish all our readers a very happy Easter and we hope this celebration will bring you new aspirations and hope. The resurrection of Jesus brings hope for us all, as we witness signs of renewal by the Spirit of God in lives, gardens and fields.

Minister: 643518
Session Clerk: 200179
Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

March 2016

From the 'Manse',

There is a fascinating book called "*Managing Transitions*" by William Bridges. A secular writer in the US who uses the example of Moses when talking about 'making the most of change'. The church has always struggled with change, but what William Bridges introduces, is the idea of 'transition'.

Transition is our response to change. The people of Israel went through the massive change of no longer being slaves in Egypt, and went through a transitional period of desert wandering, before entering the Promised land as the people of God. The miracles of God took Israel out of Egypt. It would take 40 years to get 'Egypt out of the people of God'! In good star Trek language, Bridges called this time of transition, the 'neutral zone'.

Our transitional response can be as individuals or as a congregation. A change takes place, and our response is a very personal and emotional one.

I believe we will have to make many such changes in the near future, not for the sake of change, but in response to a changing world who have made it very clear, that traditional models of church no longer transmit the message of the gospel in a way that people wish to listen. It is the challenge of being relevant in a post Christian society. That of course means, lots of 'transitional' responses for us to cope with!

The book contains some great quotes, I have chosen just three:

Chaos often breeds life, while order breeds habit. (Henry Adams, American historian)

Only the provisional endures (French proverb)

Confusion is a word we have invented for an order which is not yet understood (Henry Miller, American novelist)

If the new has not yet come and we look back to the old that has gone, that is living in the neutral zone. Sounds like faith to me! Being a pilgrim and following Christ in an unfamiliar world. If change is easy to do, then transition is not easy to live with. The temptation is to go back to the familiar, but discipleship is about being in the 'difficult' place, and listening to where God wishes us to travel, into the future.

With all God's blessing Robin

Robin

Joint Holy week services are as follows: All services begin at 7 pm

22 nd March:	Abbotshall Church
23 rd March:	Linktown Church
24 th March:	Bennochty Church
25 th March:	St Bryce Kirk



Easter Sunday services in the town:

Abbotshall & St Bryce Kirk:	Easter Sunday, 8.30 a.m. – early morning service in the Beveridge Park (beside the fountain)
Auchtertool Kirk:	Sunrise service in the garden at 6.45am followed by breakfast.
Bennochty Church:	Easter morning service at 11 am with communion

'The Easter Story' is being performed on Palm Sunday evening, 20th March at 7.30pm in St Margaret's Church, Glenrothes, with singers from Perthshire, Stirling, Kinross and Fife. A choir of between 50 and 60 singers will take you through Jesus' journey towards the cross to Easter Sunday. There is no charge but there will be an opportunity to make a donation on the evening. (words by Ernie Dick, music by Stephen & Sandra Miller)

Mission Partner in Zambia

Jenny Featherstone is to be in Scotland between 22nd and 30th April, 2016. Venues and times to meet her during that week are being arranged by the Rev. Alan Kimmett of St. Columba's Church, Glenrothes.

It is to be hoped that we can receive her here at Bennochty Church at some point. A warm welcome would await her.

Watch this space!

Margaret Simpson.

Christian Aid Week 15 – 21 May 2016



This is the week we love every neighbour
Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street.

Christian Aid Week unites over 20,000 churches to put this love in to action.

Our own team of door to door collectors will be out and about during the week 15th – 21st May. If anyone else feels they could join the team, please speak to Angela Stewart or Charlie or Christine Low.

Kirkcaldy Foodbank

The need for food donations to Kirkcaldy Foodbank continues, and at the moment there is a shortage of:

UHT milk; cartons of fruit juice;
tinned potatoes; tinned fruit
tinned vegetables; dried pasta;

There are donation points in Morrison's, Sainsbury's and Potter About (Burntisland), and our own Foodbank box can be found either in the Methven Hall or on the shelving in the store room opposite the kitchen.



Community Garden

Update... on Thursday 25th February a survey was conducted in the Olive Branch café. The results indicated that 67% of people who completed the survey were in favour of a community garden and 33% were unsure. One person volunteered to be part of a team.

Individuals and organisations from the community who had previously expressed an interest in the Bennoch Community Garden Project attended an open meeting on Thursday 25th February. Items on the Agenda included; how to attract more volunteers and community involvement with the Bennoch Community Garden Project. After much discussion, a proposal was made that; a fun event takes place to promote intergenerational interaction based around encouraging the community to engage with the Project. Watch this space for more information and community garden development.

*Louisa Turner,
Bennoch Church Development Worker*

Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the morning service on Sunday 13th March. Please stay if you can for this important meeting in the life of our church.

As agreed at a recent Finance meeting the weekly offering figures are now printed in the intimations. A full financial report will be given at the meeting but the figures for the month of January are as follows

Open plate	£ 434.72
FWO	£2,212.10
Standing orders	<u>£2,501.00</u>
Total	<u>£5,147.82</u>

The amount raised at The Great KART Bake Off on Sunday 14th February was £121. This sum went to KART to help support the work of Chris Beattie in our local schools and community.

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
BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH
KIRKCALDY

March 2016

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 20th March 2016

As indicated on our previous Gift Day letter, the Congregational Board agreed to introduce an additional Gift Day which would coincide with Bennochy's Birthday Service on March 20th.

An important part of our income is generated by our now traditional Gift Days. The rationale is that as a family we gift twice yearly, Christmas and Birthdays, so we consider our Church family no different.

If you are unable to come on this Sunday but still 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 on their Communion visit.

If you are debating the level of donation for the gift day I would ask you to consider the value of gift that you would give any of your family members as a guide, if your personal circumstances allow. Our Christian giving is a sign and a measure of our Christian faith and commitment to God's work here at Bennochy.

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 will be available on the day or ask any Sunday Welcome Team member who will assist.

We wish to thank you once again for your continued support in God's work here at Bennochy and pray that you continue to have a Church home where your life is enriched by worship and Christian fellowship.

With all God's blessing from the Finance Team



Blythswood Care Collections

As you may be aware, the Blythswood lorry is no longer coming to the Esplanade once a month to collect your donations of clothing, bric a brac and foodstuffs. Instead any donations can be handed in to the Tamand charity shop in Dunearn Drive, Templehall. The following is an extract from an email from Margaret Tooth, Area fundraising manager for south and central Scotland, for our information.

Blythswood Care has announced a new system for collecting second hand goods from supporters. From January 2016 the traditional collection van is being replaced by a network of collection banks in a number of locations, some of which have been in operation for some time. These can be accessed at any time of day. In addition Blythswood shops and certain local charity shops in Kirkcaldy and Beith will accept donations.

Information about the location of Blythswood Shops and Collection Banks can be found at www.blythswood.org.

In 2016 Blythswood's monthly collections will continue in the following five places: Dundee, Perth, Stonehaven, Peterhead and Fraserburgh. Dates, times and alternative arrangements can be found at www.blythswood.org or by contacting 01349 830777 or 0141 882 0585.

All other monthly collections will cease after December 2015. However, supporters in some areas will be able to use an alternative collection point or method for their donations. In addition those in Lanarkshire, Dunbartonshire, Stirlingshire, Ayrshire, Renfrewshire and Greater Glasgow can arrange an uplift of furniture and other bulky items, and the charity is hoping that local arrangements can be put in place in some other localities for the collection of donated goods.

Operations manager Ian Matheson said: "Apart from the Borders and the Dumfries and Galloway areas we have textile banks and partner charities where items can be donated. We would also like to place more textile banks in communities within 90 minutes' drive of Blythswood's depot in Hillington, and we are considering a set of textiles donation banks for the Borders, which would be emptied every two months."

He added: "We have been reluctant to reduce the number of monthly collections as we have had tremendous support from the public for many

years, for which we are most grateful. However we must develop more economic methods, to make best use of our resources for the sake of the people who are being helped by our projects.

“We will continue to collect shoeboxes around Scotland in November each year, as part of the Blythswood’s Shoe Box Appeal, and we are grateful to the many people who have responded so generously once again in 2015.”

Blythswood Care delivers £4 million of aid each year, benefiting vulnerable children and adults in Europe, Africa and Asia, while also running ten food banks and a rehabilitation unit in Scotland.

We will continue to pick up donated goods where it is economic to do so and would be happy to hear from anyone who can assist, particularly in finding sites for collection banks. For further information please contact Allan Band or Margaret Tooth on 0141 882 0585 or email glasgowdepot@blythswood.org.

Finally, our thanks to all who have supported Blythswood Care in the last year. Without your prayers and donations we would have nothing to give to the thousands who have been helped. If your congregation would like to hear more about the work Blythswood Care is supporting, please contact me.

With best wishes

Margaret Tooth

Bennochty Bowlers

We enjoyed our New Year party in January in the Methven Hall where we held our annual Ladies versus Gents competition which on this occasion, by a very small margin, was won by the Ladies. Congratulations to them.

The annual bowling cup competition with Leven Parish Church, which was last competed for in 2010, was restarted this year and over a home and away match our team prevailed. The only downside of winning the cup is that we will have to pay to have the cup inscribed!

War Memorials... The Hughes Brothers.

Bennoch Church is privileged to have War Memorials from four churches on our walls and they are poignant reminders of events which took place almost a century ago. I would like to share what I have discovered from the Central Library about just one of the stories from one plaque, about one family. The words in quotation marks are from the reports of casualties in the Fifeshire Advertiser for 1916 and 1918.

Four Hughes brothers, Andrew, William, Thomas and James, whose family lived at the Floral Nursery, Hendry Road, are commemorated on the St John's War Memorial. According to a map of the time, the Floral Nursery itself was where the shops at the Valley Garden roundabout now stand, although the family also had an address in Thornton.

Their youngest son, Private Andrew Hughes 17th Highland Light Infantry, died first. He "made the supreme sacrifice" at Beaumont Hamel, France, on 18th November 1916, aged 19.

Their eldest son, 2nd Lieutenant William Hughes, 1st Manchester regiment, was killed in France, 26th March 1918, aged 27. "He was the eldest son of the family and had been a member of the Black Watch Territorials before the war. He was a sergeant in the 1/7th Black Watch for 21 months and escaped without a scratch. Being a lad of marked ability he was gazetted to the 1/9th Manchester Regiment on 30th August 1917. Prior to enlistment, he was employed by Messrs Michael Nairn & Co as an assistant electrician. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him. At the present time, he has two other brothers fighting for King and Country."

Their second eldest son, Private James Hughes, Cameron Highlanders, was actually in the Canadian Horse, part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was killed in France October 1st, 1918 aged 26. "Prior to the war he was a mail carrier in Manitoba, Canada."

And finally, their fourth son, Private Thomas Hughes, 6th Black Watch, was killed in France, 10th April 1918. He was declared missing for eight months. "Prior to enlisting, the third eldest son of the family, the gallant soldier, was chauffeur to Dr Walker, Cardenden."

One hundred years on, their story is still heartbreaking.

Nancy Gilmartin

- *See the memorial in the centre of the back wall in the sanctuary.*

Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
when the road you're trudging seems all up hill,
when funds are low and the debts are high,
and you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
when care is pressing you down a bit,
rest if you must – but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
as everyone of us sometimes learns,
and many a failure turns about
when he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow –
you might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
it seems to a faint and faltering man.
Often the struggler has given up
when he might have captured the victor's cup.
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
how close he was to the golden crown.

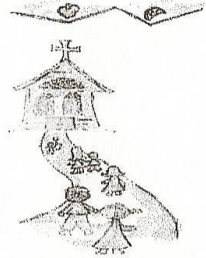
Success is failure turned inside out –
the silver tint of the clouds of doubt –
and you never can tell how close you are,
it may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit –
it's when things seem worst that you musn't quit.

Deaths

04.12.15	Mrs Elizabeth McFarlane, Barrogil House, Cluny.
25.12.15	Mrs Isobel Richiardi, Gowrie House, W Albert Road, Kirkcaldy.
05.01.16	John Finlayson, 32 Veronica Crescent
27.01.16	Mrs Elizabeth Peggie, Chapel Level Nursing Home
28.01.16	Miss Isobel Ritchie, Wilby House, Loughborough Road
30.01.16	David Ritchie, Chapel Level Nursing Home



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Christmas

We all hope you enjoyed our participation in the Church Service on 13 December. Didn't they do well? Jingle Bells oops Christmas Bells will never be the same again. We then enjoyed our usual indoor picnic and a fun filled visit from Santa.

Birthday

Ruby celebrated her 6th birthday on Saturday 13 February.

Morgan

Morgan's performances increase. Reports tell us how good she was on stage in Illegally Blonde. She has also had a successful audition and gained a part in the King and I and is now rehearsing and looking forward to the show.

Netball

Brodie was in a netball competition and her team successfully came in second.

William

William has had his interview for Dundee University. He should know the outcome at the end of March; we all wish him good luck.

Easter

We are now practicing for our participation in the Palm Sunday Service (20 March). We all hope you can come along and hear the children's interpretation of the Easter Message. They put a lot of effort into their performances.

Our theme is from John Chapter 3 Verse 16.
"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life".

Holidays

The Sunday School will be on holiday on the following Sundays 27 March and 3 of April.

We wish everyone a very Happy Easter.

Spring Calendar

Sunday March 13	Annual Stated Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday March 20	Gift Day
	Palm Sunday service with the Sunday School
March 22 - 25	Holy Week Services
Thursday March 24	Holy Week Service in Bennochty Church, 7pm
Sunday March 27	Easter Morning Service & Communion, 11am
Tuesday April 5	Bunny Drive
Sunday April 10	Messy Church
May 15-21	Christian Aid Week
Sunday May 22	Messy Church

Get Together - If you have a spare couple of hours on a Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4 p.m. why not join us at the Get Together club in the Elgin hall for fellowship. We have an outing planned in May to Dunnikier Golf Club for a bar lunch which everyone enjoys.

Bruce Davies/Seonaid Aitken Concert - Glenrothes Amateur Musical Association are presenting a 50th Anniversary celebration Concert on Saturday 12th March at 7.30 p.m. in the Rothes Halls, Glenrothes with Seonaid Aitken and our own Bruce Davies, along with members of the GAMA chorus. Tickets £10, available from the box office 01592 611101 or from Bruce at www.brucedavies.com

RNLI SOS Fundraising Afternoon

There was a very good turnout at the annual RNLI Tea afternoon, organised by Senga and her team of helpers. The sum of £1,560 was raised (well up on last year), all of which goes to the Kirkcaldy branch of the RNLI – an excellent result for an excellent cause – not to mention some delicious sponges, scones and home baking!

- **Next Newsletter** 28th May 2016