

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

June 2016



We wish all our readers a very happy summer. If you are going somewhere exciting on holiday please send us a card.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

June 2016

From the 'Manse',

We hear a lot about 'adaptive' change. As our environment changes, how does any organisation or institution react? For example, online shopping has altered the way many people now buy their goods and this has had a direct influence on the high street. Where once people went out to the shops, now they sit behind their computer. Shops, large and small, are having to adapt to survive. They are challenged to ask, what is our core business and how can we do it better?

The church is not immune to such change. Spiritual habits are evolving all the time. Where once people attended church, they no longer do so, and take their spiritual search elsewhere. As human beings we are innately spiritual, we seek meaning for our lives, and if we deny that, then in some way, we deny something of who we are. The problem is, the church, who is after all, in the 'spirituality business', is no longer the place where people come to discover that side of who they are.

We cannot be King Canute, seeking to hold back the tides of change. We must not retreat behind the walls of the church, and claim that only we hold the truth. We need to first of all acknowledge what is happening and define that as reality. This is where we are, and going back is not an option.

We need make our own God given opportunities. There will be times when we need to wait and listen to what God is already doing in our communities, and other times, when we are out on the road, we will create partnerships that hold before people, God's justice, compassion and equality.

Our worship needs to reflect this struggle. As we wander in the 'wilderness' pondering God's future let our worship offer our questions, hopes and fears to God.

The core business never changes, seeking the Kingdom of God here on earth, but how we do that is always changing. There is a phrase derived from St Augustine, *Ecclesia semper reformanda*, meaning, *the church is always to be reformed*. That is our challenge, even today.

With all God's blessing,

Robin

Christian Aid 2016



We are pleased to report that we have had another good response to our Christian Aid Week efforts.

The door to door collection raised £2785.41, the Soup and Sweet Lunch £534.50 and the retiral collection £160.60. With tax recoverable from Gift Aid of £172.37, the total achieved is £3652.88.

We convey our most sincere thanks to everyone who contributed and especially to our members who have distributed and collected envelopes once more.

It is satisfying to know that our final contribution will go some way to bringing some light and hope into the lives of those who are finding it most difficult to survive from day to day.

With appreciation,

Angela Stewart, Christine and Charlie Low
Organisers

The Finance Team are pleased to say that the final total from the March 6th Birthday Gift Day was £2,160.00. This amount will increase once we claim back the Tax on the amount given by members who have signed a Gift Aid Form. Thanks to all those who contributed so generously.

We are also pleased to say that 3 new people have recently decided to give by Standing Order and one of those has also signed a Gift Aid form. A few members have also reviewed and increased their monthly giving by Standing Order. Standing Orders and those who then Gift Aid their givings help us meet the costs of running our Church and also give to the wider work of the Church both locally and further afield. If you want to know more about giving by Standing Order or signing a Gift Aid form, please speak to either George Drummond, Margaret Kinnear or any member of the Finance Team.

Finally a reminder that there will be a retiral offering after the Communion Service on Sunday 19 June in aid of the work done by the Mercy Ships. This is a small charity who provide the world's largest charitable floating hospital. They bring free medical care to some of the world's poorest people. The ship is almost entirely manned by volunteers. Let us help deliver some lifesaving care to even more people. Thank you.

Mission partner: Jenny Featherstone, Zambia.

It was a pleasure to welcome Jenny to Bennochy Church on two occasions during her time as furlough from Zambia. The first was a Sunday morning during the service when, with video clips, she described her work as head of Chodart College in Choma, S.W. of the capital Lusaka. She spoke of the three departments in operation: tailoring, carpentry and I.T., and of another one projected – nursing - all in all, to encourage chances of employment given certain skills.

Funding is always a problem, more so in that applications for regular grants have not been successful, and now the staff must be paid the minimum wage and classes are only viable if numbers permit (10-12). Students agree to pay the fees but then sometimes the uncle who pays loses his job or mother falls ill or a family death occurs and they face leaving the course. To compound the matter, a State funded College has opened in nearby Choma offering similar courses and the UCZ - United Church of Zambia - cannot compete.

Jenny continues applying for grants. Any assistance given is much appreciated, particularly on a regular basis.

The second occasion was at the Olive Branch Café when she met with a small group to chat about lifestyles, the Presidential election in September - with some desperate measures - also the services in the St. Stephen's Church that last some hours and with much song and dance.

Zambia covers a vast area, has amazing wild life and is encouraging tourism as a growth industry. Why not go on safari some day?

During her time here, Jenny visited other churches:- Torbain for lunch, Buckhaven for a Prayershawl meeting, Abbotshall and Glenrothes for general discussion.

She has met friends north of Aberdeen, stayed in the Manse in Tiree, later with family near London and will visit the church in Dortmund where much support is given.

All in all a busy “holiday” - in fact her e-mails to the College are on the go nearly every day while the Depute Head takes charge.

We keep her in our prayers.

Margaret Simpson

Presbytery of Europe

Church of Scotland



www.europepresbytery.net

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND – INTERNATIONAL!

Eighteen churches, in fourteen countries, in three continents – and with ministry and mission links across the globe. That's the Church of Scotland Presbytery of Europe. It's a Presbytery like no other... and it's now being suggested that its true nature should be reflected with a change of name to the International Presbytery...



*Heritage...
Ministers and elders gather at the Calvin Auditoire in Geneva for a recent meeting. This congregation meets to worship where Calvin & Knox preached...*

Paris... Rome... Malta... Bermuda... Trinidad... Amsterdam... Fuengirola... Lausanne... Geneva... Major tourist attractions, every one – and every one with a Church of Scotland. So the Presbytery of Europe – yes, it stretches across the Atlantic, we're a broad church! – caters for Scots on holiday.

But then there's Bochum... Lisbon... Regensburg... Rotterdam... Brussels... Gibraltar... Budapest... Turin... all at the heart of industrial, political, working Europe. And there's Colombo, in the heart of recently strife-torn Sri Lanka (that broad church again!)... And it becomes clear that this really isn't about providing churches conveniently for Scots on holiday. It never was.

OUR VISION

"Go, then, to all peoples, everywhere... you will be witnesses for me to the ends of the earth."

Jesus of Nazareth, c 30 AD

"We are a living and faithful presence for Jesus Christ through Europe and beyond, witnessing from places of need to corridors of power, and offering a spiritual home to all people."

Presbytery of Europe, 2014 AD

Our ministry and mission reaches refugees, politicians and international business leaders alike, and covers those who live where we serve, those who visit by choice, and those whose choices have been taken from them.

Our congregations are drawn from six continents, and from the widest range of Christian backgrounds. In Amsterdam and Rotterdam, regular worshippers come from over 40 countries... in Bermuda, a recent stewardship campaign brought together people from both extremes of the financial spectrum... in Malta, a recent survey confirmed that six continents are represented in worship... And our mission work stretches into Africa, Asia and the Americas.



*Getting down to business...
The Moderator's view in Bochum, Germany.*

We hope you find this outline interesting. If it provides a prayer focus, we would be grateful. If it stimulates further research into what we do in Christ's service, we would be encouraged. All the weblinks you need are here. And if it gets you personally involved in our work and worship, we look forward to welcoming you.

We are an integral part of the Church of Scotland's ministry and mission to the wider world, and although our history centres round the need for Scots abroad to engage in worship and mission wherever they find themselves, in the 21st century this has given us a mission-oriented vision, and an enabling structure based on the Presbytery model.

Anyone visiting one of our Presbytery meetings will be immediately struck by both familiar sights and significant differences. Familiar? Ministers and elders of the Church of Scotland working together in ministry and mission – committees report, there's a Presbytery Plan, we struggle with the same issues of prioritising resources, and we take decisions in the same way as any other presbytery.

Different? We meet just twice a year – but that meeting moves around the main Europe-based congregations, it lasts for three days, and it will involve working together, eating together, enjoying ourselves together, worshipping together and with the host congregation – and husbands and wives will be there too...



*Worshipping together...
Presbytery Communion service, Amsterdam*

It will also involve other churches. Many of our congregations are in partnership with other denominations – for example, the churches in Brussels, the Netherlands, Budapest and Sri Lanka are associated with denominations within their host country, and the Malta church is a unique partnership with the Methodist Church, with alternating ministers.

We'll have ministers and elders from associated congregations among us, like the Waldensians of Turin, and the Nicosia Community Church in Cyprus. There will also be a minister from the Presbytery of Jerusalem.

And you'll be struck by the emphasis on mission. Every single congregation within our Presbytery is mission-oriented; indeed, the entire Presbytery is. Each year the Presbytery as a whole commits to supporting a particular mission project. And each year thousands are raised.

The 2014 project is "A Place at the Table", seeking to help our partner church in Syria and Lebanon to support refugees within their own country.

Recent projects have also included the Vine Trust's Jubilee Hope floating medical mission to Africa, the Al Ahli hospital in Gaza, and *Out of Africa... Into Malta* – which, after being the Presbytery project in 2011, became a Guild Partner Project, and from a standing start will, by the summer of 2015, have channelled some €250,000 into refugee work among Africans, Syrians and others who have risked everything to start life again...



OUT OF AFRICA... INTO MALTA

And all this is accomplished without using even a penny from Church of Scotland ministry stipend funds. Many of our churches are self-supporting. Those which aren't find sufficient support from both their denominational and mission partners and the Salvesen Trust, which was originally established specifically to help provide *"...the ordinances of religion to expatriate Scots in any part of the world outside the UK ..."*

Reaching... Engaging... Loving...

MISSION SNAPSHOTS...



THURSDAY...

Rome... 300 lunches lie in St. Andrew's Church, about to be distributed – as they are every week – to refugees. Before the packs are uplifted, there's a prayer...

Geneva... Church members meet to discuss their next exchange visit to Malawi, where the congregation funds the HIV/AIDS centre at Ekwendeni. It ends with prayer...

Paris... A letter is received from a Scots Kirk-supported minister in Sierra Leone, describing how he has been personally paying the salaries of teachers who are educating Freetown's street children – but the money is running out, and the crisis point is approaching. There's a need for prayer...

Malta... The minister visits Lyster Detention Centre, where African refugees are kept behind bars. He's brought a Bible, for a Nigerian who had to sell his – along with everything else – to buy his way out of war-torn Libya. He gives thanks in prayer...

Turin... 3-year old Oreva has arrived from Nigeria with her mother and a nurse for a major heart operation, funded by Heart Aid. Church members – many Ghanaian – greet them and settle them into the flat reserved for their use. They pray together...

Rotterdam... Following the weekly bible study, discussion develops on how the Scots International Church can best assist the city's migrant population, because the economic downturn has hit so hard that many can no longer find any money at all for a church offering. They're hurting, but praying...

SUNDAY...

Amsterdam... the congregation, as usual, is invited to recite the Lord's Prayer in their own way. Over a dozen different languages can clearly be heard...

Bermuda... today's prayers include thanksgiving for the successful progress of two overseas mission trips – one, to Argentina, rerouted because of swine flu, and the other, to Honduras, now rerouted to El Salvador because of political unrest...

Colombo... Three new arrivals are surprised to discover just how enjoyable joining in all-age worship can be. What a contrast to when their homes, and all they owned, were torn from them – first by the Tsunami, and then a second time, by militia action...

Turin... 3-year old Oreva's heart operation has been successful, and she's recovering in hospital. Her mother and her nurse join in worship, and the congregation gives thanks in prayer...

Tugwashanye, Zambia... Sister Catherine Farrugia leads prayers of thanksgiving for the parcels of warm clothing, dispatched from a summer-hot St. Andrew's Scots Church, Malta, to a wintering Zambia for her HIV/AIDS mothers and children...

Ekwendeni, Malawi... A group of teenagers from Scotland join in worship with hundreds of local children; prayers of thanks are offered for Christians who have made all this possible. In the heart of Africa, thanks are given for Scots churches in Amsterdam, Geneva, and in Paris...

Europe

The Church of Scotland's work in Europe is done alongside churches with which there have been many centuries of common worship and witness and also through the congregations within the Presbytery of Europe (www.europepresbytery.net).

One of the biggest stories in Europe has long been the influx of refugees. In this past year the events in Libya have meant that many more people have fled North Africa; many of them have roots in Sub-Saharan African countries. A very large number of these displaced people ended up on the island of Malta, where they were housed in aircraft hangers and shipping containers. The Church of Scotland and Methodist congregation of St Andrews in Valletta has been instrumental in finding ways to offer help to improve the immediate conditions for these refugees and to work with them to think how they might shape and plan for their future. They have exciting ideas, and with access to small loans they will be able to work their way into economic and social self-sufficiency and be a full part of Maltese society. The WMC is pleased that "Out of Africa ... Into Malta" has been accepted as a Guild project for the next three years and encourages all Guilds and congregations to hear more about it.

It is not only in Malta that the church deals with displaced people. In Rome the Church of Scotland congregation hosts a weekly programme, with ecumenical partners, providing 200-250 packed lunches to refugees three times each week. The Waldensian Church in Italy has a long history of welcoming, helping and speaking up for the refugees and asylum seekers who wash up on Italy's shores, like the ministry in Sicily helping and supporting people in the detention centres, and offering opportunities for a better future, for example, to trafficked women seeking to escape prostitution. In Rotterdam there is work with immigrant people, through the Mamre project, a friends group working with international students and the SKIN (Samen Kerk in Nederland) organisation of migrant churches and groups of Christians.

Working with immigrants and refugees is something common to many churches in Europe. The Moderator of the General Assembly visited partners in Hungary and Transcarpathian Ukraine in February of this year. In Budapest, in the old Scottish Mission building, the Moderator met refugees from Africa and Iran and Iraq, people who had fled their homelands, and after crossing multiple borders, arrived into Hungary and been befriended by St Columba's Church of Scotland working in partnership with

the Hungarian Reformed Church, to offer sanctuary, food and help to deal with the Hungarian government paperwork. Also, in both Hungary and Transcarpathian Ukraine, the Moderator met Roma people, people who are discriminated against in so many societies, and saw at first hand the work the churches are doing to offer the Roma opportunities for education, the development of life-skills, and to feel and sense hope for their future.

There is deep poverty within Transcarpathian Ukraine. The Reformed Church there, through the diaconal centre in Beregszasz, prepares over 100 meals per day for people who otherwise would have nothing to eat. In addition, it provides 140 school meals, runs a clothing store and, at Christmas, delivered 3,700 parcels to the needy. All this comes from a people who themselves have very little.

The Moderator was able to follow up and build upon these practical experiences some weeks later when he visited Brussels and was in discussion with leaders within the European Parliament and Commission to press them to take practical steps to support those who are least in our societies.


Just as in other areas of the world, part of the work of developing an understanding of the world church is done through twinings. There are twinings with the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brethren, the Reformed Church of Hungary and the Westphalian Church in northern Germany; and there are other congregations within these denominations which would welcome a Church of Scotland twin. Do you have an idea for a link within Europe? If so, do please get in touch with the department to discuss possible opportunities. The Moderator reflected on his visit to Ukraine, saying “Beregszasz is an area that we want to encourage our congregations to twin with. We would have much to learn from them about what it means to be the Church”. This is true of all our twinning links, and the council encourages you to seek out new friends in Europe as well as in other parts of our interconnected world.

Contacts in Europe: Discussion with -

1. Rev Matthew Z Ross, Presently General Secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland, Formerly Secretary of Church & Society Commission of Conference of European Churches, based in Brussels (2003-9) and former Moderator of Presbytery of Europe.
2. Rev John Cowie. At one time minister of Linktown Parish Church, Kirkcaldy, Thereafter serving some 25 years as Minister of Church of Scotland in Amsterdam – congregation of 400-500, average age 42 years, 12 elders each retiring after 12 years, 36 different languages, Presently minister of Stockbridge Church, Edinburgh.

An update from Louisa Turner, Development worker with Bennoch Church

Bennoch Community Garden Project

On Saturday 7th May the Open Door Team hosted a Welly Planting event outdoors and a Craft Fair indoors. The Welly Planting event was well attended by families with a host of children throwing colourful wellies in the Welly Throwing championships! We got messy making bird feeders from recycled materials and peanut butter. Fun was had hunting for the elusive wellies, whilst the competition reached fever pitch when the families were sent forth to fill their buckets with weeds. We also had a design a welly colouring competition which was very popular. Families were instructed on how to plant seeds into soil filled wellies and there are now quite a few around the Bennoch church gardens. The sun shone and brought people out into the garden, people came from the community who had never entered the gardens before, which was great. Children won prizes of lollipops, sweets medals and trophies. They also had the opportunity to have their faces painted for free. 

There was an information screen on how the community garden has developed so far, which included information on how a few hours of volunteering could transform your life. We are still keen to engage with the community to form teams for the Bennoch Community Garden project. If you would like to meet new people and enjoy the outdoors please contact myself on 01592 201723.

Our fundraising Craft Fair for the Bennoch Community Garden project, raised over £200. The monies will be used to purchase resources and equipment for volunteers to use. The Craft Fair was supported by an array of local crafters selling hand made products from wooden items, knits, clothes, cushions, handbags, pictures, jewellery and jam as well as paintings, house plants, cards and home-baking which were donated by members of the congregation for sale.

Messy Church

Our next Messy Church is on Sunday 29th May from 3.30 – 5.30 pm in the church halls. Everyone is welcome to join in, with fun messy activities, and stay for something to eat. Thereafter the dates have still to be confirmed so please watch out for details.

Messy Church at Bennoch, has been going from strength to strength, with increased numbers of new and returning families. If you would like more information please don't hesitate to have a chat about coming along or volunteering for the team. Contact me on 01592 201723 or see me most Thursdays at the Olive Branch café in the Methven hall from 11am-2pm. If there is no answer on the church phone please leave your name and number and I will get back to you.

Olive Branch Café

We have been host to Fife Carers, TWAM – Tools with a Mission and Fife Forum this year. The organisations have been supportive in the work of the Open Door Team and gave invaluable information to customers and volunteers alike. If you would like a particular organisation represented at the Olive Branch Café please let me know.

Other work ... I have visited Kirkcaldy North Primary a couple of times and joined them at Assembly. I am also engaging with the work of KART – Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust, who actively work with schools and churches. I have been continuing with networking and attending various conferences linked to my role and furthering the development of creating Bennoch Church as a Community Hub, to be used by the community during week days. If you would like to chat with me to find out more details, please seek me out - I am employed to work for you with the community.



As a supporter of KART you are very warmly invited to
our AGM on
Tuesday 7th June 2016 at
Abbotshall Parish Church Hall from
7.00pm-8.30pm



Come along and find out about all the work KART has been doing
this year in our schools and community



Tea/coffee and homebaking will be provided

the Joseph Rank trust

Bennochty Women's Group

The first meeting of 2016 was a games quiz night on 12th January. We held our Burns Supper on 26th January.

In February guest speakers were Dr Ali from Kirkcaldy Islamic Centre, St Mary's Road and Bob Docherty, who spoke about visiting Scotland's beautiful islands, showing us stunning pictures.

In March we visited the Adam Smith Theatre to see HMS Pinafore, had talks by Alison Wardlaw, who spoke about CLAPA, the Cleft Lip and Plate Association and by Anne McIntyre, who told us the history of Kirkcaldy Cinemas.

On 5th April we had a very successful Bunny Drive, raising £288. Debbie Swain gave an illustrated talk about the history and role of the Registrar on 19th April. We had another visit to the Theatre to see The King and I on 26th April.

Our AGM was on 3rd May. Our special guests on 10th May were Bennochty Bell Ringers. The ladies finished the session on 17th May, enjoying supper at the Steadings Restaurant.

Please speak to a member of the Group or phone Irene Wood on K'dy 267995 if you would like to attend any of our meetings. The Group meets in the Elgin Room usually every fortnight on a Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

The Group's 2016/2017 session begins on 6th September.

Irene Wood

Church Liaison Member

Congratulations to Mrs Elizabeth Craig, of 176 St Kilda Crescent - 102 years old on 12th March.



Deaths

26.02.16	Ray Stirling, 85 Greenloanings
09.03.16	Miss Muriel Sinclair, Marchmont Home, 24 Bennochty Road
21.04.16	Mrs Helen Goldie, Abbeyfield Home
07.05.16	Mrs Ruby Burnett, 29 Dovecott Crescent, Dysaart



Calling all gardeners - our community garden project is under way under the guidance of Louisa, but in the meantime our church gardens could do with some tidying up. Some plants and shrubs have already been planted (as well as a few wellies) but the weeds keep on growing and we could do with some volunteers to help keep these under control. If anyone can spare an occasional hour or so in the next few weeks to come along and do a bit of weeding this would be very much appreciated – in particular the borders along the pavement below the railings.



The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention,
'though gardeners know its true
Is when he made the goodies,
he made the baddies too.

All things spray and swatable.
disasters great and small,
All things Paraquatable,
the Lord God made them all.

The green fly on the roses,
the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills our noses,
He also gave us these.

The fungus on the goosegogs
the club foot on the greens,
The slugs that eat the lettuce
and chew the aubergines.

The drought that kills the fuchsias,
the frost the nips the buds
The rain that drowns the seedlings,
the blight that hits the spuds.

The midges and mosquitoes
the nettles and the weeds
The pigeons in the green stuff
the sparrows on the seeds.

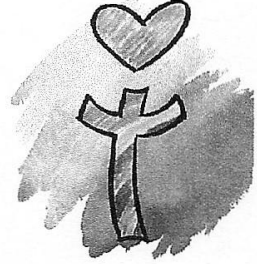
The fly that gets the carrots,
the wasp that eats the plums
How black the gardener's outlook
though green may be his thumbs.

But still we gardeners labour
'midst vegetables and flowers.
And pray what hits our neighbours'
will somehow bypass ours.

*(found in a church magazine in
Derbyshire)*

Sunday School

News



We all hope you enjoyed our participation in the Church Service on Palm Sunday. Our Bunny Rabbit and all his school friends did really well. The younger ones enjoyed singing their song.

Rebecca is enjoying her football (even when she has sore legs) playing for the Raith Rovers girls team.

Morgan's performance was enjoyed by all who saw the King and I in the Adam Smith theatre. We are waiting to hear what her next show will be.

William has now left Kirkcaldy High School and is still deciding on a University. His choice is between Dundee and Napier.

It was the Church Birthday on Sunday
15 May. We all enjoyed the poppers, balloons and
cake which was excellent. Of course we did tidy up
afterwards.

We are working on the work sheets for Christian Aid,
helping the children to understand the purpose of
Christian Aid. We shall also be blowing up Christian
Aid Balloons; always fun.

Cross out all the B, X, and Z letters to discover a
Christian Aid hidden message.

ZEBENXXSOMZETHIBXNGAZSSMABBLLASZAWO
RXMZCABNHEXLPCHZANXGEBTHZEBWZOXRLBD.

This term will finish on Sunday 26 June 2016 with
Prizegiving and our usual outdoor or indoor picnic.
The new session will start on Sunday 28 August 2016.
We hope you all have a safe, happy, and sunny
summer.

Summer Calendar

Saturday 29th May

Messy Church

Sunday 19th June

Communion Service &
Sunday School Prizegiving



Sunday 10th July

Joint Service in Bennochly Church

Sunday 17th July

Joint service in St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 24th July

Joint service in Linktown Church

Sunday 31st July

Joint service in Abbotshall Church



The Olive Branch Café will take a break during July and August while work is carried out in the church buildings. The last day for lunches will be Thursday 30th June. The Cafe hopes to open again on 25th August but please check press, intimations or website for the date nearer the time.

Please also check for dates of the next Messy Church as these are also subject to change.

All Change - we have a new altar cloth for our communion table. Made from cloth which Robin brought back from his visit to Zambia, it was made into a runner for the table and beautifully edged with the colours of the Zambian flag by Mary Stark. It was placed on the table during a recent Sunday morning service. Grateful thanks are due to Mary. If you haven't already seen this please feel free to have a look after the service any Sunday morning (except Communion).

FUNctional Fitness

A new session of fitness classes has started on Tuesdays in the Methven Hall for both adults and children, so if you want to get fit for the summer do please come along. Classes last 45 minutes and cost £5 for adults, £4 for children

Adult classes are at 10 a.m., 1.30 p.m. & 6.10 p.m.

Children's classes are	PIPS (P 1&2)	3.45 p.m.
	TANGERINES (P 3,4,5)	4.30 p.m.
and	ORANGES (P 6,7)	5.15 p.m.