

Bennochly Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

December 2016



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and hope that
2017 will be a good year for you.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

'From the 'Manse',

If you buy the *Fife Free Press*, you will know that I submit occasional articles under "*Heart of the matter*". The most recent being on the theme of Advent. In case the *Fife Free Press* is not on your shopping list here it is:

"It's the year of the unexpected! The pollsters get it wrong and we wake up to a new world. The European referendum is won by the 'Brexiters', Donald Trump wins the US presidential election and God is born into the world. What next?

People want change and so does God. Why else take the risk of Christmas? This Advent, prepare for the unexpected. No vote is required, just a change of heart. For Jesus offers us the example of a better world.

This was no power event. The story is about a child born into slightly embarrassing and humble beginnings. It is a strange story of hope, but that is how God has chosen to act.

God speaks to people who want change. The hope of a different way of life for them and for their families. We don't have a crystal ball to know this future, but the promise of God, in the birth of Christ, is an offer to all of us. In partnership with God, we can seek to build a better world of compassion, equality and justice. "

The church has lost the surprise of Christmas. The dramatic nature of the birth of God into the world now falls into the category of '*familiarity breeds contempt*'. If only we could read the story for the first time, and marvel at what the gospel writers were trying to say about God!

So even though we repeat the events of the Christmas story every year, let us not lose its wonder. Let us see beyond the story, to God. Let us see beyond the child, to Christ. Let us sing with the Angels, '*glory to God*', and bring our gifts to the Christ child.

This Advent, may we wait with patience and may we be surprised, at what God has done.

To you and yours, a most blessed Christmas,

Robin



World Mission

An invitation was sent by Robin to churches in the Presbytery supporting the work of Mission Partner, Jenny Featherstone.

We met recently with representatives from Abbotshall, Burntisland and Kinglassie/Auchterderran and from the Church of Scotland Office we were joined by Stephanie with information on twinning and Jenny Chenimbiri with comment on Zambia, Chodart College and Jenny's role there.

Members will take back to their Session the views and tenor of the meeting.

Q. Could we act together for certain fundraising events and for certain projects?

Q. Could we look at the realities of a twinning with St. Stephen's Church? It stands in the grounds of the College campus.

All worthy of discussion.

*Margaret Simpson,
Mission Correspondent.*

Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal.

Blythwood Care is a charity which provides love, support and practical help to those in need. For the last few months the congregation and friends have been busy covering shoeboxes with fancy paper and also collecting items to fill the boxes. Many things which are everyday items to us are luxuries to people living in poverty. Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, a hairbrush, a comb, a warm hat, scarf and gloves are collected for the boxes, and of course sweets and a toy are added for children. The boxes can be filled for men, women, elderly people and of course boys and girls.

Dunnikier School also took part and filled 51 boxes and 105 boxes were filled by the congregation and friends. This will bring a smile and joy to many people at Christmas, and for many it will be the only present they will receive. The boxes filled by the school and church are already on their way to Hungary. By filling a shoebox you are giving hope to someone in need. Thank you for being part of it.



Free Will Offering Envelopes - Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, FWO 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 Diane White, our Gift Aid Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Team.

Gift Day

The final figure for donations from members at the October Gift Day was £2,648.31. Thanks to all who contributed and thanks also to those who signed the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope allowing us to increase this amount by claiming back 25p in the pound from HMRC. This is an excellent way of increasing what you give to the church if you are a tax payer, without it costing you a penny more. Please consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration which covers all monies that you give to the church and helps to increase our income. Please also be aware, however, that if you have previously signed a Gift Aid declaration but now no longer pay tax, the Treasurer will need to be notified of this. Grateful thanks from the Finance Team

ANGEL TM (Access Now Gods Eternal Love!) is the world's biggest ever loyalty card.

Without even filling in an application, everyone has been given a unique birth date barcode, which tracks all "credits" and "debits" over a lifetime.

"As with most loyalty cards its rewards are not gained by just browsing or visiting - a purchase must be made: but since everything is free, there is no reason why everyone should not buy into salvation," said Gabriel, CEO (Cherub Earth Operations) of ANGEL TM.



"Rewards can be redeemed at any moment offering 'everything you wanted from life and a little bit more'.

There are two unique features to the ANGEL TM card. At any time, just by a simple use of a password (S*O*R*R*Y), all debits will be swiped clear. There is of course a final bonus of an infinite number of Rewards to be enjoyed forever."

Louisa Turner, Development Worker - Update

Networking has been continuing with national and local groups, establishing and strengthening stronger ties in the community, to raise our profile of Bennochty Church, becoming known as an active Community Hub. This is proving very productive as I and the Open Door Team were invited to 'The Gate Project' in Alloa recently to see their great community work. This followed from 'The Gate', hearing about Bennochty Church and their outreach to the community. Look up 'The Gate Project' online as it is very inspirational and aspirational. However, following their visit to Bennochty Church and Kirkcaldy, they felt that they could make changes to their project to enhance it further!

From contacts made in this last year, I have been able to access different resources and invaluable advice for our Bennochty Community Garden Project through various support groups.

The Messy Church team of volunteers, have been acknowledged as working well together and have been invited to share their growing confidence and expertise of delivering Messy Church, with Abbotshall Church. A team from Abbotshall Church has been visiting and gaining knowledge and experience from interacting with the Bennochty Church team for the last few sessions. The two teams have been working well together. It is hoped that we shall hold Messy Church sessions monthly rather than six weekly, in the near future, and alternative sessions would be held in Abbotshall Church halls.

Our next Messy Church is scheduled for 11th December, from 3.30 – 5.30pm, at Bennochty Church. Everyone is welcome to join in with our Christmas theme, where we shall be building a life size stable, having fun with games and dressing up and of course lots of glitter will be used with the crafts! We shall also be sharing a delicious festive feast to finish off our session!

Bennochty Community Garden is being developed as we speak. On a visit to the gardens you will notice that some trees have recently been planted. A mini orchard of plum, cooking apple and other apple trees were planted by Primary 4 from Dunnikier Primary School, with the aid of a couple of people from Bennochty Church. The children first received hospitality at the Olive Branch Café, before going outside to work in teams, digging and planting the trees.

In the Spring, we should see some of the bulb artwork appear, which is being planted in the front of the Church by pupils from Dunnikier Primary.

Kirkcaldy North Primary school has not been forgotten and discussions are underway to engage in fun activities with pupils in the New Year. This has come about from some members of the congregation approaching me, stating that they would like to resurrect former links with the school.

If you would be interested in working with children, as a one off on our projects, speak to myself or Rev McAlpine in the first instance.

If you would like me to explore possibilities of future community engagement or create new specific groups of interest, please contact me at any-time or speak to me on a Thursday at the Olive Branch Café.

Happy Home Recipe



4 cups of Love
2 cups of Loyalty
3 cups of Forgiveness
1 cup of Friendship
5 spoons of Hope
2 spoons of Tenderness
4 quarts of Faith
1 barrel of Laughter



Method

Take Love and Loyalty, mix thoroughly with Faith, blend it with Tenderness, Kindness and Understanding. Add Friendship and Hope. Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter. Bake it with Sunshine. Serve generous helpings.

Goods for Refugees

Local organisations are combining to collect goods which will be driven direct to refugee camps in what is one of the worst humanitarian crises we have ever seen. Donations of winter clothing and footwear for adults and children, blankets, sleeping bags, camping equipment, toiletries, baby food and nappies, etc can be left at the Mormon Church in Winifred Crescent from 10 am – 3 pm on Saturdays 28th January & 25th February for direct delivery to camps in France, Greece, Syria and Lebanon.

An uplift has already taken place on 26th November.



The Organist

Who comes to church, rain hail or snow?

The Organist

Who plays too fast, or plays too slow?

The Organist

Who pulls the wrong stops in or out?

Plays softly when we want to shout?

And yet we cannot do without

The Organist

Who waits in patience for the hymns?

The Organist

Anticipates the minister's every whim?

The Organist

Who is available to play

For weddings, funerals and Christmas Day

The Organist

Before you either praise or blame

The Organist

Decide if you could do the same as

The Organist

Amazing grace to them is given

For after they have nobly striven

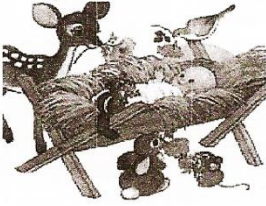
There is a special place in Heaven for – the Organist.



Deaths

16.09.16	Mrs Jean Scott, 6 Loanhead Place.
08.10.16	Mrs Mary Killoran, Elizabeth House, Boreland Road.
22.10.16	Miss Rosemary Cox, 68 Dunnikier Road.
19.11.16	Thomas Harrow, 1 Melville Place





SUNDAY SCHOOL

NEW START

Welcome to Owen Drummond aged 3 who joined us at the beginning of this session.

BIRTHDAYS

We have celebrated the following birthdays.

Callum 6 on 24th October

Mollie 8 on 24th October

Rebecca 11 on 11th November.

We hope they all had a very happy birthday.

THANKS

Thanks to the lady who won the Quiz and very kindly donated her prizemoney to the Sunday School. Thanks again from all in the Sunday School.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is nearly upon us. We have been practicing for our participation in the Church Service on 11th December.

The children are all very keen to perform and we hope you come to support them. We shall then have our usual party, fun, food, games and hopefully a visit from a very busy Santa with a present for all.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS

Our holidays are 18th, 25th December and 1st January.

We hope to see everyone back on 8th January and will welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Christmas Calendar

December 3 rd	Musical Evening
December 4 th	Family 'gift' service
December 11 th	Contributions by our Sunday School Messy Church
December 18 th	Lessons and carols led by our choir
December 24 th	Watch night service @ 11.15 pm for 11.30 pm
December 25 th	Family Christmas Day Service
January 1 st 2017	Joint Service at Linktown Church



The Service on Sunday 4th December is our **Gift Service** to support the work of the Salvation Army in Kirkcaldy. Please bring a gift or toy for a child, preferably over 9 years old or a baby up to a year. All gifts must be new and unwrapped and will be distributed locally by the Salvation Army to the needy in the district. If you would prefer to give a voucher or a donation please put this in an envelope marked Gift/Toy service and hand it to Senga Booth. No clothes please.



Time, Talent & Tenors

Bennochty Parish Church

Saturday 3rd December at 7 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of music and culture in preparation for Christmas in aid of Church funds. Tickets, price £8 including a glass of wine or soft drink, are available at the Olive Branch Café on Thursday morning or by contacting opendoor@bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk.



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 1100 am – 2.00 pm for teas, coffees & home baking. Lunches served from 12 noon.
Our internet café is also open from 11.00–2.00.



Free Wi Fi.