

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

March 2017



Spring is nearly with us, and Easter is not far behind. Signs of renewal in the gardens and fields remind us of the resurrection of Jesus and the hope which that brings to us all. We wish all our readers a very happy Easter, and also a very happy summer holiday in the months ahead.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

March 2017

'From the 'Manse',

Easter is always associated with new life. In spring we can see this as winter passes, and nature begins its growth for another year. Life that was hidden becomes visible. What seemed dead, takes on colour and growth.

If Jesus' death on the cross was obvious, it was only when he was hidden in a tomb that the miracle of resurrection took place. For the early disciples of Jesus, we are told they could speak with him and for Thomas, even touch his wounds.

For us, the visible Christ is replaced by the Spirit of God, and what was seen and touched is replaced by faith in what we hope for, but invisible to our senses.

Our journey through Lent is intertwined with the growth of spring. May God speak to us, of his promise of new life in Jesus Christ.

With all God's blessing,

Robin



Joint Holy Week Services (all starting at 7 p.m.)

Tuesday 11th April
Wednesday 12th April
Thursday 13th April
Friday 14th April

St Bryce Kirk
Abbotshall Church
Auchtertool Church
Bennochy Church



Lent Studies

There will be no @ the café studies over the next few weeks as Robin is not available on Thursdays. They will resume as part of the town centre joint Lent studies on 9th March. The Lent study course dates are Linktown Church on Monday evenings at 7 pm, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March, and at Bennochy Church on Thursday mornings at 11 am, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March. The final session will take place at Abbotshall Church at the beginning of Holy week on 10th April at 7 pm. A study booklet is available from Robin.



Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas: peas of mind, peas of heart, peas of soul.

Plant four rows of squash: squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.

Plant four rows of lettuce: lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another.

No garden without turnips: turnip for Church, turnip for meetings, turnip to help one another.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

To conclude our garden we must have thyme: thyme for God, thyme for study, thyme for prayer.

(Thanks to Dougie Buck, Alva Parish Church)

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 2017

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 19th March 2017

Our next Gift Day, which will coincide with Bennochys Birthday Service and Communion, is on March 19th 2017. A special envelope will be delivered to you by your District Elder before this date. These envelopes are printed with a Gift Aid Declaration on the back and so, if you are a tax payer and want your donation to be Gift Aided, please make sure you fill in your details, even if you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration Form. If you are unable to come on this Sunday but still wish to contribute to the Gift Day Appeal, please put your donation in the special envelope and put it in the collection plate when you are next at Church, or hand it to your District Elder on their Communion visit.

An important part of our income is generated by our two Gift Days each year. The rationale is that as a family we gift twice yearly, Christmas and Birthdays, so we consider our Church family no different. The total amount raised at the October Gift Day last year was just over £2,648. A tremendous amount.

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 Bennochys

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 at any time from Diane White or Margaret Kinnear 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 Bennochys 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

Louisa Turner, Development Worker - Update

The Messy Church session for February was based on Jesus' statement "I Am the Light of the World". We had many crafts and activities, as well as a celebration time based on different forms of light and how they help us in this world of darkness. The numbers of families attending are encouraging with new faces each time.

The Messy Church dates have not yet been fixed for the next couple of sessions – please look out for news.

The Community Garden Project has just been with Dunnikier School children. We have two dates for March and one for April in the diary. We will be creating mosaic log tops to coincide with the children's Roman project, planting baskets and planters for the Spring and planting herbs and vegetable seeds in jam jars.

The Board Game Club with Kirkcaldy North Primary has been going well each Thursday. We have three committed volunteers and myself and after juice and a biscuit we play games like Monopoly, Scrabble, Frustration and Connect Four amongst others.

If anyone would like a chat about what I actually do in more detail, you can find me most Thursdays at the Olive Branch cafe from 11am-2pm.

TWAM

The latest news bulletin from Tools With A Mission has been published and a copy is displayed in the vestibule of the church. It is an interesting read and shows how to dispose of these old tools that are lying in your hut or garage gathering rust.

People in Africa and elsewhere in the world are desperate to use these tools and you can help them (and do a bit of clearing clutter) if you donate them to TWAM.

Take a few minutes to read the booklet and consider what you can do to help. If you are in doubt how to go about this, speak to Jim Marshall who will point you in the right direction.



WOMEN'S GROUP

The ladies of the Group had a varied programme during the first part of their 2016-17 syllabus, beginning with a walk around Silverburn Park, Leven on 30th August. In September we enjoyed a musical evening with Ronnie McNeil. Our Family Quiz Night in October was a great success. We had 3 guest speakers, Joan Forrest, a guide from Kellie Castle, Lindsay Clark, who spoke on healthy eating/cooking for one and Joyce Leggate, who told us about her life as a midwife. Members visited the Adam Smith Theatre to see 'Fiddler on the Roof' in November and we held our Christmas Dinner at the Kingswood Hotel, Burntisland in December.

In January, at our Members' Craft Night, under the instructions of Pat Beveridge and Margaret Philp, we made hedgehogs out of old paperback books. We also had a successful Burns Supper on 24th January with Ronnie McNeil piping in the haggis. On 7th February Bill Harvie from Kirkcaldy 4 All, spoke enthusiastically about proposed changes to the High Street/ Esplanade area of the town and members visited Kirkcaldy Auld Kirk, the oldest building in the town, guided around the historic Church by Rosemary Potter of the Kirkcaldy Auld Trust on 21st February.

In March we look forward to a talk on diabetes, silent auction/pamper night and another visit to the Adam Smith Theatre to see 'Pink Champagne'.

On Tuesday 4th April at 6.30 p.m. the Group will be holding their annual **Bunny Drive** in the Methven Hall. Tickets, £4 adults and £2 children, can be had from members of the Group. Why don't you come along to this evening of excitement and fun for all the family, with prizes, raffle and a delicious light supper.



The ladies will visit Dunfermline Bowling Alley on 18th April. Our AGM is on 2nd May and we finish the session with our closing dinner on 16th May.

We meet, usually every fortnight, at 7.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room. New members welcome.

Irene Wood,
Church Liaison Member
(tel. 267995)

Christian Aid Week 2017

Christian Aid Week is from 14th – 20th May. Bennochy Church will not be participating in the door to door collections this year but will hopefully still hold other fundraising events. More news nearer the time.

Why go to Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday. “I’ve gone for 30 years now”, he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one of them. So I Think I’m wasting my time and the ministers are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

This started a real controversy in the “letters” column. Much to the delight of the editor it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

“I’ve been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to Church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead by now. When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!

Deaths

01.02.17	Mrs Ella Rice, Abbeyfield House.
07.02.17	Mrs Kathy Taylor, 3 Torphin Place
09.02.17	Mrs Elizabeth Baxter, 31 Cramond Gardens
19.02.17	Mrs Margaret Paxton, 39 Kennedy Crescent
22.02.17	Mrs Penny McIntosh, Wilby House



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Christmas holidays are over and we have welcomed the children back to Sunday School. We have 9 on our register. Unfortunately they do not all come on the same Sunday, however we are happy to see the children when they do come to Sunday School. We are hoping to welcome Sarah Macleod, her parents have made enquiries about her joining us.

We all hope you enjoyed our participation in the Christmas Service. The children all like to perform and they do a really good job. We then had our usual party, joined by the children in the creche; food, fun, games and a lively visit from Santa, with a present for everyone. Thanks Santa. We would also like to thank Nan Hazel for the lovely knitted gifts she gave to the children.

Since our last newsletter we have had 5 Birthdays Brodie Green, Reece MacDonald, Ruby Stevenson, Mrs Neilson and Mrs Hugh.

Our Easter Holidays will be 2 and 9 April.

We all wish you a very happy time at Easter.

Spring Calendar

March 3 World Day of Prayer
March 9 Lent Studies at Bennochy (4 weeks)
March 19 Communion Service
Gift Day



April 4 Bunny Drive
April 14 (Friday) Holy Week service in Bennochy Church, 7 p.m.
May 14-20 Christian Aid Week

Bruce Davies Concert

The Concert on Saturday 21st January was a great success and much enjoyed by all. The night had a distinctly Scottish flavour, with many Burns' songs, including a duet with Sandra, and of course haggis 'n' neeps in the interval. The sum of £508 was raised for church funds, due in no small part to Bruce, who very generously donated back part of his share of the ticket sales.

Thanks to all who assisted in any way on the night – Ronnie McNeil, who piped in the haggis, our team of catering ladies who prepared and served the haggis and of course Bruce for his time and talent.



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.

- Next Newsletter: 28th May 2017