

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

June 2018



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.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

'From the 'Editor',

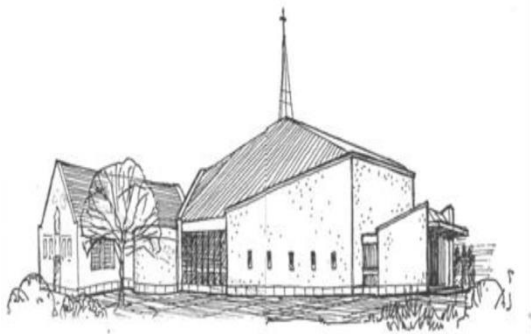
Unfortunately, as we go to press, the minister has not been able to contribute to this edition due to a combination of holiday and attendance at the General Assembly in Edinburgh.

The last few months have seen considerable changes in the church building - see later pages. Our thanks go to our fabric team for their overview of these works, especially to Jim Neilson, who seems to be living in the building just now!

The lack of access to the Methven hall over the Christmas period because of the ceiling problems was quite a set-back for all the hall users and we thank everyone for their patience and forbearance.

Big issues are being discussed at the General Assembly, not least a proposed ten-year survival plan for the church, apparently aimed at off-setting dwindling numbers and falling revenues. The plan is reported to accept that a lack of young worshippers poses a real challenge to the very existence of the Church, and this includes people in their twenties and thirties. We can only pray that they will receive God's guidance in tackling these important matters, and it is good that our minister is present at these debates.

Ragnar



Mission Partner in Zambia – Jenny Featherstone

These are trying times for Jenny as you read below.

We keep her in our prayers and await further news from her Partner Plan Newsletter to the Church of Scotland, which is then distributed to all congregations who support her as Mission Partner.

From : jenny.featherstone@gmail.com
Date : 22/04/2018 - 18:50 (GMTDT)
To : m.simpson53@btinternet.com
Subject : Re: Bennochy Parish Church, Kirkcaldy-greetings

Hi Margaret,

Thank you for your timely reminder, I will try and get a newsletter out to all in the next couple of weeks. Life, alas continues to be anything but routine ... we currently have 70 people who are being government sponsored for a 14 week course. This should happen a couple of times a year if we keep our nose clean and continue to get good results, but doing the maths that is only for 6 months of the year and it is becoming hard to get people to pay for training (albeit subsidised) when they know they can get it for free.... so we are in the middle of a big rethink on how we do training at Chodort. We have just had our German sponsors (Cho - Dort = Choma & Dortmund) out for about a week and they I think will help us with our deficit this year. (The recession is biting hard and the carpentry workshop has only taken a fraction of what was expected.

Currently I am thinking of changing my car - the little RAV has done around 215,000 now and these roads take their toll, so please pray that I get a car that is reliable and useful.(I have my sights on a Kluger, but cars from Japan cost on average £4000 more than the book price (2000 transport and 2000 government tax + 16% vat!!)

Many thanks for the update on Bennochy and Kirkcaldy, I am actually coming home on the 11th for a couple of weeks. Carol discovered cancer in February and has had the all clear from the op but starts her radiotherapy on the Monday after I arrive, so hopefully I can be a bit of a support.

love to all

Jenny



Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland

Meldrum Road
Kirkcaldy,
Fife,
KY2 5HR

Minister (01592) 643518
Session Clerk (01592) 200179
Church (01592) 201723

TO ALL MEMBERS BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH KIRKCALDY

May 2018

GIFT DAY, SUNDAY 17th June 2018

The first of our two annual Gift Days is a little later this year and will coincide with the June Communion Service, which is on 17th June 2018. The usual Gift Day envelope will be delivered to you along with the latest Newsletter 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. In the line marked 'Name of Charity' please remember to mark this as **Bennochy Parish Church** so that we can claim back the tax on your donation.

This first Gift Day is a little later than the Bennochy Church Birthday in March but as we were at the beginning of our Fabric Improvement programme it was decided to change the date for this year. An important part of our income is generated by our two Gift Days each year. Our Christian giving is a sign and a measure of our Christian faith and commitment to God's work.

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.

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

If the Bible were on TV...Luke 15 All in the Family

The Two Brothers Pub had been a family business in the town for as long as anyone could remember. No doubt at one time, it had belonged to two brothers, but a man with a daughter and son had owned it for twenty years.

His daughter worked in the pub from leaving school and had learnt every part of the business from barmaid to book-keeper. She lived, breathed and ate the business and appeared to have no time for anything or anyone else.

But her younger brother stayed on at school, went to university and then announced he wanted to travel the world before settling down, if ever.

So his father divided up his estate, giving the business to his daughter and cash to his son who immediately went off without so much as a backward glance or a second thought.

Over the next few years his Facebook showed him settled somewhere in Asia for life on the beach. He spent his days swimming and sunning and his nights dancing and drinking.

And life went on.

Then news came of a terrible earthquake in Asia, but not a word from the son. Despite frantic phone calls, after a year and a day, the family feared the worst. The father, however, never gave up, and hoped against hope, for the best.

One Monday night, while his daughter was at her night class in small business management, the father received a phone call from a friend.

“I’ve just seen your son getting off the train and it looks like he’s heading your way!”

Immediately, the father ran out and brought him back to the pub, hugging and kissing him, crying and laughing with joy.

“Drinks on the house!” he cried. “Crack open the champagne, for my son has come back from the dead!”

Good news travels fast, and soon the pub was full with half the town drinking, singing and dancing, celebrating the return of the long lost son.

An hour later, his sister arrived, wondering why the pub was so busy on a Monday, and why there were so many people inside she could hardly get in the door

When her father saw her, he ran over.

“Come in! Come In! This is a night to remember!” he shouted above the noise.” Your brother is back from the dead. Come and join the party”

But she stood at the door and would come no further.

“It’s not fair” she said. “You’ve always spoiled him. I work hard and you never so much as ask if I want a night off. And don’t think I haven’t seen you crying into your beer on that son of yours birthday, or Christmas or New Year because he isn’t here. He’s your favourite, always was and always will be.”

And she turned to go.

Her father put his arm round her and spoke softly.

“Why don’t you come and talk to your brother? He’s had a terrible time and lost everything in that earthquake. And what’s more, he’s come to his senses and now realises that home is where his heart is. Family is more important than fame. It’s people that count, not money. That’s what he’s saying now... All he wants is a job here, nothing else. He didn’t ask for this party, I did. He says he doesn’t deserve anything from us at all.

But none of this matters really. What’s important is he’s home, safe and sound, and the family is back together again.

And love.... Maybe you and I are too alike: we do a lot but say too little. Actions speak louder than words for us. But you know I love you, don’t you, and everything here, all I have, is all yours, always has been. Come on, families matter. Families stick together in good times and bad. This is good news for all of us.”

His daughter forced a smile.

“Whatever you say... I love you too dad. But... I need time to think this through. And no doubt someone will have to clear up this mess and open up tomorrow as usual. See you in the morning. Good night.”

(Drums roll...)



Changes to the Methven Hall



After a long period of upheaval in the halls and sanctuary we are now starting to enjoy the benefits.

The collapse of the ceiling before Christmas in the Methven Hall spurred us on to rethink the design of the hall. Readers will no doubt be aware that we were able to take advantage of a substantial legacy left to the church to construct a lowered ceiling with improved thermal insulation and acoustic ceiling tiles.

The ceiling also hosts a spread of loudspeakers, lights and a hearing loop system. A built-in projector and screen expands the potential use of the hall and will hopefully generate more income for the church. One such use, as a venue for talks or meetings, is illustrated in the photo.

The improved acoustics also help with musical events. As an example, the community choir, nearly 70 strong, is now able to meet in this hall.

Changes in the Sanctuary



The photo shows the new suspended light frames in the sanctuary. Members of the congregation will be aware that we were able to obtain a 70% grant from FET to help improve the glazing and replace the lighting in the Sanctuary. We now have a much more energy efficient building plus a spectacular set of LED long-life lights.

We are well on our way to raising our share of this bill. The Fabric Improvement fund now stands at an impressive £11,829 after only 5 months of a 2 year project. Seven members have set up standing orders thus spreading their contribution over the 2 year period.

Contribution envelopes are available in the vestry for anyone who would like to add to this fund. A Gift Aid declaration is included for tax payers which helps to increase their contribution by 25p in the pound. Standing Order forms are available from George Drummond or Margaret Kinnear.

Intergenerational Developments in the Community

Louisa Turner – Bennochty Parish Church Development Worker

The focus for the past few months has been forging and developing links with the younger generation in our community. This is part of our Year of Young People 2018 pledge. Celebrating engaging with young people in our congregation, community and linked schools.

Young and old came together for our May Messy Church as we celebrated the Royal wedding. There were many wedding orientated activities, from making wedding cakes, wedding hats, horse shoes, bird seed cannons, decorating wine glasses to having fun dressing up in the photo-booth! The wedding feast was scrumptious with a real wedding cake and chocolate fountains! The team and families present all had a good afternoon, playing with water outside as we improvised the illustration of Jesus' first miracle of the Wedding at Cana and how he turned water into wine.

The team would like to encourage more families to join us at Messy Church - please spread the word. Messy Church is for all ages with a team member in her nineties and another in her teens and the youngest family visitor at Messy Church being only 5 days old! We welcome everyone for an afternoon of fun, games and hearing about how God is relevant today.

Our next Messy Church is going to incorporate the whole community, as once again we host the community open day at Messy Sunday. The young people in Bennochty Church congregation will have an active part in the upcoming Messy Sunday on 10th June. An interactive church service will lead onto the usual refreshments in the Methven Hall. The Community Choir will be singing at 1.30pm, following the BBQ to start off the afternoon of games and activities for all ages, finishing with Kirkcaldy North Primary school choir at 3pm. Keep praying for a dry sunny day!



The sunshine is out (at the time of writing) and spirits are lifted in the Community Garden. For the past few weeks activity has taken place at the end of the kitchen wall. Take a stroll around the back of the church to see the beautiful piece of work created by Kerry Wilson (Community Artist) and pupils from Balwearie High School and Dunnikier Primary School, funded by our generous funder – Murray J. Napier Fund.

The design was taken from elements from entrants to our mural design competition, which saw designs by Abbeyfield Care Home, pupils from both schools and members of the community. The judging panel included myself,

the minister Rev Robin McAlpine, Kerry Wilson, congregation members and members from the community including a representative from Hammond Care, Dementia Centre.

Following the brief - a representation of our Scottish heritage has been depicted in the form of a unicorn, the town of Kirkcaldy is silhouetted, and God's creation is seen in the butterflies and flowers. The mural is phase one for that part of the garden for this year. Next year we hope to create a sensory garden with our partners.

Another change in the Community Garden has been the raised planters next to the benches. These will soon be painted and planted up to add extra colour. The planters have been funded from the Green Token Asda Fund and were created through our partnership with Growing Kirkcaldy by Les Soper.

The Bennoch Community Garden project has been slow to show fruits of background activity. However it will soon be flourishing with activity, with small changes taking place.

Activity of a different sort has been taking place with our partnership with Kirkcaldy North Primary School which has been concentrating on intergenerational work forming friendships to strengthen the community. Relationships are being strengthened between church volunteers and children who attend the weekly Board Game After School Club. The children enjoy the one to one interactions and also the refreshments provided by the Open Door Project, who provide sandwiches, snacks, fruit, biscuits and sometimes cake along with juice from monies raised through the Olive Branch café. If you attend the café, be assured that as you eat your delicious food, your monetary contribution is going towards providing a much appreciated 'tea' for children in our community.

The Get Together Group meet on a Thursday afternoon from 2-4pm in the church halls and everyone is welcome for a blether over a cuppa. Members can be found becoming competitive over a game of cards or dominos and eves dropping on the topics of conversation can bring a smile or tear of laughter to any dry eye. If you have a Thursday afternoon free, I would recommend you pop your head around the door for a very friendly welcome.

The easy going Get Together group were a good fit as Kirkcaldy North Primary wanted to engage with the wider community on an intergenerational level. A visit to the school to see the Nativity production delighted all those who attended. However it was felt that the children would benefit from

visiting the Get Together group at the church. Over the past few months, various activities have taken place with pupils of different ages and the Get Together Group, which have included singing, painting, and creating castles from limited materials. Next month the children will lead chair yoga, which they have been learning about. Mixing with children keeps you young and gives you an insight into how the younger generation view the world today! For some children who do not have grandparents living close by these interactions are so beneficial.

The Get Together Group along with the mature volunteers of the Board Game Club and residents of Abbeyfield Care Home were invited to see a play with the children from Kirkcaldy North nursery. The church was the venue and the play was *The Attic*. The Methven hall was transformed into an attic and the opening scene showed a granny and her granddaughter searching for something but the granny couldn't remember what she was searching for. As each box was opened floods of memories came back to the granny and the mature adults in the audience. Much laughter was had by watching the children's reactions to various items and the actors on stage and in turn the children laughing at the adults laughing at the children! The production finished with a pretend tea party whereby each audience member was encouraged to wear a hat of yester-year. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, which was funded by Kirkcaldy North Primary.

For the past month, weekly intergenerational connections have been made through our school link of 'Adopt a Grandparent', as members of the church have enjoyed Book Bug sessions with nursery, primary 1 and primary 2 children of Kirkcaldy North Primary. Book Bug sessions were delivered by Fife Cultural Trust at the school and Kirkcaldy Galleries. Fun was had with 'adopted' grandchildren singing old familiar nursery rhymes and learning new ones, playing with lycra and hearing a story. Encouraging the joy of reading, evidence has suggested that a child who knows 4 nursery rhymes by the age of four years will be in advance of their reading age by the time they are eight years old. Members of Bennoch Church are encouraging the raising of literacy attainment in our neighbourhood by simply being involved with the Book Bug sessions. Volunteering on a low level can have a huge impact on an individual child's life. The sessions just require you to turn up and enjoy the special bonding experience – no preparation or homework is required of you. Should the Book Bug sessions be repeated in the future I would highly recommend you sign up to be an 'adopted' grandparent - imagine the difference you could make!



Christian Aid

We have great pleasure in announcing that the Soup and Sweet Lunch on Sunday 13th May raised £595.80, and a further £248 was received from the retiral collection at the funeral of the late Ann Wooton.

A collection at the morning service on Sunday 20th May realised £400 and a further £67.50 will be reclaimed from Gift Aid – making the grand total for the charity £1,311.30.

Our most sincere thanks to everyone who participated in and/or supported this fund raiser in any way whatsoever.

Angela Stewart, Charlie & Christine Low

Bennochy Bell Ringers

Another interesting year has just finished for the season.

We can read music mostly!

We can ring two bells each mostly!

We can meet the challenges of chords definitely!

We can face the music most certainly!



Classical pieces have included:

Dvorak - part of New World Symphony

Greig - 'Morning', Pier Gynt Suite

Schumann - 'Wild Rider' + the clip-clop of hooves on a Baobab nut shell

Haydn - St Anthony's Chorale.

Fun pieces have included:

'Daisy, Daisy' Edelweiss Men of Harlech

We often start with a Carillon of Bells and finish with the Doxology!

Anyone interested?

Deaths


27.02.18 John McGarry, 111 Cumbrae Terrace, KY2 6SQ

16.03.18 Mrs Ann Wooton, Marchmont Home, KY2 5QY

23.03.18 Layton Aird, Methven House, KY1 1YQ



Summer Calendar

June 10	Barbecue & Messy Church	
June 17	Communion & Gift Day Mac n Movie	
June 24	Sunday School Prizegiving & Picnic	

- Services in July will be held as usual in the town centre churches. Dates and venues have still to be finalised.

Community Choir Performance - The choir, which is now around 70 strong, will be giving a half-hour performance in the church on Sunday 10th June, at 1.30 p.m. This follows the planned BBQ, and will lead in to the Messy Church activities.



Sunday School

The Sunday School have had a busy year and we have all enjoyed their participation in the morning services. They finish for the summer on Sunday 24th June with their Prizegiving, followed by the customary indoor picnic with games.

MAC n MOVIE - coming to a screen near you for one day only!

The **Green & Quirky** Group is running an event on Sunday 17th June from 3.00 - 5.30 p.m. We will show a movie in the Methven Hall followed by macaroni & cheese & garlic bread, tea/coffee.

Because of licence restrictions, we are not permitted to advertise the title of the movie outside the premises or on posters, but word of mouth is allowed!

This is a ticket only event and there are only 50 tickets, which are available from Pat, Rona or Dianne Waddell, at the Olive Branch Café on a Thursday or by email at diannebwaddell@live.co.uk

Please support the first of such events in our newly refurbished community hall.

- Next Newsletter: 30th September 2018



<p>Sunday 17th June 3pm—5.30pm</p>	<p>Bennochy Church, Elgin St</p>	<p>TICKETS £6 Mac n cheese + tea/coffee after Movie</p>
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PLEASE NOTE IT IS NOT PERMISSABLE TO ADVERTISE THE TITLE OF THE MOVIE

An inspiring true story begins at the precipice of World War II as, within days of becoming PM of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, must face one of his most turbulent and defining trials: exploring a negotiated peace treaty with Nazi Germany, or standing firm to fight for the ideals liberty and freedom of a nation. As the unstoppable Nazi forces roll across Western Europe and the threat of invasion is imminent, and with an unprepared public, a sceptical King, and his own party plotting against him, Churchill must withstand his darkest hour, rally a nation, and attempt to change the course of world history.



WINSTON CHURCHILL = Gary Oldman
BAFTA Best Actor Winner 2018
CLEMMIE - Kristin Scott Thomas
KING GEORGE VI - Ben Mendelsohn

PG

ENTRY BY TICKET ONLY, AVAILABLE AT CHURCH or OLIVE BRANCH CAFÉ