

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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NOVEMBER 2021

NEWSLETTER

From the manse

Following on from last year's General Assembly, decisions were made about what is called Presbytery planning. I want to say something about this, to let you know what is happening at a Presbytery level.

The first thing to say is, on 1st January 2021, the new presbytery of Fife was formed, bringing together the Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, and St. Andrews. Like all Presbyteries, it was given a reduced number of Ministry posts - about a 35-40% reduction. As you can imagine, this will have huge implications for congregations.

The General Assembly also said that Presbyteries need to create new "Presbytery Mission Plans" by 31st December 2022, to be implemented by 1st January 2025. As the name suggests, these plans must have a strong emphasis on mission.

Up to now, the Presbytery had produced a road map, giving a timetable of things that need to happen to create this new plan - the first being a Kirk Session meeting, looking at the 5 marks of Mission. These are listed below.

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

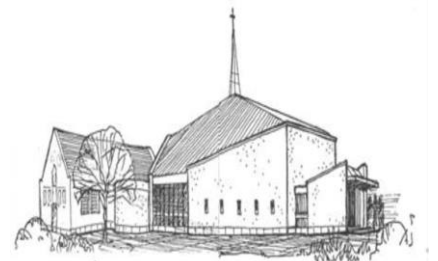
The next stage is a Kirkcaldy wide cluster group meeting, with representatives of all the Kirkcaldy churches. This to be facilitated by an organization called, *Place for Hope*.

So, what decisions need to be made?:

1. A model of readjustment – how the parishes of Kirkcaldy will come together. For example, St Andrew's and St John's came together in a Union to form Bennochty.
2. A reduction in the number of ministries posts. At the moment the 'Town Centre' has four posts. This will almost certainly be reduced.
3. The difficult issue of closure and disposal of buildings. We have too many buildings to maintain, and they are not always in the right place.

None of these decisions will be easy.

There is a parallel between decisions around climate change and



Presbytery planning, and what the Queen said to the leaders and delegates at COP 26 I think applies. She said, a leader needs to be a statesman, who goes above politics, and beyond national boundaries, for the good of others. Mission is not about 'our building' or 'our minister'. It is about making decisions for the good of God's kingdom, here in Kirkcaldy, and beyond.

It is hoped that a draft plan will come to the Presbytery next June and will be agreed in September 2022. We have been asked to engage fully with the process and we will keep you informed of what is happening over the next year. Any major decisions will need congregational approval.

The times they are a changing. Exciting? Uncertain? Fearful? As people of faith we travel into the unknown with hope.

Any comments you wish to pass on to me, please do so.

Please stay connected. Stay safe. Till the next time.

Robin

Bennochzy Zambia Appeal 21

Over the past few years, at Harvest, Bennochzy has donated money to support the work of our missionary partner, Jenny Featherstone in Choma, Zambia. Jenny was asked what project we might support in 2021 and this was her reply -



In May I had a phone call from someone I vaguely knew in Kitwe called Precious Phiri. She was distraught and desperate because her son who was about 18, had just been killed in a road accident, she was widowed in 2009 and struggling to keep her 5 children and 3 dependants. She could not afford to pay for the coffin, so I helped her, and also a little something to start selling rice and beans in the market, as she was desperate to send 2 of her children to school. I heard from her again a couple of weeks later asking for about £3.00 for medicine for her next oldest son who was ill.

Two weeks ago, I got a call from Grace, her eldest daughter, saying mum had just died in hospital this morning, leaving the 7 kids all alone as their nearest relative, a sickly uncle, lives about 5 hours away in Solwezi. Grace was still in school (having missed a few years because the family couldn't pay her secondary school fees.) She would now be in charge of the family and take over from her mother. I sent something to pay for a simple funeral for Precious, and then decided to give K700 a month, £25 roughly, 450 of which would be for rent of 3 rooms.) I also gave another small amount to help her continue the business of street market selling, as clearly, they had no surplus after the funeral.

I wonder if the congregation would consider taking them on as a project?

It was agreed that our harvest appeal this year should go entirely towards this project and this was done mainly online with members donating direct to a dedicated bank account in Zambia. In addition a very successful Yard Sale was held in the church car park, with the proceeds also going to the Zambia Appeal. Thanks to the ladies who organised the Sale and to all who donated in any way. As so many of the donations were made direct we don't have a final total, but over £1000 was certainly raised to support the family in Zambia.



**BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
KIRKCALDY**

Meldrum Road/Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR

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Charity Registration Number SC 005628
(Registered Scottish Charity)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH, KIRKCALDY

November 2021

GIFT DAY - SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER 2021

Are you one of the people who like to have Christmas planned and organised nice and early, or do you wait till the last minute to buy your presents? The church would like you to give an early present on Sunday, 12th December at the second of our Bennochy Church Gift Days for 2021.

A Gift Day envelope will be delivered to you, along with this 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. The line at the top of the envelope which says 'Name of Charity' should be filled in to say **Bennochy Parish Church.**

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 give it to a friend or relation to bring for you.

If you prefer you can donate by Online Banking, using the usual church bank account number and sort code.

Sort Code is 80-16-84

Account number is 06022892

If using this method, please make sure you put in '**Gift Day**' as a reference.

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 or friends as a guide, if your personal circumstances allow.

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.

The Finance Team

Money Matters - Stewardship Season

During lockdown income became more important than ever, as there was a reliance on our cash flow to pay our bills. The 2020 accounts demonstrated the loyalty of our members as we showed a marginal increase in income from the year before, which we are thankful for.

As we approach another year end, we hope that this loyalty is repeated and, to assist with this we would ask, if you have not already done so, that you give consideration to moving away from Free Will Offering and Open Plate donations in favour of Bank Standing Orders.

Standing Orders & Direct Debit are what most of us are now familiar with as our home finance spend is usually linked with some of these, so it makes sense to incorporate our commitment to God's work here at Bennochty within our regular Standing Order payments.

Whilst giving consideration to Standing Orders, please also consider completing a Gift Aid declaration form. If you pay income tax equal to or higher than your amount given to the Church, this effectively increases your offering (current 25p for every £1) at no additional cost to you, as we will claim this back from HMRC. SO and DD forms are available from the finance team.

Thank you for your continual support for God's work here at Bennochty

The Finance Team.

War Memorials

During lockdown I managed to add details of those whose names appear on the St Andrews Church World War 2 Memorial. They are now in the folder at the back of the church.

All those who died were a personal, family tragedy, each with a story.

Four died in 1942 including one on Christmas Eve.

Two died within a day of each other in February 1943 and both are buried in Hayfield Cemetery Kirkcaldy.

Three are buried in North Africa.

Seven served in the Army. One in the Navy died when his ship was torpedoed and one in the Air Force when his Lancaster bomber was shot down.

We will honour them, and all those whose names appear on our memorials at our Remembrance Day Service.

I have a favour to ask. Were there ever any memorials for the Second World War in St Johns or Dunnikier? If there were or if anyone has names, I would be happy to add them to our records.

Thank you.

Nancy Gilmartin

Deaths

24.06.21	Mrs Margaret Morton	07.09.21	John Methven
17.07.21	Mrs Nan Hazel	14.10.21	Mrs Jessie Neish
24.07.21	Angus Pryde	27.10.21	Mrs Jenny Walker
08.08.21	Mrs Anna McGregor	06.11.21	Mrs Ena Rae
04.09.21	Mrs Angela Stewart		



Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost loved ones during this difficult time.

All Change! At our Sunday service on 31st October we wished a fond farewell to Wes, who has been our organist/music director for the past 2½ years, and a small presentation was made. Wes is taking up a post in England for the pantomime season.

On 7th November we were happy to welcome Jamie Wilson as our new Organist and Peter Chapman as new Church Officer and we look forward to them supporting God's work here at Bennochty. We wish them both well.

New Table Runner - Those of you who have been attending our church services in person, and perhaps also online, may have seen another change. We have a new, very colourful, runner for the communion table, this time made from material that Robin brought back from his visit to Ghana. Once again we have to thank Mary Stark for her expert needlecraft.

Update from Louisa Turner, Development Worker



The seasons are changing, and we revel in the golden colours of autumn falling from the trees in Bennochty Community Garden. What a truly splendid place to sit and peacefully watch and listen to God's creation.

Now the scaffolding is away from around the church building we can see the expanse of garden ground once again. Though the church gardener, Mark, and his team have continually cut the grass, and some areas of the grounds have been diligently attended to by faithful servants of the Lord, there is still a lot of work for the Bennochty Community Garden team to steward.

Winter is just around the corner. However, we are blessed with some crisp sunny days - sunny days when we can come together and be outdoors making a difference to the garden. The community garden team are proposing to meet on a Thursday afternoon from 2 - 4pm on fair weather days over the coming months. The plan is to take the opportunity to pull out weeds and tidy up the raised beds with a lick of paint. Some planting may occur too before the frost arrives.

Community Garden team volunteers work at their own pace and undertake tasks that are manageable to them. All equipment is provided. If you are looking for an activity to get you outdoors and meet new people or old friends, pop along, join the small team or just say hello. Or join some members of the team as they enjoy lunch in the café first, heating themselves up with some lovely homemade soup.



The Olive Branch Café is back open and busy once again. The volunteers are back and so are the customers! It is lovely to see, amongst the customers, our friends from Abbeyfield Care Home.

The Café was very excited to receive a donation from Sainsbury's which helped towards the costs of reopening under new Covid Prevention regulations. If you have visited the café, you may have noticed the new screens at the ordering table. Some new kitchen equipment has also been purchased. The café abides by all mandatory legislation - you will begin to see more notices around the ordering table, as ingredients for items are displayed.

The Olive Branch Café team are always evolving and strive to deliver what the customer would like. Please make suggestions if you feel that the team could offer a better experience, or if there is something you would like to see on the menu.

Since opening, the café has welcomed visits from the Salvation Army, The Well and Gabi Paterson, a local artist. We shall be having a visit from Meal Makers in November and there will be other organisations visiting in the New Year. If you would like to see a particular organisation represented, please speak to Louisa Turner, Development Worker and she will organise their visit.

The café customers will be enjoying their Christmas lunch on Thursday 9th December. The café will be open only to customers with pre-booked tickets. Tickets for this popular event have moved very quickly and at the time of going to press, have sold out.

The café's last day of serving delicious low-cost meals and home baking for 2021 will be on Thursday 16th December. The volunteers and cook, Doreen McPhee, will be having a well-deserved rest, but will return in January to serve once again.

Food Hygiene Unwrapped



The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland have recently written to congregations, with an instruction about expectations of food hygiene awareness especially post pandemic. A REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene Course will be delivered soon to all café volunteers and others who wish to undertake it. This will be in the form of a webinar, which will be shown in the church hall. This will be a free course, paid for by the Church of Scotland. More details will follow very soon. If you would like to join others in viewing the webinar as a refresher to a REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene course or undertake it for the first time, please contact Louisa Turner, Development Worker.

Contact: Louisa Turner, Development Worker

Mobile: 07856 940177 Email: developmentworker@bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Or chat any Thursday in the Olive Branch Café, 11am – 2pm.

Louisa Turner, Development Worker

Christmas and New Year Services

You are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate the **Christmas Story** and **New Year**. All services start at 11am unless shown otherwise.

Advent

28th November: *1st Sunday in Advent.*

5th December: *2nd Sunday in Advent.* Christmas quiz.

12th December: *3rd Sunday in Advent.* Family 'gift' service (donation of new toys for the work of the Salvation Army.

19th December: *4th Sunday in Advent.* Contribution by our Young Church & Christmas jumpers.

Christmas

24th December: *Watchnight service.* 11.15 for 11.30pm.

25th December: *Short reflective service* - online (*supplied by Abbotshall Church*).

26th December: *Joint Kirkcaldy Churches Service* at **Abbotshall Church**.



New Year 2022

2nd January *Joint Kirkcaldy Churches Service* at **Bennoch Church**.

All the online services will be available on our **Sunday Reflections** page from the times shown.

❖ The Sunday School will finish for the Christmas break on 19th December with fun and games in the hall. They resume on 16th January 2022.