

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

June 2023



We hope all our readers are able to enjoy the warmer days of summer.

Two changes have taken place in our situation - Allan Grant, our Interim Moderator, has withdrawn from his role, and coincidentally an Interim Minister has been appointed for a limited period to cover the four town centre churches.

He is Stewart McPherson, who took part in our monthly joint service on the 28th May, and he has kindly contributed an introductory message to this Newsletter.

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk

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JUNE 2023

From your Interim Minister

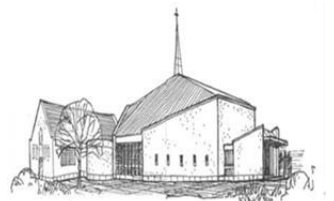
Let me introduce myself!

Although now living in Dalgety Bay, I was raised in Ayrshire as one of five boys and attended Cumnock Academy. Prior to ministry I mainly worked with learning disabled people, training in the Health Service and then working in Social Work, particularly enabling people to move from a long-term institutional setting to new homes in the wider community.

Although brought up with the view that the best thing to come out of Edinburgh is the Glasgow train, I found myself spending many years of my ministry in the city. Initially I was at St Colm's Church in inner-city Dalry/Haymarket for 12 years, and then at suburban Corstorphine Craigsbank for 15 years. My five years of Interim Ministry have taken me around the country, but mainly to the Borders serving a three-way linkage and then working in Jedburgh.

Over the years my interests have shifted from cycling, football, and hill-walking to reading, theatre, and pottering in the garden, with exercise mainly based around walking our 2-year old Labrador.

My wife is a hospital chaplain, and I have a son working in the legal profession in Edinburgh, a daughter who lives by the beach in the USA (also currently working in a legal firm), and a step-daughter who teaches in Kirkcaldy - but who will be off on maternity leave by the end of the year, which has resulted in my wife getting her knitting needles out.



Although you did not ‘call’ me to be your minister – interim or otherwise – I do believe such a ministry is in itself a calling, and I have certainly found that. It can be at times challenging and often fulfilling, while its focus varies with each situation. Once your elders had agreed to a period of Interim Ministry, I was pleased to say “Yes” when asked if I would take on the task of helping to facilitate the four congregations become one, through discerning, talking, listening, and planning the route to get us there.

I write this only a fortnight after my Service of Introduction, so am certainly still finding my feet while relying on Google Maps to locate destinations in the town. However, I have sought to be proactive and have already met with your Strategy Team, Presbytery representatives, Session Clerks, Interim Moderators, while attending Kirk Session meetings and coming along to worship in each church nourished by the hospitality of coffee and a few bowls of soup. I also hope to be able to lead worship in each congregation as soon as that can be arranged. All of this will help me get to know you, and also to identify the best focus for my time, energy, and skills in working alongside you to achieve all that is required.

I already sense a deep desire for movement, and although our journey may well have some tricky moments, with commitment, by setting clear markers, and identifying a shared vision we can all join in this interim ministry. For it is our shared ministry, and by working together with grace and respect our travelling can be healthy and fruitful as throughout we seek to keep close to and draw our strength and life from the one who came to serve that we too might serve.

Yours in Christ,

Stewart McPherson



Update on the Union of the Town Centre Churches

The Strategy Group formed from the four churches is continuing to work towards creating a Basis of Union, and the three teams dealing with Finance, Property and Transition are starting to work together. We are very glad to have our Interim Minister, Rev Stewart McPherson, in place to help us with our negotiations and look forward to benefitting from his expertise in the coming months.

After the summer, all four congregations will be asked to help decide on a name for the new United Church. This will take the form of a competition with everyone encouraged to take part and either suggest a name or, in time, to vote for their preferred name from a list. So, get your thinking caps on and try to come up with some suggestions which will reflect the essence of our new venture.

Session Summary of the last Kirk Session meeting

As Allan Grant had stepped down as Interim Moderator, the Session meeting was moderated by Rev. Stewart McPherson our new Interim Minister, who introduced himself to the Session.

Members Questionnaire returns: We have received a very good response to the recent questionnaire where we have now collated the information from those who have responded. We have now updated our information with;

- e-mail addresses
- how members wished to receive or relay back information to our Church
- if they wish to receive periodic visits
- if they wish to continue their membership

This information has been presented to the Elders and will assist them going forward

Kirkcaldy Town Centre Churches: The work towards the basis of Union of our 4 Town Centre Churches has picked up pace where, in addition to the Strategy Group which has been set up to manage the process, three other sub-groups have been introduced;

- Finance - Working together with our partnering Churches Finance Group, understand and document the financial position of each church and map out what the financial picture may look like for a new united church. This will include but not be limited to: banking, accounts process, payroll, financial commitments of both churches, reserves, restricted funds, levels of offerings and how received (standing order/FWO/Open Plate etc).
- Property - Working together with our partnering Churches Property Group, understand and document what the total estate of the united church will compose of and project any known costs to maintain existing buildings. Discuss a timescale and process for sale of any buildings to help understanding of the timescale for union. To consider the state, location and options for a united church in relation to any and all manses.
- Transition - Working together with our partnering Churches Transition Group understand that the remit is not pastoral care of the congregation per se though that will be part of it. The Transition Team remit is more fully about facilitating change. Every organisation has a culture and bringing multiple churches together also brings multiple cultures together, which can present challenges. The team will consider the change management required within all congregations to ensure as smooth a union as possible. This Team should be looking at ways to bring the congregations together more (this should be the immediate priority), exploring styles of worship – particularly with a new minister, and looking at existing structures across the congregations to see what similarities and differences there are.

Pastoral Care: There are 10 members in Residential Care and 6 Housebound.

Annual Attestation of Records: Our records were due to be presented to Presbytery to be checked for compliance. These records include; (Session Minutes, Baptismal Register, Safeguarding Register, Communion Roll, Property Register, Manse Condition Schedule, Church Accounts)

If any member wishes to know more about the work of the Kirk Session please contact George Drummond, Session Clerk

Long Service Awards

Recently 4 of our Elders celebrated a collective 208 years' service, and were issued with Long Service Certificates.

Congratulations to;

George Grant - 56 years service

Bill Stenhouse - 51 years service

Brian Winton - 51 Years service

Bob Docherty - 50 years service



On behalf of the Kirk Session and the Congregation I would like to thank them for the work they have done over the years bringing God's work to our members.

George Drummond
Session Clerk

Gift Day

Our recent Gift Day in March raised a total of £1,235, providing a valuable addition to our church income. Thank you to all who contributed.



Christian Aid Week – 14-21 May 2023

Collections were taken after the service on the two Sundays of Christian Aid Week, and a total of £396 was raised. This has been forwarded to Christian Aid to support their work with people living in poverty around the world. More information is available on their website. Thanks to all who donated at the church and online.

Bennoch Community Choir

Bennoch Community Choir would like to invite members of the congregation and friends to our end of session performance on Monday 5th June at 6.30 in the Sanctuary.

It will be followed by (very!) light refreshments. Entry is free but we would be grateful for any donations to our charities.

Please come along and support our enthusiastic group of singers!



Bennoch Bells

A varied and interesting season came to a close at the end of May --- to restart early September.

To mark the occasion of the Coronation, we made a short recording of Westminster Chimes and a peal of bells, with other folk song music from around the UK.



Thereafter folk songs continued as the theme - often with a sing or a swing in such as “Cockles and Mussels” and “Auld Lang Syne”.

We would welcome anyone interested in coming to try the bells - making music brings its own rewards.

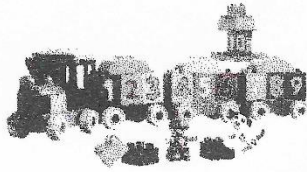
Deaths

.04.23
13.04.23
01.05.23

Mrs Elizabeth Stinear
Mrs Agnes (Nancy) Wilkie
Miss Susan Findlay



The DUPLO Club



New group for preschool children

aged 18 months – 4 years

starting June 26th 2023

at Bennochty Church, Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy

every Monday 3pm – 4.30pm

The format will include

- a snack at 3pm
- welcome song
- DUPLO play
- Songs/game/story
 - Action song
 - bubbles
- Child's Prayer

£2 per child

Space is limited so parents are asked to book a place for their child by contacting Dianne Waddell at


tickiewife@hotmail.com

not before Tues 20th June and every Tuesday thereafter.

This is a locally organised club, not sponsored by the LEGO® Group

Bennochty Parish Church Scottish Charity No : SC 005628

Summer Calendar

June 5	Community Choir Open Night	
June 18	Communion	
	Sunday School final day	
June 25	Joint service in Linktown Church	
June 26	The DUPLO Club	
July 2	Joint service in St Bryce Kirk	
July 9	Joint service in Abbotshall Church	
July 16	Joint service in Linktown Church	
July 23	Joint service in Bennochy Church	
July 30	Joint service in the Congregational Church	
August 6	Morning worship in Bennochy Church	

- * The Sunday School finishes for the summer on 18th June and will restart in September.

Joint services for the remainder of 2023 are as follows –

August 27	St Bryce Kirk
September 24	Abbotshall Church
October 29	Linktown Church
November 26	Bennochy Church
December 31	St Bryce



The Olive Branch Cafe

Our Community Café is open every Thursday from 11am – 2pm, serving tea, coffee and home baking from 11am and light lunches from 12 noon.

It will remain open throughout the summer period. Why not drop in for a bite to eat and a chat.

www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Current Activities in Bennoch Church

Girl Guides:

Rainbows	for girls aged 5 - 7 years
Brownies	for girls aged 7 - 10 years
Guides	for girls aged 10 - 14 years
Senior Section.	for girls aged 14 - 25 years

Boys Brigade:

Anchor Boys	for boys aged 5 - 7 years
(Junior Section	for boys aged 8 - 11 years - at Pathhead)
(Company Section	for boys aged 12 - 14 years - at Pathhead)
(Senior Section	for boys aged 15 - 18 years - at Pathhead)

Women's Group Every second Tuesday

Community Choir Monday evening

Dru Yoga Tuesday

T'ai Chi Monday & Wednesday

Zumba Gold Wednesday

Handbell Ringers Tuesday

Country Dancers Tuesday

Sequence Dance Club Friday

Indoor Bowling Monday

The Olive Branch Your community café.
Internet connection is available.
Every Thursday 11.00 - 2.00

Streaming

If you are not able to attend church you can view the services online via our website (also on Facebook and Zoom). The services are streamed live, but after the service, a recording can be viewed at any time during the following two weeks on the website.