

Rosyth
Methodist Church

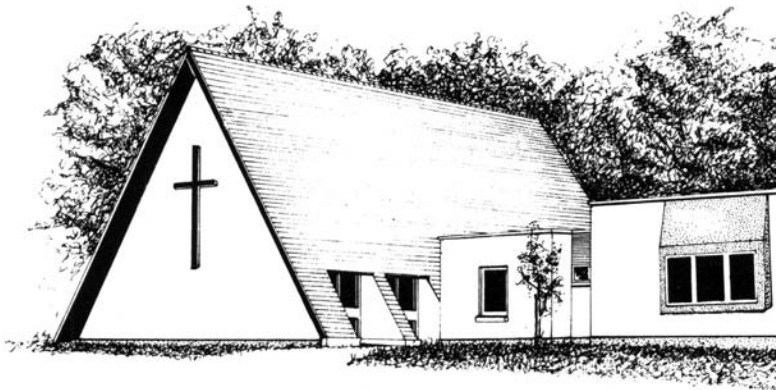
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 49

February 2010

Rosyth
Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

in partnership

Our partnership is formally recognised as a Local Ecumenical Partnership,
with a constitution and Covenant signed on 14 June 2000

Minister:

Rev Eric Potts 01383 851373

Supernumerary Minister:

Rev Malcolm Trew 01383 420949

Senior Steward:

David Salthouse 01383 889212

Pastoral Secretary:

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Treasurer:

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

Rector:

Rev Tim Bennison 01383 720532

Associate Minister:

Rev Ross Kennedy 01383 625887

Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

Treasurer:

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

our regular pattern of worship

Sundays (except 4th)

9.30am Episcopalian Sung Eucharist
(occasionally 9.15am – see diary pages for details)

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship

2nd Sundays: for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”

11.00am All-age service

4th Sundays: Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

Quiet space: our premises are busy with a variety of activities throughout the week, but the sanctuary is open for quietness, prayer and reflection on **Thursdays 2.00–3.00pm.**

Our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. The car park is behind the church, and limited local on-street parking is available, but there is lots more space in the parking area at the junction with Park Road.

It can happen in an ‘instant’ ...

a thought from the Reverend Tim Bennison

Three days ago, early in the morning when it was still dark and temperatures were hovering around minus 3, I slipped on some ice whilst walking with the dog at Blairadam Woods, fell awkwardly, and managed to break my ankle. One second I was walking along happily planning the rest of the day; the next I was in a crumpled and painful heap on the floor calculating whether I could get myself back to the car or, if not, whether anyone would come across me before I froze to death. Fortunately, as you will have surmised, I made it to the car and lived to tell the tale!

It’s a sobering thought though how, in an instant, all can change. For me, of course, though frustrating, those changes aren’t really all that drastic and they will be short-lived. My leg will be in plaster for four or five weeks which means I can’t drive or get about easily: planned activities and events have to be rearranged; domestic arrangements have to be rethought; and, worst of all, I have to rely on other people to drive me around and to do things for me that hitherto I’ve always been able to do for myself – and that’s something that I don’t find at all easy!

All of which leaves me feeling surprisingly disorientated. Many of the things that I could do, that I took for granted, that I relied upon without thinking about were, in that instant, swept away, albeit temporarily and so, in a way I’m left feeling a bit uprooted and disconnected.

But, of course, all of that is extremely minor and inconsequential compared to the experiences that a lot of people have. I can’t help thinking, for example, of the people of Haiti, who, in a far more dramatic and tragic way, have also experienced an instant that has brought them huge

change and upheaval and, along with it, tragedy, death and destruction. And for them, the effects of that instant when the earth shook are not temporary or short-lived. For them, things won’t return to normal in a few short weeks. For them, the consequences of that ‘instant’ will remain with them for the rest of their lives. And, if I feel a bit shaken and disorientated after breaking my ankle, it’s hard to image what it must feel like for the people of Haiti. For many of them, the very foundations of their lives – homes, families, loved ones, communities, even the physical landscape, have been shattered. In an instant, everything is completely different, and will remain so.

Tragedies like the one in Haiti raise lots of difficult questions – not least of them being difficult theological questions. The thing that really strikes me though, is how temporary, how transient are the things that we hang our lives on. Things like homes and families, work and friends, intellectual and physical abilities; things that give us our sense of self, our security, our identity. And how easy it is for them to be swept away in an instant.

As Christians, of course, we try to root our lives in rather more than these transient things. As Christians we believe that, ultimately, our lives are grounded not in the fleeting ‘things of this world’ but in the being of God himself – and so it’s in God that, ultimately, we find our security and identity.

Or, at least, that’s the theory. In practice it’s rather more difficult. Inevitably, our lives and our identities are structured by our experiences of the world around us and it’s often difficult to see beyond those things to where our lives are really founded. But both that knowledge of our dependence

on the transient things around us, and the desire for rootedness in God are vital parts of our Christian experience and growth. For most of us, unlike the experiences I described above of instant change, our Christian faith isn't something we simply put on in an instant – it's not an all or nothing thing, but rather a journey or a process towards the full realisation and experience of a life rooted in God.

None of this negates the seriousness of the devastation in Haiti and the impact it's had on people's lives; none of this diminishes the importance of the material and

temporary in our lives or our experience of loss and disorientation when things change. Nevertheless, it is our hope, as Christians, that the more we experience our lives as being rooted in God, the more we'll be able to find the strength and the resources necessary to cope with whatever life throws at us; the more our identity and security are grounded in God, the less power the temporary and the transient 'things of this world' have over us.

With every blessing

Tim Bennison

Helping Haiti

A special retiring collection was taken at the Covenant Service on 24 January to provide help in Haiti. £262.35 was raised, much of it Gift-Aided. However, if you weren't able to give then, **the appeal is still open**. If you are a tax payer, *please* put your gift in one of the envelopes at the back of the Church, and fill in the details requested. This allows us to reclaim the tax paid, and adds 28% to your gift at no cost to yourself!

By way of introducing the retiring collection, Eric Potts gave an interesting talk about the link between Dunfermline and Rosyth and a small hospital on the island of La Gonave, located in the bay off Port-au-Prince, where doctors and nurses from Dunfermline and Rosyth take leave and go to do short spells of work. The hospital will need to be rebuilt because of the earthquake damage, but is still working, and some medics from our area have just arrived. Eric's son-in-law, a doctor in a Rosyth practice, is going out shortly.

The charity behind the work is the Dunfermline-based "**Lemon Aid**". If you have internet access, then you can keep up-to-date by visiting their web site (www.lemonaid.org.uk). For those of you who don't have internet access, we've put an extract on the back cover from a post that appeared on the web site on 19 January. If you wish to give directly, you can contact the charity at 131 Garvock Hill, Dunfermline, KY11 4JU (01383 631003).

Coffee at Mary's ...

In aid of the appeal for Haiti, Mary Kidd is opening her home (18 North Loanhead, Limekilns) for a fundraising **Coffee Morning** between 10.00am and 12.30pm on **Friday 5 February**. As with the 24 January appeal, money will be given to Lemon Aid and donations can be Gift-Aided.

Further information from Mary on 01383 872332. Offers of help would also be welcome!

A Hymn for Haiti

In the wake of the devastating earthquake which hit Haiti on 12 January, American church musician Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA), composed a hymn to be sung to the music of the popular hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”. The General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Setri Nyomi, sent the hymn to all the organisation’s member churches with the suggestion that it be sung at services on 24 January along with prayers for the people of Haiti.

In his message Nyomi said, “I am sure you too have been stunned by the news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti that we woke up to yesterday. Haiti has been through so much and our hearts bleed to see them go through yet another major crisis with such a heavy loss of life and so much destruction.”

This is the hymn that was sung in Rosyth for the first time at the service to mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity held at St Columba’s Church on 17 January, and was also used at our joint service on 24 January:

In Haiti, there is anguish that seems too much to bear;
A land so used to sorrow now knows even more despair.
From city streets, the cries of grief rise up to hills above;
In all the sorrow, pain and death, where are you, God of love?
A woman sifts through rubble, a man has lost his home,
A hungry, orphaned toddler sobs, for she is now alone.
Where are you, Lord, when thousands die – the rich, the poorest poor?
Were you the very first to cry for all that is no more?
O God, you love your children; you hear each lifted prayer!
May all who suffer in that land know you are present there.
In moments of compassion shown, in simple acts of grace,
May those in pain find healing balm, and know your love’s embrace.
Where are you in the anguish? Lord, may we hear anew
That anywhere your world cries out, you’re there – and suffering, too.
And may we see, in others’ pain, the cross we’re called to bear;
Send out your church in Jesus’ name to pray, to serve, to share.

May be sung to the tune *St Christopher* (Mission Praise 55)

Fellowship News

Congratulations to **May Hopper**, who celebrated her 95th birthday at Christmas.



May has been a loyal member of Rosyth Methodist Church for almost 60 years, since she and her husband and sons came to Rosyth from Plymouth in 1951.

A lovable character with a wonderful sense of humour, May is well-known in the community because of her involvement with the Pensioners' Society which met at the Rosyth Institute, and with SWANS (Society of Wives of Admiralty and Naval Services). May and her husband were also members of the Civil Service Club.

May has been a long-serving member of Women's Own at our Church, and coming to the new Wednesday Fellowship is one of the highlights of her week: our photograph was taken at the Fellowship Christmas Party.

May has asked us to say a big "thank you" to the Church for the flowers she received for her birthday.

St Margaret's congregations, members of the Woodmill Singers and friends braved the wintery weather to help **Eve Denning** and her family celebrate Eve's 90th birthday in style on Friday 8 January at the Garvock House Hotel.



An enjoyable time was had by all and the evening was a great success, with Eve in sparkling form.

It was fitting that her long life was celebrated in song – Eve, until recently had been a member of St Margaret's choir for longer than she cared to remember, and still sings with the Woodmill Singers. Sandy Saddler (Woodmill) accompanied St Margaret's Choir in a medley of songs associated with Eve's life. The final song 'One Candle' by Andy Beck which included a solo by Julie, Eve's younger daughter, brought all the singers to the stage, including Eve. Well done, Eve!

If you hear items of news concerning members of the fellowship, whether for information, for rejoicing, or to inform our prayers, please let the Editor know, and *don't* assume that someone else will!

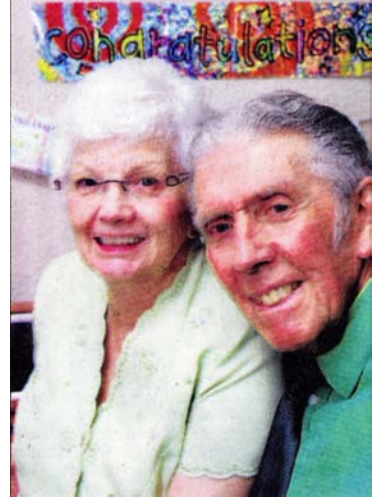
Fellowship News

Congratulations to **David and Thelma Couch** who have each been awarded the MBE for their work in raising thousands of pounds for charity. CHAS, Christian Aid and the National Association for the Relief of Paget's Disease are but a few of the charities which have benefited from their efforts.

David and Thelma run Rosyth Sequence Dancing Group, organising trips and holidays for the Group. Thelma baked cakes, loaves and similar, and made jam that was sold at the dance class each week. Raffles also took place, especially for the Charity Dances, when people came from Edinburgh, Perth and other places to take part. David organises all the music and dances for each session, which is a time-consuming task.

Whenever a fund-raising event is being held in the church, Thelma is always first to offer help in any way she can. David too comes and helps by selling raffle tickets and even gets some of his friends to come along and help.

All who know this couple will be so pleased that they have been rewarded for their efforts. Well done, David and Thelma!



Ed: Not content with one entry in the Dunfermline Press, in the 21 January issue Thelma was the subject of the weekly "On the Spot" feature, from which we learnt that Thelma loves making Cornish pasties, that she would like to invite James Mason and Gregory Peck to dinner, that her favourite film is *The Seventh Veil*, and that she sings "I'm gonna wash that man right outa my hair" (from *South Pacific*) when she's in the shower!

As we were going to press we heard that **PHEME HUTCHISON**, one of our faithful Methodist members, and a regular church attender until approximately a year ago, passed away on 25 January. PHEME was 97 years old.

For those of you who didn't know PHEME too well, she was the grandmother of Alison and Philip Lay and great-grandmother to the three girls, Rebecca, Alison and Linda who now live in Renfrew but who are usually at church on the Sunday Fundayes. She used to sit on the left side of the middle aisle.

All will be welcome at the funeral service, which will be held at Dunfermline Crematorium on Wednesday 3 February at 1.15pm. An appreciation of PHEME's long life will appear in our next issue.

Fellowship News

Good luck to **Helen Welsh**, a member of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline who left on 30 January for 2 years Voluntary Service in Zanzibar, East Africa.



Helen has been living in Rosyth and is no stranger to St Margaret's, having filled the Child Protection Officer role since 2007. Some years ago Helen, along with Sue and Jeremy Masson, was responsible for the production of 'Magi', an Epiphany drama staged in the Church.

We hope that Helen will come and share some of her experiences with us when she returns. In the meantime, you can find out about what she is up to by visiting her blog at my.opera.com/helenwelsh/blog.

Welcome to the family

Brooke Emily, born on 7 September 2009, the third daughter of Anna and Keith **Whitehill** of 115 Whinnyburn Place, Rosyth, was baptised by Rev Malcolm Trew during morning worship on Sunday 27 December.

Brooke's older sisters, Ella Eileen and Farren Louise had both been baptised at Rosyth by Rev Deborah Cornish, so it was natural for the Whitehill family to want to come back to us again. May God's blessing remain with Brooke and her family.

Commiserations to **Tim Bennison** on finding himself in a crumpled and painful heap (story on page 2).

He's grateful to the folk who have kindly provided transport, and is looking forward to his 'release' during February. Meantime, all he can do is sit down and relax at a Vestry Meeting!



Tim gets an "interesting slant" on the agenda!

Memorial Book

The time has come again for our yearly update of the Memorial Book that is displayed in the glass case at the back of the church. Those who wish to remember their loved ones in this way should please provide information to Dennis Cook or David Slater before the end of February. The details need to include name, date of death and age. Entries are restricted to those people who have been connected with either the Methodist or Episcopalian Church.

Gleanings from elsewhere

From the Diocesan web site

A unique partnership between the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the United Reformed Church, National Synod of Scotland was signed at a special service on Saturday 23 January by the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Rev Lily Twist, Chair of the Methodist Church in Scotland and the Rev John Humphreys, Moderator of the United Reformed Church, National Synod of Scotland.



The Rev John Humphreys, the Rev Lily Twist, and the Most Rev David Chillingworth signing the Statement

Bishop David said afterwards in his blog: "I took part in the signing of the so-called EMU Partnership Agreement between ourselves, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church. Something positive to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. And it's not just aspiration. We share an increasing amount of training and other interests."

Ed: This partnership is referred to in the article by Howard Kirby on page 23.

Prayer for a saint

Winter is a time when we particularly remember those who have passed on. This prayer was written by Ron Rye for a recent Thanksgiving Service at Viewfield Baptist Church. It moved many at the time, and he has made it available to us. For "Ena", substitute the name of the saint who is special to you.

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, help us to entrust our loved ones to your care. When sorrow darkens our lives, teach us to look to you, remembering the cloud of witnesses by whom we are encompassed. Grant those of us who have been left behind the ability to rejoice for ever in your presence and that we may be able to share in the rest and peace that your presence, through your Spirit, gives.

We thank you for your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave up his life for us and opened the gates of Heaven to us, that we may enter. We ask that you hold us in the palm of your hands.

Our God, we thank you for Ena – for her life and witness among us. As we enter into this service, we thank you for the gift of her loving presence that touched our lives. We, her family and friends who loved her dearly, gather together to give her back to you, whose love for her is greater than ours can ever be. We stand together at the beginning of her renewed life in your presence, surrounding her in love and valuing memories of her, in the belief that you too, receive her with arms wide open. Increase our faith and comfort our sorrow, and allow your peace to fill our hearts.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Catching up on Christmas

Nativity service

On Christmas Eve Malcolm Trew led a candlelit Nativity service, which was attended by our church family, including many of our Funday Sunday children, grandchildren from the congregation, and also local people who just popped in to join us.



Lewis Cameron (Joseph) sang solo the first verse of “Away in a Manger”; a king came from the east (actually west – Torryburn!); there were lovely shepherds and beautiful angels, and the sound of a donkey underneath the shining star.

Jean Hall

Ed: Thanks to Malcolm Trew for making the crib which appears in the photo above, and which was blessed at the Carol Service on 20 December.

Fellowship meal

Thursday 7 January, 2010 at 7.00pm. The weather is freezing cold, with snow and ice on the ground, so you would think that folks would be in their warm cosy houses? But no, sixteen hardy, cheerful people arrive at Taurasi’s restaurant in Carnegie Drive Dunfermline to enjoy an evening together. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, good company and interesting conversations. Congratulations to David Slater and Dennis Cook for arranging it all and not cancelling because of bad weather. When is the next one?

Nativity scene

Our thanks to David Slater who was responsible for the nativity scene that appeared in the Crush Hall, and to Audrie Pollard, who made the figures.



Did you notice the spiral choir of angels?

Wednesday Fellowship

Those who have been involved with this new venture at church have been pleasantly surprised to see how this meeting has become a time of fellowship, refreshment, worship and prayer, for all our church members, and friends from other Rosyth Churches. While we were very sorry to see the demise of the Women's Own and the Retirement Fellowship, we have been encouraged to know that there is a need met and friends can meet together on a weekday afternoon, and not just on Sunday mornings in a crowded Crush Hall!

The first programme during the Autumn gave us the opportunity to know more about the Mission Aviation Fellowship, Gideons International, the British Red Cross. We've shared happy memories from very interesting speakers who have given freely of their time so that we get to find out 'what makes them tick' – reminiscences, a faith shared, interesting hobbies, and so on. And we've also celebrated Christmas, as you will see from the photographs!

I would particularly like to thank Mary Dempster for her invaluable help in the planning, catering and fund-raising of each session, and Allison Brown for the music.

We all appreciate the contribution they have made to the success of Wednesday afternoons.

A very interesting programme has been lined up for the Spring session which now begins on 10 February. Details of each Wednesday will be given in the 'Contact' diary pages, and the full programme for the session is on the noticeboards at Church.

Please do feel free to come and join us even if it is for the occasional meeting. We'll never run out of tea cups and the welcome handshake!

Mary Kidd



Peggy Truscott and Ethel Douglas



Margaret Fotheringham, Nessie Corbett,
May Hopper and Allison Brown

Some invitations

Sunday@Six

Since our joint church meeting way back in the early summer last year we have been trying to provide some different types of services once a month for the Sunday@Six slot. These have included a “Midsummer Praise,” an evening of Georgian Gallery music for Saint Cecilia’s Day and a service of Christmas lessons and carols.

The Sunday evening service is a time to use different resources and/or people, to invite outside speakers, and to ask the different groups who use the church to participate or lead. For 2010, in addition to the Taizé service held on 24 January, we have planned the following services:

February – Traditional Evensong for Lent

March – to be taken by the Dalgety Bay house group led by David and Gill Cochrane

If you have any requests or ideas, or would like to lead a service, please get in touch with Sue Masson on 01383 824887, or by email susan.masson@btinternet.com

Lastly, please do join us on the 4th Sunday of the month – you are sure to find something different!

Sue Masson

Sunday Fellowship

Early in 2009, a small group of people from the Fife Methodist Churches began meeting fortnightly on a Sunday evening from 7.00–9.00pm for Christian fellowship, in the home of Gill and David Cochrane, 75 Chandlers Rise, Dalgety Bay (Tel: 01383 820535).

The first 15–20 minutes are spent relaxing and chatting over a cuppa before moving into the subject for the evening. Discussion is informal. We are currently using a book entitled “Time to Talk of God”. Subjects relate to the theme of “recovering Christian conversation as a way of nurturing discipleship” and are based on a report of the Methodist Conference 2005 with questions for group conversation.

All are welcome to join us – occasionally or regularly. If you would like to know more, please contact Gill or David, or drop in to one of the sessions to see if you would like to participate.

Note that the fortnightly arrangement is fairly fluid and the dates are determined each time the group meet. Details are included in our church notices, and I have put contact details so that if anyone is interested they can easily get in touch.

Gill Cochrane

Family Games Afternoon

at Kirkcaldy Methodist Church
next door to Rejects in Clair Street

2.30pm–5.00pm

Saturday 6 February

Tickets £2.50/Family £5.50

Tea and Cakes

Proceeds to Kirkcaldy Methodist
Church Refurbishment Fund

Ash Wednesday ‘pilgrimage’

A small group from St Columba’s make the ‘pilgrimage’ to attend the Ash Wednesday Service in Old St Paul’s in Edinburgh each year. Anyone interested in joining them on Wednesday 17 February should contact Morag Crawford on 0131 332 2253.

Quiet Day

A Quiet Day is to be held at St Margaret's, Tayport on **Saturday 27 February**, 10.00am–4.00pm. It will be led by Rev Dom Ind, who is Rector at St Saviour's, Bridge of Allan, a Chaplain at Stirling University, and Chaplain to the Bishop of St Andrews. It will be a privilege to be led by him, as he has considerable experience in leading retreats and Quiet Days.

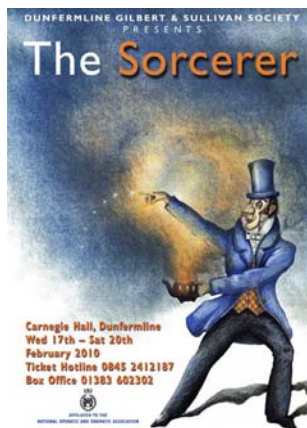
This is a day for all who want to learn more, and to deepen and strengthen their faith, with time for quiet reflection. It will also give an opportunity to strengthen bonds with other congregations and individuals, and to benefit from each other's experience and insight.

St Margaret's hall is warm and comfortable, with disabled access and toilet, and excellent kitchen facilities. Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. There is a nominal charge of £5.00 to cover costs.

Although the event has been planned primarily for the Episcopal congregations in East Fife, all will be most welcome. Because the organisers need some idea of numbers, if you would like to attend please contact Alan Taylor in advance (01383 823902 or athtaylor@btinternet.com).

The Sorcerer

Jock Headden, Mary Kidd, Gwyneth Kirby and Martin Tarr spend many happy Wednesday evenings rehearsing with the Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society!



You can enjoy the fruits of their labours, and the undoubted talents of the whole group, at

Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline
17–20 February
7.30pm each evening
and 2.30 on the Saturday

This year's show is the earliest of Gilbert's successful two-act collaborations with Sullivan, so there are many elements in its topsy-turvy plot that you will recognise from later operettas. The music sparkles as ever, and the production promises to be full of theatrical magic.

Share your invitations with our readers, preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk

World Day of Prayer 2010

The World Day of Prayer is a world-wide ecumenical movement organised by women, but men and children are also cordially invited to be involved. It is a movement for everyone, and brings together women of various races, cultures and traditions in closer fellowship, understanding and action. It aims to help Christians learn from other countries in order that their faith may be enriched. There is a blessing too, in doing things together, especially at a local level.

This year's service, on **Friday 5 March**, is written by the women of Cameroon, and is entitled "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" There will be praise and reflection on Psalm 150 from the perspective of Cameroon, and from our own country. We will praise God for the precious gift of life.

The activities of WDP in Scotland are directed by the Scottish Committee which promotes the work of the WDP service by producing and distributing the materials. We meet regularly throughout the year, in 121 George Street, and produce the resources for the service which takes place on the first Friday in March, each year.

In my first year as your Methodist representative I have enjoyed being a part of this organisation and getting 'to know the ropes'!

It was a privilege to be able to attend a retreat in November, at Schoenstratt Shrine, at Clachan of Campsie, near Glasgow, where we were able to work, share and pray together, becoming more aware than ever that in whatever circumstances we find ourselves we also find God's unconditional love. For the Cameroons this perspective is at the very core of their capacity to praise the living God. Talking about God and offering Him words of praise should be as natural to us as breathing!

We hope that you will attend a service near you. The local one for our area is at St. Peter-in-Chains, in Inverkeithing, at 2.00pm. If you are already involved you will be aware that there is a range of lovely resources available to those planning a service. They feature all aspects of the service and include colourful artwork, which can be downloaded from our website www.wdpscotland.co.uk. As well as the service preparation, we also support societies which give physical or spiritual help, as well as giving to a Christian organisation assisting people affected by HIV or AIDS in Cameroon.

"Let everything that has breath praise God!"

Mary Kidd

Edinburgh 2010

2010 is the centenary year of the first World Missionary Conference, which marked the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement. Edinburgh hosted the conference in 1910 and is hosting a similar conference in June 2010, on the theme "Witnessing to Christ today." Information about it and the various study groups and themes is available on leaflets in the Crush Hall or from the web site <http://www.edinburgh2010.org>.

A meeting of Edinburgh Churches Together on **Wednesday 24 February** (7.00pm for 7.30pm, venue to be confirmed) will combine their AGM with an update on Edinburgh 2010 giving details of how local churches can get involved in the celebrations this year, especially on Sunday 6 June 2010. The evening is open to anyone interested, although voting at the AGM is only for designated delegates. Contact Howard Kirby for details.

Money Matters

Gift Day – The Anniversary Appeal

To mark the anniversary of Rosyth Methodist Church, founded in 1916, organisations and individuals associated with the church are invited each year to contribute funds on what is traditionally called Gift Day, the first Saturday in March. There will be an opportunity to respond between 10.00am and 12noon on **Saturday 6 March**, when representatives from the Church Council will be at the church to receive your gift and to discuss any matters you would like to talk about, or even just to have a natter over a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of cake! However, if you aren't able to get to that, the appeal is held open during March as the retiring collection.

Note that, if you are a tax-payer, Gift Aid can raise the value of each £1 you contribute to £1.28. To make it easy, we've bound a special envelope in this issue's centre-fold. All you have to do is to fill in the details! If you have any questions about how Gift Aid works, or wish to apply the power of Gift Aid to your regular giving, please talk to Ron Dempster (01383 721252) or email him at ronmary.dempster@tiscali.co.uk.

Retiring and Special Collections

Retiring collections at the 11am service (and donations of tea-bar takings) in November raised £40 for the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, and in December (including over Christmas) raised £107 for Action for Children. In addition £127 was raised at the end of November in a special appeal for the Cumbrian Flood Appeal.

In January the planned focus was on Scottish Churches Housing Action, but a special collection was also taken to provide help in Haiti, and this is still open (see page 4).

Planned collections in February are for the Methodist Church's Mission for Britain Fund (previously known as Home Missions), and in March for the Anniversary Appeal for Rosyth Methodist Church.

Carols in the Rain

A big thank you to those who braved the elements to entertain the Tesco Rosyth shoppers with unaccompanied Christmas Carols on 17 December. The buckets rattled and we collected over £55 for CHAS.

Carols by Candlelight

Those who attended on 20 December enjoyed a moving and reflective service led by St Margaret's Choir. Special thanks to Sue Masson who devised the service, and all who participated – the choir, the soloists, the clergy and the readers (young and not so young), as well as the ladies who provided refreshments afterwards.

A collection for CHAS raised £152, of which £119 was gift-aided, which will result in over £185 being given to this worthy cause. Grateful thanks to all who contributed.

The service was recorded, and should be available soon on the web site.

Forty days and forty nights ...

A reminder of the origins of some of our practices during Lent

For most Christians, **Lent** is a time of penance and prayer in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The 40 days of Lent contain a number of special days which date back to the fourth century in their origins.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day ashes are placed on the foreheads of the churchgoers to remind them of death, and of the sorrow they should feel for their sins. The practice, which dates from the early Middle Ages, is common among Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Episcopalians. It was also adopted by some Methodists and Presbyterians in the 1990s.

Holy Week is the last week of Lent before Easter, beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Holy Saturday. Holy Week is the part of the Church Year where Jesus' final moments are commemorated. The term "Holy Week" is a recent innovation, but the annual observance of the festivals began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout Christians travelled to Jerusalem to re-enact events of the week leading to Christ's Resurrection.

Palm Sunday: On the sixth Sunday of Lent we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Worship services include blessing of the palms and a procession. On Palm Sunday, accompanied by his disciples, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, while crowds of people covered the streets ahead of him with their cloaks and with palm branches symbolizing victory. In many churches, members of the congregation hold small crosses made of palm leaf, both to remember the palm leaves which the people of Jerusalem waved when Jesus arrived, and to remember the cross on which he died.

Some Christians display the crosses from that service in their homes during the year as a symbol of their faith. The crosses are burned at the start of Lent the next year to provide the ash for Ash Wednesday.

Maundy Thursday: The word "maundy" originates from the command given by Christ at the Last Supper, that we should love one another. Christians remember Maundy Thursday as the day of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and shared bread and wine with them. He gave instructions that they should do that in remembrance of him, thereby establishing the ceremony we know as the Eucharist.

In some churches, Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet is symbolically re-enacted.

Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night of Maundy Thursday.

Good Friday commemorates Jesus' crucifixion and death, and is a day of mourning in church. During Good Friday services Christians meditate on Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, and what this means for their faith. The main service takes place between midday and 3.00pm. In many churches it takes the form of a meditation based on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross, with hymns, prayers, and short sermons.

Holy Saturday is the last day of Holy Week. It is the final night before the Feast of the Resurrection, which begins with the Great Easter Vigil at sunset. At the end of the service the Paschal candle is lit and remains lit throughout Easter until after the Gospel on the Feast of the Ascension.

Diary for February 2010

- Tuesday 2 Feb 7.30pm Methodist Church Council Meeting in Church Lounge
- Wednesday 3 Feb Note that the opening session of the Wednesday Fellowship, previously planned for this day, has been cancelled, to allow members to attend Pheme Hutchison's funeral.
- Friday 5 Feb 10.00am Coffee Morning at Mary Kidd's home,
to 12.30pm 18 North Loanhead, Limekilns – a fundraising venture in aid of support to Haiti
- Saturday 6 Feb 2.30pm Family Games Afternoon at Kirkcaldy Methodist Church
to 5.00pm Tickets £2.20/ family £5.50; tea and cakes. Proceeds to Kirkcaldy Methodist Church Refurbishment Fund

Sunday 7 February

- Epiphany 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Mary Kidd
7.00pm House group meeting at the home of David and Gill Cochrane, Dalgety Bay (see invitation on page 12, and check with weekly notice sheet for future dates)
- Wednesday 10 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – Christian Aid

Sunday 14 February

- Epiphany 6 9.00am Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"
Theme "The Prodigal Son"
9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
11.00am All-age service Mr Lyn Smalridge
- Monday 15 Feb 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's (see page 25 for details)

Wednesday 17 February

- Ash Wednesday 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – Games Afternoon
7.30pm Holy Communion and imposition of ashes
Rev Tim Bennison
- Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 Feb 7.30pm Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society "The Sorcerer"
also 2.30pm Saturday Matinée
Carnegie Hall (see page 13 for details)
- Saturday 20 Feb 10.00am 'Casting the Net' Taster at Threshold Centre,
to 2.00pm St John's Episcopal Church, Perth
(see article on page 26)

Diary for February/March 2010

Sunday 21 February

Lent 1 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
 11.00am Morning Worship Mr John Hunter

Monday 22 Feb 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 25 for details)

Wednesday 24 Feb 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
 A visit to Mount Everest, Peter Merckel

Friday 26 Feb 7.00pm Choir Practice

Sunday 28 February

Lent 2 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Eric Potts
 Traidcraft goods on sale after the service

 6.00pm Sunday@Six Evensong led by Alan Taylor

Monday 1 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 25 for details)

Wednesday 3 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
 About the World Day of Prayer – Mary Kidd

 6.30pm Methodist Circuit Meeting at City Churches, Edinburgh

Thursday 4 Mar 7.30pm Methodist Finance Committee
 meets at John Cowie's house

Friday 5 Mar 2.00pm World Day of Prayer, St Peter-in-Chains, Inverkeithing
(further information on page 14)

 7.00pm Choir Practice

Saturday 6 Mar 10.00am Methodist Anniversary Gift Day
to 12.00pm Church open to receive gifts
 Tea and coffee served

 7.30pm Dunfermline Choral Union Spring Concert
 Vine Church, Dunfermline
 Tickets £10, concessions £8 from
 Mary Kidd, Myra Tarr or Gwyneth Kirby

Sunday 7 March

Lent 3 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison

Church Anniversary

 11.00am Morning Worship Mr Martin Bethell

Diary for March 2010

- Monday 8 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 25 for details)
- Wednesday 10 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
Desert Island Discs – Dennis Cook
- Friday 12 Mar 7.00pm Choir Practice
- 7.30pm Parkinson's Disease Fundraising Charity Concert,
Carnegie Hall. An evening of light music and
entertainment with Rosyth Concert Band,
The Kingdom Singers and other guests.
Tickets £6, concessions £5 available on 01383 725529
- Saturday 13 Mar 9.30am Diocesan Synod, St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth
- 10.00am 3rd LEP Gathering "Getting to know you"
Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh
(see page 24 for details)

Sunday 14 March

- Mothering Sunday 9.00am Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"
Theme "Mothering Sunday"
- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Ross Kennedy
- 11.00am All-age service Rev Eric Potts

- Monday 15 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 25 for details)
- Wednesday 17 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship
St Patrick's Day Celebration – Alan Taylor
- Friday 19 Mar 7.00pm Choir Practice
- Saturday 20 Mar 8.00pm The Scottish Chamber Choir,
St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh
"Renaissance Splendour" – Music by Byrd, Gibbons,
Sheppard and Tallis (Tickets £10 from Martin Tarr)

Sunday 21 March

- Lent 5 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Tim Bennison
- 11.00am Morning Worship Rev Lily Twist, Chair of
the Methodist Synod in Scotland
- Monday 22 Mar 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's
(see page 25 for details)
- Wednesday 24 Mar 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – Daffodil Tea
- Friday 26 Mar 7.00pm Choir Practice

What to expect in September

Andrew Letby writes about an exciting development

The Edinburgh and Forth Methodist Circuit received exciting news towards the end of 2009. Our application for two deacons to serve within the ministerial team had been approved. The new ministers will begin work in September 2010. The really great news for the Methodist churches in Rosyth and Kirkcaldy is that one of those deacons will be dedicated to work with those two congregations and their surrounding communities. Deacon Sarah McDowall who is transferring to the Methodist Diaconal Order from the Church of Scotland comes with a wealth of experience.

But, what is a deacon? Here are a few pointers which explain something of the Methodist understanding of ministry. I hope they will help you understand some of the possibilities that Sarah's ministry will open up.

- The Methodist Church has two orders of ministry: *presbyteral* and *diaconal*. The two orders are equal in status, yet with certain differences in focus, style and character.
- Whilst a presbyter serves through the ministry of pastoral responsibility and pastoral charge of congregations, a deacon focuses on new and distinctive ways of serving the church and community.
- A deacon's main focus is to take care of the community's needs and to help God's people make the most of their faith in every day life whilst a presbyter focuses more on the delivery of God's word to the community.
- Many deacons, like presbyters, preach, teach and exercise leadership but their main emphasis is on pastoral care, teamwork and outreach. They sometimes work with community organisations and can be involved in ecumenical projects. They can encourage growth in faith and the development of skills of service.
- Deacons also have the privilege of belonging to a community of Deacons in the Methodist Diaconal Order, which is both a religious order and an order of ministry.
- For both presbyters and deacons, ordination is to a permanent, lifelong commitment to the Church and those ordained are working on behalf of, and answer to, Methodist Conference
- Diaconal ministry can be the catalyst to exploring dreams and visions for the church and community. Deacons can enable the gifts and graces of the local people to be released and encouraged as together they discover, explore, share, enable and seek to understand their faith journey and their part in the Kingdom of God

Please hold Sarah and her husband Archie in your prayers as they prepare for this new and challenging phase in their lives.

Rev Andrew Letby
Superintendent Minister,
Edinburgh and Forth Methodist Circuit.

For more information on the diaconal ministry, please visit
<http://www.methodistdiaconalorder.org.uk/>

Out with the old, in with the new!

an appeal from Malcolm Trew

As I write, huge sums are being donated in response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, the poorest country in the western Hemisphere. Many of you have given money already, and our church is arranging collections for what is clearly one of the greatest humanitarian emergencies we have known for very many years. Your money is needed.

The church is always asking for money! We are approaching our Church Anniversary and Gift Day on March 6th. We trust that individuals and our mid-week organisations will be as generous as they usually are. This will allow our work within the community to continue.

I also need some money! I hope to raise £650 to pay for the new oak baptismal font which is being made by the same craftsman who has made other furniture in our church. It will incorporate the fish and the metal bowl from the old font. This will lead to a more convenient and pleasing rearrangement of the worship area at the front of the church.

During my 20 years in Rosyth I have marvelled at the generosity, the ingenuity and the hard work of so many people linked with our church. We've had Coffee Mornings, Cornish Cream teas at the manse, Christmas and Easter Fayres, Sales of Work, Quizzes, Concerts, Jumble Sales etc. The list is endless! In earlier years we held successful car boot and table top sales. Before then, our church was transformed annually into an Auction Room. During the previous week leaflets were distributed in neighbouring streets; cars and vans then collected unwanted goods for auction. Before then, waste paper was collected for resale for pulping, and back in the late 60s, a group of people organised a bread

rolls round. They bought about 200 dozen morning rolls from a shop in Alloa and distributed them to customers in Crombie, Rosyth and Dunfermline in the early hours of a Sunday morning!

I too am planning to make early morning trips – this time on Saturday mornings! I hope to sell items at the Kinross Car Boot sale.



I'm a bit of a hoarder. It's time to de-clutter! I'm sure some of you have small items you no longer need and which are in good enough condition for me to sell. For example, do you have any unwanted Christmas gifts?

Please bring them to the church, or contact me so I can arrange to collect them. Perhaps there are others within our congregations who would be willing to join me in this enterprise.

If you are able to make a monetary gift towards the font, please give it to Howard Kirby, gift-aided if possible.

In anticipation – thank you.

Malcolm Trew

We always welcome appeals, reports and contributions to debate, preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk

“Our relationship with others”

A personal reflection by Howard Kirby

What is happening on the ecumenical scene in general, and will it make a difference? That was the substance of a small conference with the above title that was convened in Dunblane by the Scotland District of the Methodist Church in late November, attended mainly by Methodists but with some ecumenical partners, including those from Livingston and Howard Kirby and Alan Taylor from Rosyth.

So what has been happening? Not a lot, if one looks at the national scene. Overall there was a sense that nationally the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has run out of steam and the “Churches Together” movement (for example “Action of Churches Together in Scotland”, ACTS) that replaced Councils of Churches has not succeeded in generating much fresh momentum.

Following on from the 2003 Anglican-Methodist covenant, a “Joint Implementation Commission” (JIC) had produced a 122-page report *In the Spirit of the Covenant* in 2005, a report on *Living God’s Covenant* in 2007, and a report *Embracing the Covenant* in 2008.

Comments on the last of these had, it appeared, been sought from Circuit meetings, other groups and individuals by the end of November 2009, but for many of those present 28 November was the first we had heard about that!

The whole process, the documents themselves, and even the Consultation Questions (which we were invited to respond to after the conference), gave the impression of two bureaucracies struggling to merge without too much of a shake-up, and indeed with different views as to what the outcome should be, whilst in

Scotland, the failure some years ago of the four-denominational Scottish Churches Initiative for Unions (SCIFU) (having been rejected by the Church of Scotland) threw a direct question mark against attempts to achieve institutional union.

A comment that was made on this was incisive: “Nothing about this is relevant unless it is pertinent to helping bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people”.

Indeed, in those Anglican-Methodist documents there appeared to be little sense of what was actually happening on the ground, or of what needed to happen. A more positive stance in this respect was in a statement about the Methodist-URC Collaboration, in which there was reference to “How to make it work” documents. Comments around the room supported this view, and examples were given. For instance, “Fresh Expressions” was an Methodist-Anglican initiative which has been taken up by the Church of Scotland (and in Rosyth led to our own “Sunday Funday”).

Of course, in Scotland, things are not necessarily tied to what is proposed for, or is being undertaken by, the different denominations in England and Wales, but we need to be aware that, in practice, we lag behind ecumenical actions on the ground elsewhere in the UK. Perhaps the most positive thing, at the higher levels, is that, following the SCIFU failure, the Scottish Episcopal Church, Methodist and United Reform Churches in Scotland have been meeting (in what is known as the EMU Group) in conversation, not about organic union, but on how we can co-operate in partnerships at a local level on both church and society issues.

/continued at foot of next page

Ecumenical News

“Getting to know you”

Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) Gatherings are opportunities for people involved with, or interested in Partnerships, to meet and share with one another. The 3rd Gathering will be held on **Saturday 13 March** at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh with the theme, ‘Getting to know you’.

This is a day’s event starting at 10.00am with coffee and finishing about 4.00pm. The morning session will focus on “Traditions in Conversation”, recognising that on our journey together we learn much from others, both about their traditions and our own. Our conversationalists will be:

- Rev John Humphreys, Moderator, United Reformed Church National Synod of Scotland,
- Very Rev Sheilagh Kesting, Ecumenical Officer (and former Moderator) of the Church of Scotland,
- Rt Rev Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh, Scottish Episcopal Church *and*

- Rev Lily Twist, Chair of the Methodist Synod in Scotland.

This will be an interactive conversation between our guests and participants.

The afternoon session will bring news from the Scottish Churches National Sponsoring Body for LEPs and introduce peer accompaniment as the new method for carrying out ecumenical reviews of LEPs.

Lunch is included and full details of the programme are on the notice-board in the Crush Hall.

Those who have attended the previous Gatherings have found them interesting and informative, so why not give this one a try and broaden your horizons as we strive to develop our own successful partnership, now in its 10th year?

Please talk to Sandra Young or Howard Kirby, who will be happy to book a place for you to attend the event.

“Our relationship with others” (cont’d)

Discussions in working groups about our aspirations for ecumenical relationships, our Methodist identity, and stories of how ecumenical action has worked or not worked in our various situations, revealed a number of interesting and positive points. For example, following a quizzical comment on “Why discuss Methodist identity?”, the comment was made that, though Methodists might feel weighed down by committees, they are not weighed down by traditions: we are in a unique position to help make a difference when it comes to engaging with others.

Despite the national picture, progress can be and is being made at local level. The touchstone for successful ecumenical action remains that we continue to seek to “do things together that can be done together, and only do things separately that must be done separately”.

Does the group that met in November want to meet again? Yes it does, for we can learn from each other.

Ed: The EMU Partnership Agreement to which Howard referred has now been signed – see page 9

Ecumenical Study Group

During Lent, the ecumenical Study Group will meet each week at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, South Rosyth, starting on **Monday 15 February** at 7.30pm. The material to be used has not yet been decided, but as usual it will be relevant, modern and thought-provoking.

This group has been meeting for many years during both Advent and Lent, when the meetings are weekly, and then once a month during the rest of the year.

Members of the main churches in Rosyth attend though there have not been any Baptists for some years. Maybe the new Baptist pastor will turn this about, and then we can say we are truly ecumenical?

Come and meet new friends, renew old acquaintances, take part in modern worship, study material written by dynamic authors and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. For further information, see Lesley Yellowlees, Jack Fowell or Alan Taylor.

Space to unwind and think

Following the meaningful event during Advent, the Ecumenical Group are again organising a Labyrinth in the Parish Church Hall during Holy Week.

The Labyrinth reshapes a 12th-century ritual for the 21st century. Its maze-like path takes you on a symbolic journey, creates space to unwind and think – in particular about our relationships with ourselves, one another, our planet and God.



It is designed for young and old alike, it provides a mixture of visuals, of contemplative words, symbols and media to help guide the spiritual traveller.

Labyrinths were a feature of many medieval cathedrals – one of the best remaining examples is found in Chartres Cathedral in northern France (photo left). Unlike a maze, labyrinths have only one path – there are no dead ends. People walk the labyrinth slowly, as an aid to contemplative prayer and reflection, as a spiritual exercise, or as a form of pilgrimage.

The path has three stages - the 'inward' journey, the centre and the 'outward' journey. The theme of the 'inward' journey is letting go of things which hinder our wholeness and inner approach to God. The centre of the Labyrinth is a space of meditative prayer and peace. The theme of the 'outward' journey is relationship - with ourselves, with others and with the planet - seen in the light of our relationship with God.

Anyone interested in being involved should contact Morag Crawford on 0131 332 2253 or by email at morag.crawford.dcs@blueyonder.co.uk.

'Casting the Net'



'Casting the Net' is the programme of Mission and Growth that was approved by the St Andrew's Diocesan Synod in September 2008. It is a simple but powerful approach to congregational growth, and churches in the Diocese have been asked to think about their congregations as living communities of God's people and to take practical steps along the path towards growth.

Using the "Nine Marks of a Mission-Shaped Church" as a framework, 'Casting the Net' asks each congregation to undertake a simple strategic planning process. The nine marks of a healthy mission-shaped church have been identified as:

- 1 We worship in ways that renew and inspire
- 2 We transform lives and communities
- 3 We nurture faith through lifelong learning and mutual support
- 4 We reach out to children and young people
- 5 We use prayer, word and sacrament to experience God's will
- 6 We welcome newcomers and celebrate life events
- 7 We share our faith by confident and sensitive evangelism
- 8 We serve the community in practical ways
- 9 We are ready to seek growth and "cast the net"

St Margaret's Vestry is keen that we take part in the process, and Rosyth Methodist Church Council has expressed its willingness to join with us in trying to identify ways of exploring mission and growth.

We hope representatives from both churches will attend a meeting in Perth on 20 February for congregations wanting to take forward the 'Casting the Net' Mission Planning process in 2010. This is a taster event at which there will be a chance to hear about the programme itself, to discuss the commitment involved to participation, and the opportunity to share experiences with members of congregations who have already started the process. Then, we can decide how best to proceed.

This is nothing new to us, as both congregations have already participated in Mission 21, Continuing Congregational Development, Fresh Expressions and during 2009 'Way-Ahead' discussions and follow-up. 'Casting the Net' presents an exciting challenge to us and we look forward in the coming months to identify, with the help of the 'Casting the Net' team, ways in which we seek growth and "cast the net".

Why the net?

Jesus told his disciples to put the net out again ... and to put it out in a different way. And they caught a miraculous haul of 153 fish (John 21:1-13). 'Casting the Net' is our response to Jesus. It is our approach to the call to make disciples. It's trying again, but this time in a *different* way.

At a recent 'Casting the Net' introductory sampler for interested congregations, the participants (who included Sandra Young from St Margaret's) engaged in a short Bible study entitled "This is our Story". Although carried out in groups, the exercise could be also be tried by individuals. Why not have a go yourself or as a family or small group?

A ‘Casting the Net’ story

Mark 8 of a Mission-Shaped Church is “Serving the community in practical ways, reaching out to others, especially those in need.

To illustrate that you can start working on the Nine Marks of Mission at any point, the ‘Casting the Net’ team will be sharing activities that are being tried in congregations in the Diocese. Charmian Paterson at St Anne’s, Coupar Angus, tells the story of an evolving initiative that reaches out to children and serves the community, which is re-printed from the Diocesan website (www.st.andrews.anglican.org).

“Encouraged by regular contact with the local primary school – a spin-off from participating in last year’s Quiet Day for Scotland – members of St Anne’s Episcopal church decided to start a Drop-in centre in the church hall in January 2009 on the first Monday morning of each month. The aim was to attract both young and old to relax in a friendly environment, and have a chat over a cuppa and home bakes, prepared by volunteers.

“Play equipment and catering costs were funded with donations. Insurance and disclosures were covered by the Mothers’ Union (MU). Seed money was given by both the local MU branch and church vestry.

“After six months we evaluated the project, and realised it had not flourished, probably due to its timing and also a confusion as to who should attend. We decided to re-launch the project this autumn to run every Monday between 10am and 12noon, with its focus on young parents, babies and toddlers.

“So it is now a Parent and Toddler group with a paid leader backed up by volunteers. The NHS Health Visitors are very enthusiastic about it, as no other Parent and Toddler group exists in Coupar Angus and the local ‘Home Start’ group only take mothers and babies by referral. We are getting helpful advice from Perth & Kinross Child strategy scheme as well as prayer support from the church and local branch of the Mothers’ Union. We’ll keep you posted on progress and we would welcome your prayers too.”

Ed: An interesting approach as it illustrates the community thinking possible for even small congregations – Coupar Angus has around 60 members, with about the same number attending as St Margaret’s.

“This is our Story”

Read the full account in John 21:1–13 aloud and slowly. Listen for a word, phrase, idea or picture that captures your attention.

Read the passage again and focus your attention on how the word, phrase or idea speaks to the life of our churches. Then ask what might this phrase mean to our congregations? How is Christ, the Word, speaking to us about our life as a church through this word, phrase or idea.

Read the text for a third time and focus on what God may be calling us to do through this passage as Christians, as people involved in ‘Casting the Net’, as a church.

Based on what we have heard God say to us through this passage, what might we be able to do as churches?

The Scout Group

a report from Stuart Fowell

The Scout Group continues to maintain a strong presence in the church community with 65 young people, between 6 and 18 years of age, and 12 adult leaders attending our regular meetings on Tuesday and Friday evenings.

The Beaver, Cub, Scout and Explorer Scout Sections all pursue active indoor and outdoor programmes, with an increasing emphasis on outdoor activities, adventure training and travel for the older age groups. The highlights of their activities are summarised below.

The Scout Group has had a number of notable achievements during the past year. No fewer than 18 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts gained the Chief Scouts Award, which is the highest award they can gain in their respective sections. Congratulations were due to Scott Brown on gaining his Warrant as Assistant Cub Scout Leader, and to leaders Alan Connery and Terry O'Neill on gaining their 5-year and 10-year service awards, and to Linda Adam for her 20-year award for service as a lay-helper and a leader with the Beavers.

The culmination of a Scout's training and the highest honour that can be awarded to a Scout is to be granted the Queen's Scout Award.



We are delighted to congratulate Explorer Scout Stuart Hamilton on his gaining this prestigious award and an appropriate presentation ceremony is to be arranged in the near future in order that he may take part in the Queen's Scouts' Parade at Windsor in April.

Beaver Scouts

The Beavers learn about maps and compasses, tying knots, basic first aid and how to call for help from the emergency services through a series of indoor games and practical activities. They do activities that introduce them to the natural environment, and do simple science experiments to find out how things work.

The Beavers hold occasional outings and during the past year they have visited the National Scout Camp Site at Fordell Firs, participated in the Scout Sports and (for a bit of "art and culture") went to the theatre to see *The Wizard of Oz*.



Beavers Hallowe'en party

The Beavers participated again this year in the Church's "Shoobox" Christmas gift appeal and collected a good number of parcels for distribution overseas.

Cub Scouts

The Cubs do more outdoor activities than the Beavers, and they introduce the boys and girls to camping. They have held two camps at Fordell Firs and at Crook of Devon and a hike along the coastal footpath between Aberdour and Dalgety Bay, which was then followed by a sleep-over back at the church.



Camp fire scene at Crook of Devon

Scouts

Camping and adventurous activities are, of course, the mainstay of the Scouts' programme. Cycling and Mountain Biking has been added to their range of activities, and this has introduced them to aches and tenderness in places they didn't expect!

A group of them had a great time at the Mountain Biking Centre near Peebles. A most enjoyable time was also had at the Scout Centre at Lochgoilhead, where they took part in sailing, kayaking and raft building.

The Cubs won the 5-a-side football competition this year, winning every game against all the other Cub Packs in the District and demonstrating a degree of athletic fitness to match their enthusiasm for the adventure of camping and hiking.

Perhaps the highlight of the Cub programme was their expedition by train to the Sensation Science Centre in Dundee. This too was followed by a sleep-over back at the church, where they tried out some science experiments that enabled the Cubs to gain their Scientist Activity Badge.



Wet suits at Lochgoilhead

Environmental awareness is an important aspect of Scouting, and the Scouts spent a day at Edinburgh Zoo learning about the impact of global deforestation. And the Scouts also won their 5-a-side football competition (in between all the other things they do!).

Explorer Scouts

The Explorer Scouts have, for many years, pursued a very practical programme of environmental conservation work in Fife and in other parts of Scotland and northern England. They help out with serious voluntary conservation projects in estate management for the National Trust and other landowners.



Yellow tee-shirts at Wings

But it's not all hard work: they also have fun climbing, target shooting, cycling, scuba diving, cycling, and gorge-walking, to name but a few activities from their varied programme.

Recently, they took part in the Global Awareness Partnership Project, where they learned about such global welfare issues as poverty eradication, fair trade, etc. Some of the Explorer Scouts went to the Wings Jamboree camp where they had the opportunity to meet Jim Fitzpatrick MP (DEFRA) and talk to him about the conservation and environmental work they get involved in.

Thanks to Martin Rogers for the photographs. Don't forget that you get the images in colour in the on-line version!

This edition has followed the previous "Contact" practice of trying to include in the February issue a report from each of the organisations that use our premises. And there are more people who "come to church" regularly during the week than most know about – for example, 70 Guides of different ages makes Monday evenings very busy!

We hope in future that there will be more reports, more news, and more pictures in all our issues, and we would encourage everyone to submit material.

We would also like to encourage more readers: ask for an extra copy to give away, or look at the version in colour at <http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk/pdfs/contact1002.pdf>

The Guide Unit

a report from Mandy Ward

The Guide, Brownie and Rainbow concert on the stage at Christmas was very well attended, with the church being nearly full. It is the first time in years that we have organised a concert, but we will now think of following it up with more.

Note that our younger age groups have waiting lists. With more leaders, we could accommodate more girls! So, if anyone has a spare hour or so on a Monday evening, why not pop in and join us to see how we work. For Guides, Brownies and Rainbows the programme over the next few weeks will be centred round Thinking Day (22 February).

Rainbow Guides

The Rainbows are a very lively group of 19 5-7 year-old girls who meet every Monday night from 6.00-7.00pm. They have a varied programme which is fun-based but includes learning basic cookery and lots of craft work.

There is a waiting list at the moment for the Rainbows as the adult-to-child ratio rules for this age group have to be very strict. Fortunately, two mums have now decided to go for their Guider warrants, so we will be able to maintain the Rainbow numbers.

Brownie Guides

We have around 30 Brownies on our books, with two Brownie leaders, and one young leader, but there is also a waiting list, and we are always looking for more help.

Weekly we try to learn new skills for badges, we have craft nights, and the girls like to entertain with poems, songs and dances, usually for badges. We hold parties and fancy dress and lots of games, but most of all it is about fun and making new friends.

Guides

The Guide Company has 19 guides who come regularly every week. The programme is varied from week to week, in which we try to include one of the following: games, campfire songs and cooking.

The serious side to Guiding is badgework, because some of the badges take a lot of hard work and time. That being said, the Guides are so happy when they are presented with their badges! We have just had a Burns supper which proved to be good in every way.

Other weekday activities

Brambles Playgroup

Brambles Playgroup takes children from 2 years 6 months to 5 years. Our activities include painting, home corner, arts and crafts, sand and water trays, all for Early Years education, under the direction of our play leader, Lesley Hynd.

Brambles is run by a committee chaired by Tracy Stephens and constituted as a separate charity (Scottish Charity number SC000916). The current fee is £5.75 per session, but we are in partnership with Fife Council, so can take funded children.

At present Brambles runs for five sessions each week, 9.00–11.30am and 12.30–3.00pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 12.30–3.00pm on Thursdays. However, we are currently looking to extend our hours, and to put in a lunch club. Becca Murphy, our ex-chair, covers recruitment and is currently working on the lunch club project. We are aiming to start on 21 April, and are taking names for this now. So, if you are interested, please get in touch with us, and we will confirm the arrangements when everything has been finalised.

Tracy Stephens

Toddler Group

The Toddler Group runs on Wednesday and Friday mornings between 9.15 and 11.00am. Babies to pre-school children are all welcome, and we don't have a waiting list at present.

The sessions give kids a chance to make friends with other children, and give mums, child-minders or grandparents a chance to chat with other adults over a cup of tea, while the kids enjoy some toast or snack. At the end we like to try and have some musical instruments and have some the adult and kids sitting in circle on floor singing!

We had a great day out in the Summer to Bongo's play area in Glenrothes, then in December we had a really nice Christmas party – Santa came along with presents for all the girls and boys.

Elaine Lambert

Parahandies Disabled Club

The Parahandies Disabled Club meet at the church on a Monday between 10.30am and 2.00pm. The format of the meeting usually offers tea and coffee on arrival, lunch and then some sort of afternoon activity such as a talk, singing, or games. Most months the Club is able to organise a local trip to a place of interest or to an hotel for lunch.

The Club, run by volunteers, is for people that have difficulty in getting out and about, and its current catchment area covers Dunfermline and Rosyth and its environs. The Club uses transport which is sponsored by Fife Council to collect and return members to their homes.

Peter Merckel

Sunday activities

Sunday School

Our Sunday School is small – but growing! We use a combination of traditional teaching, craft and Christian computer games with our children. Yes – thanks to generous fund raising by our Church family and grants from various sources – we now have six laptop computers and a wireless printer to help us.

The ages of our children range from 2 to 13, which is very challenging, but we are really just like a big family and it is a delight to watch the older children caring for, and helping the younger ones – without even being asked. Parents of younger children sometimes like to stay with the children to help them settle, and I can always use another pair of hands!

Recently we said goodbye to Audrie Pollard after many years of working with the children. She certainly deserves a rest and a chance to stay in Services! There is now a small group of people who come out to help in Sunday School about once a month. More helpers are always welcome, to do as much or as little as you feel able.

Gwyneth Kirby

Sunday Funday

We are now in our second year of running Sunday Funday, also known as “Messy Church”, which gives a big hint about what sort of things happen there! On the second Sunday of each month we welcome children of all ages (but particularly aged 3 to 11) accompanied by an adult, to a couple of hours of learning about the Christian faith in a very informal, and often very messy, way. (Wait till you see the pig swill next time!)

We start with a large breakfast, followed by lots of different craft activities and finish with a story and song. Each month we have a different theme – all our crafts and the story and song are based around this theme. The children are always delighted to take home a bag full of what they have been making! The service which follows is designed for all ages and our hope is that some of our families will want to stay for this, but there is no pressure to do so, as we realise that some children are ready for home after a busy session.

We would love to see more children. There’s no need to say you are coming – just turn up for breakfast at 9.00am.

Gwyneth Kirby

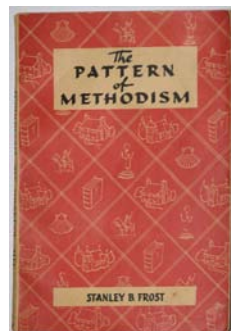
The Bookcase: No.13

our regular feature from Jack Fowell

“The Pattern of Methodism” is a little book written by Stanley Frost that was first published in 1948.

An interesting book about the various aspects and aims of the Methodist Church, it is directed principally at young people. Nevertheless, it has much to tell those of us who are older, and therefore well worth reading.

Ed: Shows that you can't beat a good old 'un!



Christ in the heart of Edinburgh

The Easter Play, which has become an established annual event, is in the planning for **Saturday 3 April**, with performances at 10.30am and 2.30pm in Princes Street Gardens. This year there will be a modern take on the Easter Story towards the end of the performance, which will show that the message is just as relevant as it always was.

Nearer to Easter there will be a need for a construction team to erect the scenery, a sewing team to make/repair costumes, caterers, marshal and more. If you want more information or to volunteer, contact Frances Young on 01506 882530 or by email at frances.young@easterplay.org, or speak to Ann or Brian Curtis, the CEMC Easter Play link people. Note also that link people are needed in all Edinburgh and Forth Circuit churches – please contact Frances to volunteer.

As well as the play, this year during Holy Week there will be an exhibition of the work of seven artists on the theme “Christ in the Heart of the City”.

The Lord Provost, George Grubb, will open the exhibition, which will be arranged along the top path of the gardens from the Floral Clock. Alongside will be art work resulting from a competition in primary schools in Edinburgh.



Contact points

This list supplements the list of formal contacts given on the inside cover, and is for the activities and organisations run by the Methodist Church Council and St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

Church activities

Methodist Gift Aid enquiries to
Ron Dempster 01383 721252
ronmary.dempster@tiscali.co.uk

Property matters and letting enquiries to
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers@ukgateway.net

Rosyth Methodist Toddler Group
Elaine Lambert 01383 417071
elaine.lambert1@sky.com

St Margaret's Choir
Myra Tarr 01383 723989
myra@mtarr.co.uk

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to
Marc Tempelhoff 01383 410151
marct@talktalk.net

Sunday School and Sunday Funday
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779
gmkirby@hotmail.com

Traidcraft
Myra Tarr 01383 723989
myra@mtarr.co.uk

Wednesday Fellowship
Mary Kidd 01383 872332
cmarykidd@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup
Lesley Hynd
(play leader) 07758 877284
Becca Murphy
Tracy Stephens (chair)
bramblesplaygroup@hotmail.com

Parahandies Disabled Club
Peter Merckel
(secretary) 01383 822940
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

Scout Group

Group Scout Leader
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936
stuart.fowell@ukonline.co.uk

Beaver Scouts
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936
stuart.fowell@ukonline.co.uk

Cub Scouts
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers@ukgateway.net

Scouts
Alan Connery 01383 731391
alan.connery@virgin.net

Explorer Scouts
Terry O'Neill 01363 842695
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

Guide Unit

Rainbows
Susan Warren 01383 414355
Young Leader, Melissa Peel

Brownies
Suzy Knight 01383 416087

Guides
Mandy Ward 01383 414944
thewards_197@talktalk.net
Assistant Guider, Susan Warren
Young Leader, Nicola Byrne

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk

For prayer and action

The following extract is from a post that appeared on the web site of the Dunfermline-based "Lemon Aid" (www.lemonaid.org.uk) on 19 January:

"The situation is grim beyond words but we continue to trust in God for wisdom in what to do. "It's 1am in the morning on Tuesday as I write this. Lemon Aid have been granted emergency access into Port-au-Prince airport aboard an aid flight on Wednesday. In the last 24 hours we have worked around the clock pulling medicines, dressings, needles, vaccines, anaesthetic equipment and essential dry foodstuffs together. Packed it all into 40 large bags, loaded a van and set off for Heathrow. We have 1,000kg of emergency supplies on with us. The supplies will be delivered to the emergency surgical unit which has been set up in the capital and the Wesleyan hospital on the island of La Gonave.



"We received notification that the hospital is almost completely out of supplies and that it was extremely difficult to source any medicines in Haiti at present.

"Thanks for all the donations that have come in so far. We have now reached £10,500 in the emergency appeal. We are taking money down to the hospital as there has been a run on the banks and it's now impossible to access funds from Haitian banks. Please continue to donate what you can so that we can make further medicine supplies as required.

"The Lemon Aid team will do what they can to update you as we can. Please pray that we can get all these supplies safely to where they are needed and for protection for the team. On this trip are Pastor Jimmy Dowds, Adrian Turk, Justin Dowds, Charles Seaman, Andy Hawthorne and Anthony Delaney."

The **next issue** of Contact will be produced at the end of March 2010. Contributions please by **Sunday 21 March** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; 01383 723989), preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk. Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young (sandrayoung39@btinternet.com or 01383 415021).