

Rosyth  
Methodist Church

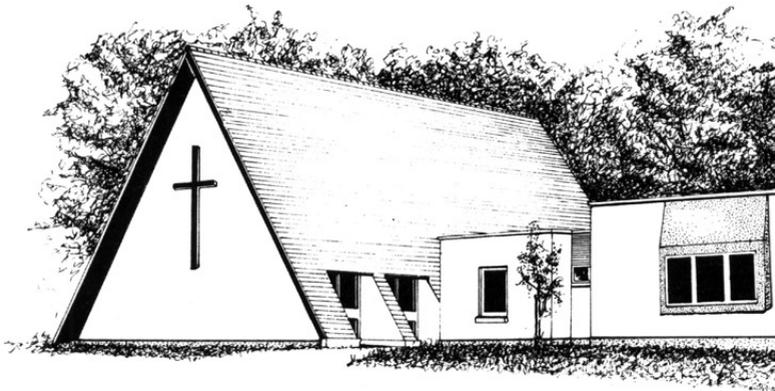
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 78

April/May 2015

## Rosyth Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

[www.rosythmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rosythmethodist.org.uk)

## St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

[www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org.uk)

### **in partnership**

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

#### Ministers:

Deacon Sarah McDowall  
01383 611000

Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
01506 464567

Co-ordinating Steward:  
David Salthouse 01383 889212

Pastoral Secretary:  
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

Church Council Secretary:  
Sandra Wilson 01383 415885

Treasurer:  
Dave Ward 01383 414944

#### Interim Rector (until 18 April):

Very Rev Jim Mein 01506 834317

#### Rector (after 18 April):

Rev Alison Cozens 01383 732654

#### Vestry Secretary:

Sandra Young 01383 415021

#### Treasurer:

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

### **our regular pattern of worship**

#### **Sundays (except 4th)**

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

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship  
(including Sunday School)

#### **2nd Sundays (during term-time):** for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Messy Church”

#### **4th Sundays:** Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

### **where to find us**

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.

# A view from the study

Helen Jenkins writes ...



As I write, we're in the middle of buying a house. The offer's been accepted, the mortgage is being processed, and hopefully in a few week's time we'll have the keys (although we won't move until the summer).

It will be a new start for us – back in our own home after six years living in a manse, in a different town and with my job about to change yet again (although still partly based here in Rosyth – you don't get rid of me that easily!). Caitlin's excited about having bunk beds and a hidey-hole in her bedroom, Colin's planning how he can put Ethernet points in every room in the house, and I'm worrying about the important things like childcare! There will be challenges no doubt, but it's exciting, a time of new adventures and opportunities, new people to meet and new things to get involved in.

I only have to look out of my study window to see the seasons changing. There are crocuses appearing, a primrose hiding under a shrub, and soon the trees will start to change from wintry brown to the fresh green of spring. It won't be long until we hear the bleating of lambs as new life comes to the world all around us.

Of course in the church we're still in the Lenten season of waiting and watching, of preparing for the new beginning that is to come. Easter is the ultimate new start, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death, the resurrection to new life in which we all share. We participate in that new life all year round, but at Easter we focus specially on the miracle of life and hope restored. We watch again the transformation of the disciples from a frightened bunch of misfits to those who empowered by the Spirit at Pentecost will go on to change the world, and we pray that we too might experience that presence of God, whether for the first time or a renewal of something we have known for many years.

This year, Easter will be a particularly special new start for us, as we prepare to welcome Rev Alison Cozens to St Margaret's and Holy Trinity in the weeks to come. After an interregnum where Rev Jim Mein has ably led and cared for the congregation, it is exciting to know that a new rector is coming to join us, and hopefully Jim will be able to have a rest, with our grateful thanks for all he has done. New clergy in the church always brings its challenges, as congregation and minister get to know one another and the different quirks and foibles we bring, but it is also a time of opportunity, for new ideas, enthusiasm and energy.

So, as we see the signs of new starts in the world around us and celebrate the new life Jesus brings at Easter, let's pray that this new start will be a fruitful one for both St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodist as we work together as God's people in this place.

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## What's in this issue ...

Our theme for this issue is "New beginnings", as we look forward in faith and anticipation for Easter and for change. Look out for the "green shoots" symbol on the top corner!

New beginnings for our clergy (pp3-6)  
Preparing for Easter (pp7-10)  
New beginnings elsewhere (pp12-16,32)  
Getting the message across (pp30-31)

plus our regular items:

Diary for March-May (pp17-22)  
Fellowship News (p23)  
Invitations/requests (p28)  
Music (pp33-34)  
Reports (pp27-29)  
Working together (p11)  
Young people (pp24-25)



## Looking forward

Dear Friends,

I guess this is my last letter for Contact and I'm torn between looking backwards or forward. Let me just deal with the past by saying I have genuinely enjoyed working with you all at St Margaret's, though I'm sorry for your sake it has been so long. There is a frustration in "part-time filling in" because you never get as involved, or know the people as well, as you would like to, but it will be hard to say farewell to many friends whose generosity and support I have greatly valued. You have a great group there with the choir and everyone in the congregation clearly committed and fulfilling the different roles that keep a congregation not only alive but a vibrant, caring community. I wish you, and your Methodist friends, every blessing in your future.

About that future I have only one message. I think you are fortunate in appointing Alison and it will work well, but one thing I'm certain about is that every one of us has some strengths and we also have some weaknesses. And over the years I've seen this worked out in two ways:

Some folk note the weaknesses, talk about them and complain. This leads not only to their being unable to see or appreciate any strengths but actually prevents the person from exercising those strengths they have.

Some folk note the strengths, talk about them and rejoice. This leads to there being a community of trust, able to discuss, and find ways to compensate for the weaknesses.

The results are obvious. One route leads to division, unhappiness and all being less effective than they could be, the other leads to a vibrant community where all can contribute their different strengths and be supported in their weaknesses. No glass is ever full to the brim but seeing it as half-full is greatly to be preferred to seeing it half-empty.

I believe Jesus saw people as half-full, God sees us all as half-full, worth creating, worth working with, each one having some real potential. May that potential in every one of you be fulfilled in the years to come.

Jim Mein

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## Thanks to Jim

Sandra Young writes on behalf of the St Margaret's congregation

When Jim joined us as our interim Rector on Ash Wednesday, 6 February 2013, little did we expect him to be with us until Easter Sunday, 6 April 2015!

How blessed and privileged we have been to have had such a wise and experienced priest to help us stay together through most of the three years we have been without a permanent Rector. Jim's sermons have been inspirational and thought-provoking

and his quiet, but friendly and informal way with us has helped to make Sunday mornings a special time of the week.

We are sad to see Jim go, but we are looking forward to new beginnings when Alison becomes our Rector.

We thank you, Jim, for all you have brought to our worship and lives. We appreciate your giving a big part of your 'retirement' to be with us. We are truly grateful, and will always remember you with affection.

# The next stage



As most of you will probably know by now, on 1 September this year I will be commencing my new appointment in the Cumbria District of the Methodist Church. As a Methodist minister I am called to an itinerant ministry which means that I can be stationed anywhere in the connexion. While this might be quite a scary prospect it is also a tremendous privilege to be part of a Church which extends far beyond our local community.

Methodist Deacons are stationed directly by the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order which means that right up to the point of hearing where our new appointment will be we have very little idea of which part of the country we will be sent to.

I will not pretend that this has not been at times stressful over the past few months but at the same time it has been a wonderful experience to feel secure in the knowledge and certainty that our Warden has been guided by God as she seeks to match the particular gifts of so many deacons to different areas and situations around the country.

So what will I be up to in Cumbria? For around half of my appointment I will be based in Carlisle working with those who are part of two churches in the North Cumbria circuit. One of these is in the Upperby area of Carlisle and which from a recently-developed building is seeking to serve those who live, work, and pass through the locality. The other church is based in the city centre and perhaps surprisingly does not have a building! The Central Hall was sold a few years ago and a group of people have through worship, Bible study, street pastoring and in other ways sought to maintain a Methodist witness to the very diverse groups of people who find themselves in the city centre at different times of the week.

The other 50% of my role will be as District Mission Enabler working across all of Cumbria helping churches throughout the District as they seek to discover God's vision and purpose for the people called Methodist in that part of the country.

My feelings at the moment are a mixture of anticipation as I look forward to a role which will be both exciting and challenging and of trust in God as I think of all that is happening in Fife and the many arrangements to be made in advance of the move. I would ask for your prayers as I prepare over the next few months and also please pray for Archie as he seeks to make suitable arrangements with regard to his employment and also for our families as they too adjust to what will be a new situation.

I am reminded of the hymn that we sing each year at our Diaconal Convocation:

This, this is the God we adore,  
our faithful, unchangeable friend,  
whose love is as great as his power,  
and neither knows measure nor end:

'Tis Jesus, the first and the last,  
whose Spirit shall guide us safe home;  
we'll praise him for all that is past,  
and trust him for all that's to come.

A reminder for all in the Church that where ever God leads us either as individuals or as a church that He will be there with us!

Thanks be to God!

Your friend,

Deacon Sarah



## An introduction to our new Rector

The Rev Alison Cozens was ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in 1994. Alison writes ...

My first sense of vocation to ministry came when I was 14 years old. I vividly remember walking to Rochester Cathedral, near where I grew up, and asking the elderly deaconess there if I could be ordained. She told me in no uncertain terms that I could not, as women could not be ordained!

Recently I was privileged to be at York Minster to play a small part in the service of consecration of the new Bishop of Stockport, Bishop Libby Lane. Almost forty years after that conversation in Rochester, it felt like a wonderful affirmation of ministry.

As I was finishing my degree at St Andrews University, I had a conversation with Bishop Michael Hare Duke. He encouraged me to become a Lay Reader and then to apply to Edinburgh Theological College. So I was the first woman in full-time training at Coates Hall.

My mother had a strong faith. She was born on the island of St Helena and sometimes people say that I have Napoleonic blood in me because I can be a strong leader!



My father is a man of Kent and my sister Rosemary and I were brought up near to where my father's family lived.

Although I sang in the local Church choir, I also really liked going to the Methodist youth fellowship and the Roman Catholic prayer group. So in some ways I have been a natural ecumenist from an early age.

I believe the life of faith is a journey and I have been blessed to have known God's presence with me

through each of the unexpected paths I have travelled.

Working in the Scottish borders for my first curacy and then in north Edinburgh at Holy Cross, Davidsons Mains, followed by ministry in Edinburgh city centre for many years, and then most recently in one of the most diverse parts of Leicester in the Church of England, my ministry has grown and matured as I seek to find God in each person I meet.

Both my husband Peter and I are looking forward to getting to know the good people of Dunfermline and Rosyth. We both love walking, reading and listening to classical music as well as sharing the occasional glass of red wine or malt whisky!

Alison's Institution as Rector of Holy Trinity and St Margaret's will be held at Holy Trinity at 1.00pm on **Saturday 18 April**. Please read the information on page 19 and, if you're coming, plan to be there early!

# Preparing for Easter

## Study groups

There are still opportunities to join Lenten study groups:

The ecumenical group at St Columba's on the theme of "In the Beginning ...", when they reflect on and pray about the state of God's world today, reach the last of the six days of creation on **Monday 25 March**, with a Lent meal the following week.

The sessions start at 7.30pm and finish with refreshments, usually by about 9.30pm. Speak to Alan Taylor for further information.

The last of Jim Mein's very stimulating series of discussions, to which we gave the title "Becoming part of the answer", is at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 25 March** in Holy Trinity Church Hall, when we tackle the thorny subject of "End of life issues".

Gordon McLaren, who is the Public Health Consultant in Fife and on the Board of "Good life, good death, good grief", will lead our thinking. This is *not* a body which promotes assisted suicide, but rather asks how we care for those who are close to the end of life, particularly if they are suffering and have no desire to struggle on?

## Lent Roadshow The Way of the Cross

Join the Rev Thomas Brauer in encountering Lent through original images and poetry inspired by the stations of the cross. Explore how this ancient tradition teaches us more of the Christian life, and our place in the world.

Your last chance to share in this experience of devotion and learning is on **Tuesday 24 March** at 7.30pm at St Peter's, Townsend Place, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1HB.

## The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2015

Last year, after years of supporting overseas communities, the charities which benefited from the Bishop's Lent Appeal were local.

This year, we return to Scotland. Bishop David asks us to support the work of the Scottish Episcopal Institute (SEI) in order to help build the Church of the future by investing in the ordinands of today, those men and women who have been called to ministry, and who will be trained at the SEI – itself the worthy successor of TISEC, the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It is especially important that we equip those younger candidates who have responded to their calling, who have a lifetime of service ahead of them, and who will bring fresh insights and energy to our church. In its turn, SEI is poised to launch new courses and fresh ways of interaction in the ever-changing Scottish context. For this, increased funding will go a long way to achieving that aim.

Since David came to Scotland as our Bishop ten years ago, he has been working hard to identify the way ahead for our church. Casting the Net is one result and this has put in place the means for growth. The effort put in by everyone is beginning to bear fruit.

As David said recently, "I want to thank all those who have sustained the work of Casting the Net in recent years. The commitment which has been given has been remarkable and what has been achieved has transformed many aspects of our life together." The way ahead is clear.

Please give generously to David's appeal. There will be a retiring collection at the Eucharist on Palm Sunday and again at the Maundy Thursday service, giving everyone an opportunity to support the appeal.

# Holy Week services

Do join us if you can at events this Holy Week and prepare to celebrate the joy of the resurrection on Easter Day. A lot of work goes into our preparations for Easter, both liturgically and musically. Coming along is a poignant and meaningful way of reminding ourselves what it is to be a Christian in today's world.

Those in our church are:

- Wednesday 1 April 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship in the Church Lounge:  
Holy Week Communion with the Rev Dr Helen Jenkins
- Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Liturgy of the Last Supper led by the Very Rev Jim Mein  
There will be a retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal (see page 7)
- Good Friday 12noon An hour by the Cross – a meditation led by the Very Rev  
to 1.00pm Jim Mein followed by hot cross buns and tea/coffee
- 2.00pm Showing of "Jesus" a film suitable for all ages which  
to 3.00pm starts with the story of Lazarus and ends with the  
resurrection of Jesus.  
This is a Rosyth Churches' ecumenical event

On Easter Day we give thanks to the Risen Lord at:

- 9.30am Festival Eucharist and the blessing of the Paschal Candle,  
celebrant and preacher the Very Rev Jim Mein
- 11.00am Family Service led by the Rev Dr Helen Jenkins and  
Deacon Sarah McDowall, during which the Easter Story  
will be presented in a short dramatised form

For details of services and events elsewhere see the diary on pages 17 and 18.

## Say it with flowers!

As part of the church's celebration of Easter, we are holding a competition to create an Easter garden. The competition is open to both congregations, and entries will be on display in the sanctuary.

There are three classes: for under 8 year olds, 8–18 year olds, and adults, with 3 fairly-traded Easter eggs for the winners! Suitable containers could be a biscuit tin lid, a small tray, or a shirt box lid. It would be helpful if these could be brought to church on the morning of **Saturday 5 April**, otherwise on Easter Sunday itself. So please help to make the church look beautiful at Easter.

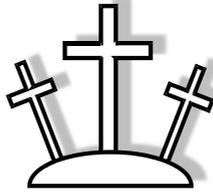


# The Easter story

The *Easter Story* performance this year will be on **Sunday 29 March** at 7.30 pm in St Margaret's RC Church, East Port, Dunfermline.

The *Easter Story* retells the events of Holy Week from the arrival of the pilgrims for the Festival of Passover and follows the last week of Jesus's life on earth, his crucifixion and resurrection – right through to his ascension into heaven.

It is also unique in portraying in word and song what the feelings may have been of the main characters on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday – including Peter, the soldier who had witnessed the crucifixion and the women involved, who had lost a friend or, indeed, a son.



The choir is 50 strong and produces a full choral sound, with principals drawn from a variety of musical backgrounds, including Kirkcaldy Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Kirkcaldy Amateur Operatic Society and the East Fife Male Voice Choir.

Stephen and Sandra Miller, who wrote the music for *The Easter Story*, are its accompanist and conductor respectively. The narration is energetically and uniquely delivered by Rev Andy Campbell.

Please come along and join us to re-live – even re-think – the events of the most significant week the world has ever known.

Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Proceeds will go to the St Margaret's One World Group.

## Easter Offering

You'll see on page 10 a mention of the Methodist Easter offering. The 2015 theme is illustrated in the service Powerpoint, which asks some searching questions:



**Nutmeg tree**

What provides flavour and zest to our lives?



**Fig tree**

What fruit are we bearing in our lives?



**Breadfruit tree**

Do we use all the resources God has given us?



**Winter tree**

Can we see beauty in barrenness?



**Budapest memorial tree**

How do we remember and commemorate suffering?



**Tree of health**

How can we engage in healing in our communities?

More inspiration from this initiative at <http://tinyurl.com/khcnv2d>

# On offer across the bridge

## On the Edge

This year's Easter Play in Princes Street Gardens West is set to mark its tenth year with a radical new perspective on the Easter story, to be performed at 2.00pm on **Saturday 4 April**. Scripted by writer and journalist Susan Mansfield the performance casts the spotlight on some women and men in the margins of the Bible, as the story of Jesus' death and resurrection is seen through the eyes of the often overlooked characters around him. Through dramatic monologues and inventive story-telling, the twelve central characters will offer audiences a new and enlightening perspective on the Gospels in a contemporary spin on the traditional Easter Passion Play. Seen from the point of view of wives and daughters, soldiers and siblings, the play offers an idea of the way in which Jesus affected the lives of the ordinary people around him.

The Edinburgh Easter Play has grown into a large-scale community production, with a cast and crew of volunteers drawn from groups all across the city. Last year's performance drew crowds of up to 2,500 people, one of the largest audiences the production has enjoyed in its ten-year history. This is a free, non-ticketed open-air performance. but there is no seating.

## Heart and Soul 2015

*Heart and Soul 2015* is a large-scale celebratory event organised by the Church of Scotland and takes place this year in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on **Sunday 17 May** from 1.00pm to 6.00pm. The event is designed to celebrate the life and work of the church in Scotland. It's free to attend, and all are welcome. More information at <http://www.heartandsoul2015.org.uk>.

## Resurrection 2015

*Resurrection 2015* is an opportunity for the Churches to unite round the resurrection of Jesus in one of the largest Christian events in Scotland with one proclamation "He is Risen, Hallelujah". Organised by Origin Scotland and led by the Exile Band, Origin Praise Choir and the Exile Chamber Orchestra, this is a not-to-be-missed event. All are invited to celebrate the risen Lord on **Easter Day, 5 April**, in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh at 7.30pm. Tickets are free, and are seated. You can book up to five tickets per person online at [www.originscotland.org](http://www.originscotland.org). Group bookings need to be done through the office 0131 208 0095. Please note you must have confirmed numbers. There will be an offering on the night towards expenses.

## An invitation from CEMC

A Circuit service for the Easter Offering dedication will take place on **Sunday 31 May** at the City of Edinburgh Church at 6.30pm. The theme this year is "The leaves of the tree". Please join us for this special service.

The leaves of the tree...



"On either side of the river is the tree of life ... and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22:2)

# Working together

## Rosyth Foodbank

Erica Lock writes: Rosyth Foodbank was able to feed more than 60 men, women and children during February.

There are regular deliveries to the Foodbank from the Dunfermline depot, but we still need and value the local collections from churches and other organisations in and around Rosyth. So please keep an eye on the weekly notices and keep up your generous donations. They are greatly appreciated by the recipients and the volunteers too as we rely on them to supplement deliveries and are appropriate to local needs.

## Homelessness Sunday

A cheque for £136.13 was sent to Scottish Churches Housing Action from donations received at the coffee bar during January, plus tax relief, for which we have received an email thanking us for our support.

## Scottish Churches Housing Action: “Two Decades of Faith in Action”

The Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, joined representatives of other Christian denominations at a celebratory event marking the 20th Anniversary of Scottish Churches Housing Action, whose Chief Executive, Alastair Cameron, says “We are still a small organisation, but we’ve got a vision that there can be a Scotland free from homelessness, and it’s our job to support and encourage the churches in working towards that vision.

“So while we celebrate what we’ve achieved over the past 20 years, we also want to tell church leaders that there remains a challenge of homelessness in Scotland – the job is not done!”

## Christian Aid events

Thank you to all who supported the “Souper Soup” lunch, with a delicious choice of six home-made soups and mouth-watering desserts. This event raised £170.50.

The Daffodil Tea takes place this **Tuesday 24 March** from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Parish Church Hall. If you are passing you will be most welcome to enjoy scones and cream (donation £3) and buy daffodils.

The following event on **Thursday 14 May** at 7.00pm at the Parish Church will be the very popular annual Christian Aid Concert by some of the Primary Schools in Rosyth. This is always a sell-out and is a ticketed event – you can’t turn up at the door on the night – so you are advised to get your tickets as soon as they become available. Watch the weekly notices for details.

During Christian Aid Week (**10–16 May**) the Parish Church will also hold their annual lunch, with the proceeds going to Christian Aid.

## Christian Aid committee

Despite asking through Contact for over a year now for someone from our partnership to represent us on the Rosyth Christian Aid Committee, no-one has volunteered. Sadly, Mary Dempster finally called it a day at the January committee meeting, and we desperately need someone from either church to take on the role. It would be helpful and good if we could continue to have a voice on the local committee. If anyone is willing to spend a few hours each year for this worthy cause, please talk to Mary, who will be happy to tell you what is required.

We would like to thank Mary for her huge commitment over many years.



# “Unpacking Fresh Expressions”

Archie McDowall reports:

On Saturday 21 February, around 40 of us gathered in Glasgow for a day described as an opportunity “to find out more about the phenomenon of Fresh Expressions” which had been organised by the Scotland District of the Methodist Church. The day was led by John and Olive Fleming Drane who are of course well-known, not only in Scotland, but across the UK and beyond, as leaders of innovative practices within the Church.

Fresh Expressions is not a new movement and was initially started in 2004 as a joint project between the Church of England and the Methodist Church and it is estimated that there are now over 3,000 Fresh Expressions of Church worshipping in England. Perhaps typically, Scotland has been slower to catch on to the concept with the Church of Scotland only becoming partners in the scheme in 2013.

Within our own Edinburgh and Forth Circuit we are of course now in the fourth year of our VentureFX project led by Lou Davis which, along with other initiatives, has helped to establish “The Gathering” as a new worshipping community and now included in the circuit plan.

So what is a Fresh Expression of church? One of the leaders of the movement Bishop Graham Cray has said that the movement involves the “planting of new congregations or churches which are different in ethos and style from the church which planted them; because they are designed to reach a different group of people than those already attending the original church”. This was partly in recognition of the statistics in the 2001 census that showed that, while 70% of the British population said that they were Christian, only 15% attended church. From these statistics it was concluded that there are many people in Britain who would describe themselves as Christian, but were not being reached by traditional forms of church.

During the day we heard stories and saw videos of churches which have been set up to reach groups of people as diverse as motor bikers, dog walkers, skate boarders and young families. Interestingly, most Fresh Expressions are lay led, do not take place on a Sunday, and do not take place in traditional church buildings. They also tended to have much less formality than traditional church and it was felt that this made it easier to attract those people who might not have attended church for many years, if ever, and might therefore be uncomfortable in a traditional church environment.

During the day I was challenged in many ways. I found myself asking why traditional church always takes place on a Sunday morning when we know there are so many other competing attractions (apparently the fastest growing services in Britain at present are those which take place on a Saturday, either late afternoon or early evening), and why so much of our effort seems to revolve around trying to bring people in to our current model of church rather than taking a different style of church out to those outside our buildings.

There was a constant theme which ran through the whole day. The message was that, if and when we try to engage with people in different ways, then there will be a price to pay. Not necessarily a financial price, but the cost of moving out of our comfort zones. Where Fresh Expressions have been successful, they tend to develop in ways very different to those originally imagined.

The story from the day that probably spoke to me most was that of a small Methodist church where fewer than a dozen people, all of whom were in their eighties, were regular worshippers.

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# New beginnings

Mary Kidd reflects



I'm writing this on Red Nose Day when people and celebrities go out of their way to be funny for money, and I'm wondering why it's on the same day that a service commemorating the conflict in Afghanistan is held in the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral, bringing together bereaved families, royalty and veterans. The common goal here seems to be the people – people who are seeking to make the world a better place. We must look beyond the fun and frolics of Comic Relief and the grief, solemnity and stupidity of war, and take notice of the fact that people give what they can to bring happiness, peace and a much better way of life to those people who are in desperate need of these qualities.

Maybe the efforts of the weekend will see new beginnings for many, many people.

The first line of a not very well-known hymn is "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me". (What a great pity it doesn't appear in any of the church's hymn-books in current use!).

Ed: You'll find an interesting history of this song by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson at <http://tinyurl.com/lqgbbv2>, and the words at <http://tinyurl.com/mruhacx>

How can I, or anyone, make a difference?

Only a week before this, we hosted the World Day of Prayer here in Rosyth, when we were reminded that Jesus showed his disciples, by example, his servant spirit, by demonstrating the washing of each other's feet. This was an opportunity to show his disciples that they should learn to be servants, loving and caring for each other. Serving, as he did, as a group or individually, we can make the world a better place, making our contribution towards world peace.

Members of our Every Day With Jesus house group, during March and April, are looking at the passages in Isaiah known as the Servant Songs – some of the most well-loved verses in the Bible. Through these verses we are guided to show how we can, as individuals, become more servant-hearted by looking at the characteristics of servanthood that God delights in, such as self-control, patience and courage. Again, as a group or as individuals, we are exploring what it means to take up Jesus' challenge. At the start of the year we prayed for help to make a difference by preparing the way for God's Kingdom, so that we are ready to serve God in the weeks that lie ahead. A new beginning, perhaps ...?

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The church developed a Fresh Expression, where the sanctuary was redesigned as a huge play area for toddlers and small children. This new form of church was soon attracting around fifty people each week who met and studied the Bible together while their children happily played on the equipment.

The picture that had the biggest impact on me though was the photo of that same small, elderly congregation, still worshipping on a

Sunday morning, but instead of the pews and pulpit which would once have been there, now surrounded by trampolines, climbing frames and slides. That was the price which they had to pay in order to become relevant to the community they sought to serve.

I found myself wondering what I would be prepared to give up in order that the Church might be more relevant to those around us.



# Diocesan Synod

Valerie Leslie reports

This year's Synod took place on 7 March. Business started at 10.15 am, with prayers led by the Dean. The Bishop gave thanks and remembered two of St Ninian's former Bishops, the Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke and the Rt Rev Michael Henley, and other faithful servants of the diocese who had passed away during the past year.

It is always interesting and exciting to hear how the diocese has progressed throughout the year. As St Margaret's is thinking of "New Beginnings", I was pleased that this year's Synod was reflecting this by the installation of Thomas Brauer as full-time Diocesan Missioner. It will be an exciting time for the diocese as the churches in St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane look to the future, with Church Planting and Mission as important innovations to keep us all on our toes.

The Bishop told Synod of the retirement of priests and the arrival of new clergy. He also informed us of the establishment of the church graft in the former ABI group (now renamed All Souls, Fife), grafted to St Paul's and St George's Church in Edinburgh. The Bishop also advised about the clergy development committee and said that these new developments were writing the pages of a new story in the history of the diocese.

The Bishop also spoke of the challenges that are ahead for the diocese, particularly for the churches who have vacancies. The Bishop told synod that there was an 80% turnover of clergy, stating that it was a time of massive change for congregations, not to mention considerable hard work for vestries and the Bishop. Eight churches in the diocese are currently vacant. The Bishop also talked about the effect that a church vacancy can have on congregational numbers and on the morale of the congregation.

The Bishop's address was very refreshing. He spoke about new beginnings, new faces and new challenges. He talked about the travels he had made this year, representing us and the SEC. It was lovely to hear him speak of the friendly welcome he received on his travels, he puts this down to being doubly blessed – representing Scotland and being Irish!

Bishop David spoke of the Archbishop of Canterbury's trip to Scotland and said that recently during a conversation with other bishops from England, the Archbishop told them that the SEC was "fizzing with life". This was very encouraging and took the English bishops by surprise.

Bishop David spoke about the challenges of the issues of same-sex relationships and the cascade conversations and stated that, for the first time the church was out of step with civil law. He believed that the cascade conversations provided an open space for honest discussion, and wanted to keep this space open.

Synod learned a lot about what Bishop David does on our behalf during his world-wide trips and this was most illuminating. He spoke of his recent trip to South Africa, meeting with 'eco-bishops' and discussing global warming.

Towards the end of the day a proposal by Jean MacKenzie, Lay Representative of St James', Muthill was discussed. St James' is one of the churches currently in vacancy and Jean put forward a resolution that, when an incumbent has made known the date of his/her impending departure, whether for retirement or to take up another appointment, the bishop may begin to work with the Vestry on the appointment process,

/continued opposite

# Area Council report

Valerie Leslie was there ...



The St Andrew's West Area Council met for the second time this year on Thursday 26 February at St Peter's, Kirkcaldy. It was a smaller group than usual, but the discussion which took place was very interesting and gave everyone the opportunity to continue to talk about a complex issue – the SEC's views on same-sex relationships and 'marriage'.

The whole meeting was given over to this important topic, and I was heartened by the attitude of those who took part in the discussion. It seems that everyone present felt that, as society evolves and moves on, the SEC has to move along with it and not get left behind. It is right to keep talking and be mindful of everyone's right to voice their opinion, but we should not run the risk of getting bogged down in discussion without making decisions.

Those present felt it was a priority that the rights of all members of a church congregation should be lovingly considered and no-one should feel marginalised because of their sexual orientation, or any

other diversity. However church families are by their very nature sensitive to change and everyone has the right to their own opinions. The real challenge to the SEC will be how each person can have their say without causing their brother or sister unnecessary anguish.

Christ came to save us all. We are all one family in Christ and should be mindful of each others rights and take responsibility not to cause offence. So far every one who has been to any of the Cascade Conversations has viewed them as positive and as yet there has been no fighting talk or schisms.

I have put on the notice board a copy of a report by Maria Page from Kirkcaldy who attended the Cascade Weekend that the SEC arranged recently. Please take a look at this, as it provides food for thought.

The next Area Council meeting will be held at our church on **Thursday 21 May** at 7.30pm, when the guest speaker will be David Hill of TryPraying. Members of both congregation are most welcome to attend.

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without necessarily having to wait for the actual departure of the priest, provided no circumstances made this unsuitable.

The resolution was seconded by Alan Thornton, Lay Representative of St Columba's, Aberdour, and generated some lively discussion before being defeated by 38 votes to 19.

The message I took away from Synod was that challenges and new beginnings will keep us all busy and fresh, which can only be a good thing. As Thomas Brauer the new Diocesan Missioner said in his address to Synod, we are one body, one church and we are the diocese – we have to work together, and “be the diocese together”.

He spoke about Casting the Net, stating that CTN was not a programme but an ethos. He said that CTN was about how we are as a church, how we are as people and how we engage with one another. CTN is about living out the call of the church in the world. To seek out what God is already doing in our life and ministry in our church and life is our challenge and mission for the future.

As St Margaret's moves into the future, writing new pages in our history, it is a time of new beginnings which I am sure St Margaret's congregation and vestry can take in their stride.



## New ways you can help ...

### Broke not Broken

Broke not Broken is the brainchild of a group of enthusiastic volunteers in the Kinross area. They spoke of their aims and objectives and the reasons behind the formation of the group at the Area Council meeting in St Paul's Church in January.

The group was inspired by a chance meeting with a man who had been allocated a house, but had nothing with which to make it a home. During November/December kind volunteers decorated, found furniture, carpets, cooking equipment and food and now the man who received help is volunteering to help others in similar situations.

The organisation, though still an infant, is making headway to find premises to operate from, form a committee, obtain charity status and work with organisations in the Kinross/Glenfarg area, the aim to tackle the effects of poverty by providing support and practical assistance.

The objectives are realistic and ambitious and can only be achieved with the enthusiasm of the group and their co-operation with local services and organisations within the area and the willingness of the volunteers.

I'm sure like me, the others at the Council meeting were impressed by the enthusiasm and idealism of the speakers and their obvious determination to go ahead to do what they could to achieve a positive outcome in as appropriate, efficient, compassionate and confidential way as possible.

There is a website, a committee, a constitution and time scales set for the attainment of the various objectives and tasks. There is also a Facebook page ‡ to keep up with news of group progress.

Erica Lock

### Church Café

You will have read in the last edition of Contact that it is hoped to start a Church Café in the near future. Plans are moving slowly forward, but it is looking likely that it will be possible to open in the near future.

This is a project that will involve the congregations of both our Churches and will need a lot of volunteers. It is hoped to open the café one morning a week, for a couple of hours – we aim to start small and see what happens! Even this will need about 16 people to work on a rota, each person working once every four weeks in a group of four. Jobs will include setting up tables, making tea/coffee, serving at the tables, the inevitable washing-up, and handling the money. You can see from this list that many of you (including you gentlemen!) would be able to help in some way. Handling the money is definitely a sitting-down job. In addition to help on the day, we need bakers to supply home-made goodies each week.

I am delighted to say that we are not too far off reaching the minimum of 16 helpers we need, and I am really grateful for the offers of help already received. Please don't wait to be asked, though I will grovel if required! If you feel you can help in any way, please let me know.

We are hoping to serve 'proper' coffee, and will need a decent coffee machine, and also small cafetières. If anyone has any lurking unused in cupboards, we will gladly take them off your hands.

We have been talking about this venture for some time now – let's get the café open!

Gwyneth Kirby

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‡ <http://tinyurl.com/oct4hwx> will lead you there, though you need a Facebook log-in



# Diary for March/April 2015

- Tuesday 31 Mar    10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Jack Fowell's house at Rosyth  
7.30pm Readings and meditation at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
Very Rev Jim Mein
- Wednesday 1 Apr    2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Holy Week Communion  
Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
7.30pm Lay-led Taizé service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline
- Maundy Thursday    10.15am Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
Rev Ross Kennedy  
7.00pm Passover Celebration followed by Communion at  
St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, after which there  
will be a short time of reflection in the garden before  
dispersing into the darkness  
7.30pm Liturgy of the Last Supper    Very Rev Jim Mein  
All are welcome to attend from both congregations  
Retiring collection for Bishop David's Lent Appeal
- Good Friday    12noon An hour by the Cross  
to 1.00pm led by the Very Rev Jim Mein  
2.00pm An hour by the Cross at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline  
to 3.00pm led by the Very Rev Jim Mein  
2.00pm Showing of the film "Jesus" (suitable for all ages)  
which starts with the story of Lazarus and ends with  
the resurrection of Jesus (see page 8)
- Holy Saturday    7.30pm Easter fire and renewal of baptismal vows at Holy  
Trinity, Dunfermline    Very Rev Jim Mein  
10.00am Church Open Doors in Lent, St Finnian's Lochgelly  
to 12noon a chance to pray quietly in the special prayer area,  
followed at noon by a quiet, reflective service of  
readings, prayer and Taizé chants.  
Simple lunch in the hall afterwards  
2.00pm "On the Edge" Easter Play in Princes Street West  
Gardens (see page 10 for details)
- Sunday 5 April**
- Easter Day    9.30am Festival Eucharist and blessing of the Paschal Candle  
Very Rev Jim Mein  
11.00am Family Service    Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
Deacon Sarah McDowall

## Diary for April 2015

Easter Day	7.30pm	Resurrection 2015 in the Usher Hall, Edinburgh, led by the Exile Band, Origin Praise Choir and Exile Chamber Orchestra (see page 10 for details)
Wednesday 8 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Alan Taylor – Desert Island Discs
Friday 10 Apr	2.00pm	Memorial Service in St Ninian’s Cathedral, Perth to celebrate the life of the Rt Rev Michael Hare Duke
	7.00pm	Choir practice

### Sunday 12 April

Easter 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Ross Kennedy
Low Sunday			

**Note:** No ‘Messy Church’ and Breakfast during school holidays

	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Andrew Letby
Tuesday 14 Apr	10.00am	EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd’s house at Limekilns	
Wednesday 15 Apr	2.15pm	Wednesday Fellowship: Guest Speaker: Richard Lloyd – Mary’s Meals	
Saturday 18 Apr	1.00pm	Institution of Rev Alison Cozens as Rector at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline	

### Arrangements for the Institution of Rev Alison Cozens

Alison will be installed as Rector of Holy Trinity and St Margaret’s by Bishop David on **Saturday 18 April** at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. The service, which includes communion, starts at 1.00pm and will be followed by refreshments in Viewfield Baptist Church Hall (opposite the side door to Holy Trinity).

Ministers from the Rosyth Fraternal and the Methodist stewards and Church Council will be among those to receive formal invitations. All members of St Margaret’s are welcome to attend but, as Holy Trinity will be full, you are advised to get there earlier than the deadline of 12.45pm suggested in the invitation.

Unfortunately, there is no special parking, so you will need to take your chance in surrounding car parks on a Saturday afternoon – quite a challenge! For those able to walk about half a mile, free parking without any time restriction is available in the Leys Road car park.

The combined choirs of St Margaret’s and Holy Trinity will be taking part in the service, and the music will include the Agnus Dei from Fauré’s *Requiem*. Arrangements are not yet finalised, but some of St Margaret’s to be involved as presenters of symbolic ‘gifts’ during the service.

# Diary for April/May 2015

## Sunday 19 April

Easter 3	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mrs Margaret Freeman Deacon Sarah McDowall
	3.00pm	Service at Orchardhead House, Rosyth	

Tuesday 21 Apr 7.00pm St Margaret's and Holy Trinity Vestries meet at the Rectory

Wednesday 22 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship:  
Guest Speaker: Helene Kelly – Christians against Poverty

Thursday 23 Apr 7.00pm St Margaret's Vestry meeting in Church Lounge

Friday 24 Apr 7.00pm Choir practice

Saturday 25 Apr 7.30pm The Scottish Chamber Choir perform 'Songs of Springtime' in St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh at 7.30pm (see page 34 for details)

## Sunday 26 April

Easter 4 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Alison Cozens

**Note:** No Sunday@Six

Tuesday 28 Apr 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns  
7.30pm Joint Vestry/Council Meeting in Church Lounge

Wednesday 29 Apr 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest Speaker Brian Curtis MBE  
"The Bicycle: Two Wheels Good"

Friday 1 May 7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 3 May

Easter 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Professor John Sawkins Deacon Sarah McDowall

Monday 4 May 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group at St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane

Tuesday 5 May 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

Wednesday 6 May 12noon Rosyth Garden City Association annual exhibition  
to 3.00pm in the Parish Church: "Rosyth Memories"

2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest Speaker to be confirmed

# Diary for May 2015

Thursday 7 May 10.00am Rosyth Garden City Association annual exhibition  
and Friday 8 May to 3.00pm in the Parish Church: "Rosyth Memories"

Friday 8 May 6.00pm Rosyth Garden City Association annual exhibition  
to 9.00pm in the Parish Church: "Rosyth Memories"

7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 10 May

Easter 6 9.00am Breakfast and Messy Church

9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Dr Anne Pennington  
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Sunday 10 May to Saturday 16 May Christian Aid Week

Tuesday 12 May 7.30pm Woodmill Singers Summer Concert, in St Margaret's RC  
Church, East Port, Dunfermline (see page 34 for details)

Wednesday 13 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship: Guest speaker Bob Liddle  
7.30pm Local Preachers and Worship Leaders meeting at CEMC

Thursday 14 May 7.30pm Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day Rev Alison Cozens  
7.00pm Rosyth Schools Children's Annual Concert  
for Christian Aid in the Parish Church (see page 11)

Friday 15 May 7.00pm Choir practice

## Sunday 17 May

Easter 7 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Paul Singh  
David Salthouse (Worship Leader)

1.00pm "Heart and Soul" 2014 Church of Scotland celebration of  
to 6.00pm the whole church in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh  
(see page 10)

3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House

Tuesday 19 May 10.00am EDWJ Group meets in Mary Kidd's house at Limekilns

Wednesday 20 May 12.30pm Wednesday Fellowship AGM, Tea and Close of Session

Thursday 21 May 7.30pm St Andrews West Area Council Meeting  
at Rosyth Methodist Church (see page 15)  
with speaker David Hill from Trypraying

# Diary for May 2015

- Friday 22 May 7.00pm Choir practice  
7.30pm The Langtoun Singers and the Kingdom Fiddlers  
in concert at the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy  
(see page 34 for details)

## Sunday 24 May

- Pentecost 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Dr Helen Jenkins  
Deacon Sarah McDowall  
6.00pm Sunday@Six: a Methodist 'Love Feast'  
arranged by Rev Dr Helen Jenkins

- Monday 25 May 7.00pm Property Committee Meeting

- Wednesday 27 May 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship Lunch at the Elgin Hotel,  
Charlestown

**Note:** Meetings resume on Wednesday 2 September

- Friday 29 May 7.30pm Kingdom Singers Annual Concert  
and Saturday 30 May Carnegie Hall Annexe (see page 34)

- Saturday 30 May 10.00am CTN Gathering St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth  
to 4.00pm Theme: "Serving the community in practical ways,  
reaching out to others, especially those in need"  
(see page 31 for details)

## Sunday 31 May

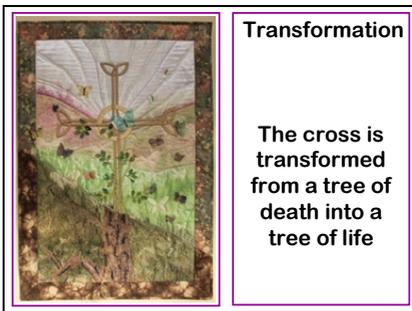
- Trinity Sunday 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens  
11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Hilary Henderson  
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)  
6.30pm Circuit Service for Easter Offering Dedication at CEMC,  
Nicolson Square, Edinburgh (see pages 9-10 and below)

## Easter Offering

Page 9 asks some questions you'll find in the Powerpoint prepared for use before the call to worship in the Methodist Easter offering service.

The sequence finishes with this Easter message for us all, and leads into the first hymn:

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing;  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.



# Fellowship News and Views

## On our minds

It was lovely to see two of our older members back at church recently. **Betty Terry** joined us for the World Day of Prayer service, which was the first time she had been out for three months. We are delighted she is improving and we hope it won't be long before Betty is back worshipping regularly on a Sunday. **Jack Fowell**, whom we have also missed for several weeks, is now able to attend Sunday worship and we welcome him back.

**Audrey Headden** has not been too well over recent months, and we continue to remember her and Jock.

Our prayers and thoughts have been with **Pierre de Bruyn** on the recent loss of his mother in South Africa.

A number of the congregation have asked about **Eleanor Salthouse**. Thank you to everyone for their prayers and best wishes on behalf of Eleanor and the family. The surgery went well and she is making steady progress – has been out of bed and taking a few steps already, but is still very tired. The consultant's chief concern is that she is not eating and drinking enough, so that is their main priority before they let her home, which will hopefully be by the time you read this.

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## One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“Put out into deep water and let down the nets”.

Luke 5:4 (NIV)

## Anniversaries this year

**99** Methodists in Rosyth Well, I only have 14 years to catch up with that!

**60** June – my elder daughter – will be sixty

**45** Rosyth Methodist Church moved into its new building

**40** My late wife and I joined Rosyth Methodist Church

**25** I retired from regular work

**1** I became a great grandfather!

These are mainly personal recollections and there are probably many more that could be recalled.

The main reason though for this brief résumé is to put on record my sincere thanks to all those people (ministers, church officers, friends and others) who have made life so good in this place. Your prayers and good wishes throughout the 40 years have been a great support.

May the peace of the Lord rest on you all.

David Slater

## A new beginning?

There come times in our normally comfortable lives when we appear to be set aside through illness or discomfort for no apparent reason.

I have found in recent months that these times can be taken over by thoughts and contemplations, and I have come to appreciate the love and care both St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodist churches through your thoughts, prayers, words and deeds. So I send my heartfelt thanks to you all. Perhaps it's a new beginning spiritually for me.

God bless you all.

Jack Fowell

# Young people at Rosyth

## Messy Church

We have had great fun at Messy Church over the last few months, thinking about *New Year – New Beginnings* in January and *Jesus, the Light of the world* in February.

Last month was particularly popular when we explored God's love using the lovely cartoon film *Frozen*, and discovered how love can 'unfreeze' people and situations. Eleanor's Sven Cup Cakes, which the children then made for themselves, were a work of art – almost too good to eat! And quite a few homes will now have a cute Olaf snuggled somewhere.

There will be no Messy Church in April because the date falls right in the middle of the Easter Holidays. But the service on Easter Day will be for all ages, and the children (and some adults I hope!) will be presenting the Easter Story in a short dramatised form, as well as taking part in other ways. Our next Messy Church will be on **Sunday 10 May**. Please help us to make this date known to as many young families as possible, so that we can share the fun with others.

The children are continuing to collect money for Water Aid each month, aiming to send at least £2 a month for the whole of 2015.

**Ed:** <http://www.wateraid.org/uk> says "Your £2 a month donation could help give a child clean, safe drinking water for life."

All of us at Messy Church and Sunday School send Eleanor our love, and wish her a speedy recovery from her operation. We miss you, Eleanor, and look forward to having you back working with us!

Gwyneth Kirby

## Brambles update

The main task of the trustees so far has been selling the assets of the playgroup. A huge amount of play equipment and materials was involved, some of which needed a good clean or even repair before being offered for sale. Special thanks are due to Sue Masson (Vice-Chair) and Adrian Masson (Treasurer) who valiantly took on the task of sorting through it all, compiling sensible lists and communicating news of the sale to playgroups, nurseries and schools. Over the first few weeks nearly £800 was raised, and the process culminated in a "Grand Sale" on 7 March which raised another £800. Our thanks for the help given that day go to Johann Bald (former relief play-leader), Mary Innes and her daughter Lesley (who used to run the playgroup in earlier times), Olive McNee and Evelyn Kenny.



There is quite a lot still to be disposed of, some of which will go to charity shops. It is planned to display the remaining children's books and office supplies to the two congregations after the Joint Service on **26 April**. But our splendid rocking horse deserved a good home, so you'll be pleased to know that Dobbin has found a new stable at the Busy Little Bees playgroup in Rosyth, with a number of other items to keep him company!

Howard Kirby (Chair)

# BibleWorld returns to Rosyth

Alan Taylor reports ...

Dateline 16 February: a very cold, but dry, Monday morning.

Time: 7.45 am.

Place: the car-park behind the library and community centre.

Norman Thompson from the Parish Church, myself, and Bill Maxwell, the BibleWorld Coordinator from the Scottish Bible Society, were there. The BibleWorld combo was due to arrive from Glasgow.

As soon as it arrived, on time, it was manoeuvred into place – and not too soon, as we were then surrounded by council lorries, offloading equipment for the pavement works on the corner of Parkgate and Queensferry Road. Five minutes later and who knows? But all was well, as we got our traffic cones out, and Bill hastily moved his BibleWorld van to a safer place after the council swung a cement mixer over the top of it!

It was an exceedingly complex operation setting up the exhibition, involving quite heavy metalwork, and not a little skill – all on Bill's part, I hasten to add. But Bill does this every week, and two hours later the show was “on the road”, transforming the 45ft expanding trailer into the “Tardis”. At least, that is what the kids called it, with exclamations of “Wow!”, and much delight. Inside, the interior was transformed into a museum, a music centre, a library, the interior of an aircraft, a spaceship and a quiz zone. All very user-friendly and interactive. The kids loved it as each went through three of the zones in the time available to them, going away at the end of each session with a greater understanding of the Bible.

There were 13 sessions during the week for the older kids from five local primary schools, and two sessions for adults on Tuesday and Wednesday evening. As well as teachers accompanying the kids, local volunteers – all disclosure cleared – helped with each 70 min session. Our own Helen and Sarah were there and Morag Crawford co-ordinated the programme. In all, 295 kids experienced the wonders of the Bible, and 98 adults, including teachers and volunteers, were involved during the week. I expect a few adults said “Wow!” also!

Here's what Bill said at the end: “It was lovely to meet so many folks who have a passion for sharing their time, energies and skills to make the experience educational and fun for children. The work you do in Rosyth truly is amazing, and it really warms my heart to see how well the churches in the area work together! I am privileged to have been a small part of your work, and I hope BibleWorld's presence has been a blessing to you and the wider community.”

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## Parish Church Project update

The recent concert by the Rosyth Concert Band raised £300 towards the church project.

Morag Crawford DCS has given the message that funding to finish stages 2, 3 and 4 of the church refurbishment is £20,000 short. 100 people raising £200 each, for example from arranging a sponsored walk or a coffee morning, would do it!

# Invitations and requests

## Daffodil Tea

The Wednesday Fellowship annual Daffodil Tea in aid of Church funds is on **Wednesday 25 March** at 2.15pm. Do come along – you will enjoy yourself. Have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit or cake and chat to our members – we are a very friendly group. There will be daffodils for sale, as well as a gift stall. We look forward to seeing you!

## Reaching out to others

As explained on page 31, the organisers of the 30 May Gathering have asked us to produce a poster with pictures and text of what our partnership is doing in our service to the community. Sandra and Martin need your ideas and material **by the end of April**.

## Keep the paperbacks coming!

Thank you to those who answered our recent plea. The shelves in the Crush Hall look a bit fuller now, but we still need lots more paperbacks! If you or your friends have any unwanted paperbacks in good condition, we would love to have them.

## “Rosyth Memories”

There has been some uncertainty about this year’s Rosyth Garden City Association Annual Exhibition, partly because of the building work under way at the Parish Church. However, the Association is going ahead with a shorter exhibition from **Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 May**. Opening times are 12.00n–3.00pm on the Wednesday, and 10.00am–3.00pm on the Thursday/Friday, with a 6.00pm–9.00pm evening session on the Friday. The theme of the exhibition will be “Rosyth Memories”.

**Ed:** These annual exhibitions are always very interesting and well worth a visit.

## Help the church by recycling!

Textiles and clothing can go in the Rag-Bag!

Have you seen the big cardboard box labelled Rag-Bag in the entrance room at the back of the church? It is still there to help anyone involved in the church recycle textiles and clothing. Arranged by Brambles Playgroup, it will continue to be serviced until the end of August, and (because of the demise of the playgroup itself) all proceeds will go to the church.

By diverting this material away from landfill we will also be helping to provide good quality clothing to some of the poorest developing nations and to reduce the environmental impact of waste.

Please use the Rag-Bag for:

- All men’s, ladies and children’s clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together)
- Handbags, bags, ties & belts
- Household linen & towels

But *please note that the following items are NOT acceptable*: duvets; pillows and cushions; carpets and rugs; soiled/wet clothing; uniforms/workwear; shredded/mutilated textile material; textile off-cuts, yarns or threaded material)

And printer cartridges/toner can go in the Recycle box nearby.

## Church Family BBQ

Our annual Church BBQ will take place on **Sunday 28 June** at Silver Sands, Aberdour from 2.00pm. Adults £3; children £2.

It’s always a good afternoon with lots of fun and plenty of food, so please save the date, and bring a friend or two. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Crush Hall at the beginning of June.

# Becoming part of the answer

Martin Tarr reflects on Jim Mein's Lenten discussion series

Nearly twenty folk are now making a priority of being at the Wednesday evening discussions in Holy Trinity Church Hall, to take advantage of the opportunities for discussion so imaginatively arranged by Jim Mein. There's not enough room to give an account of the inter-faith relations session led by Frank Bowness, or of Lis Burke's very frank and open introduction to our small group discussions on same-sex relationships, but I felt it might be helpful to say something about the 4 March session on Palestine and Israel.

After a short devotional session, which used material that Jim provided, Nancy Adams, a regular visitor to the Holy Land, introduced her experiences of listening to the many different voices of this troubled region, not by talking to us, but by means of a dramatic reading. "The Meeting Place", adapted from *The Journey Toward Reconciliation* by John Paul Lederach, was read by Nancy and four members of the group.

In the literal translation that "captured my mind's eye", as Lederach puts it, the Psalmist says:

Truth and Mercy have met together  
Justice and Peace have kissed. (Ps.85:10)

Often we only hear from two of these, so Lederach asks: "What if we invited our four friends to join us and asked them to openly discuss their views about conflict?"

After each of the four had made some very pertinent but generally very different points, the leader asked. "How would it be possible for you four to meet together? What would you need from each other?"

**Ed:** An early but representative account of what Lederach calls "a little play, a liturgy of sorts" can be found on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/mfbwjyz>.

The response from each of the four was positive, and accompanied by moving to huddle in a small circle. "And what," Nancy asked, "is this place called where you now stand together?"

"This place," they responded in a single voice, "is reconciliation." Then, suddenly without signal, they touched hands and danced.

Certainly a different way to approach the questions for reflection which included:

- How do we find the common humanity in the other when faced with fear, insecurity, hatred and/or oppression?
- How do we stand against hate or injustice in a way that we don't become a mirror image of the same thing?
- How do we in Europe move beyond the guilt of the Second World War to enable us to exercise responsibility and leadership in the current conflict and try to enable healing of hatred?
- How do we stop the vicious cycle of victims becoming victimisers?
- Can we let go of the need to blame and open our heart enough to hear the other's story and try to understand their motivations?
- Can we give ourselves up to the process of reconciliation without a desire for control and without judgement, resentment or criticism?
- For reconciliation to happen, are we willing to make ourselves vulnerable, take risks and live with uncertainty ... to really try to love our enemy?
- As Christians, are we called to be agents of peace? Do we, as Christians in Britain, have a role in peacemaking in the Holy Land?

# Wednesday Fellowship

An update from Mary Kidd

Time passes so quickly, and it's hard to believe that our Wednesday Fellowship is nearly half-way through the Spring session. Our membership numbers continue to grow, even though some of our older members are not able to come regularly. We miss them very much. New members who have joined this year certainly seem to enjoy the afternoon fellowship; they are always assured of a warm welcome, of course. We're not quite bursting at the seams (I'm talking accommodation here – not waistlines!) and we have devised a new routine for handing out the cups of tea, coffee and biscuits in a safer, more orderly manner.

The first session was a devotional one and led by Hilary Henderson, one of our circuit Methodist Local Preachers. We've learned something about the history of Methodism through postage stamps – from Ronnie MacMillan, and about Michael Bruce, “the gentle poet of Loch Leven” – the subject of a talk by a well-known friend of the

Fellowship, Bill Tulloch, who mentioned how the paraphrasing of psalms formed the basis of the Church of Scotland's hymn-books CH2 and CH3. Thinking ahead, we look forward to our fund-raising Daffodil Tea, and Desert Island Discs when Alan Taylor chooses his favourite pieces of music in discussion with Martin Tarr; to mention just two highlights of things to come.

I'd like to thank all the members of the committee who give tirelessly of their time each week to ensure the smooth running of the organisation, and all members who give generously each week. It means we can financially support some of the organisations that are involved in making our world a better place for many disadvantaged people. (New beginnings for them, too!)

**Readers** – please do feel free to join us, even if it's for an occasional visit when the topic particularly interests you. We would love to see you!

## Reflection on Chaos and Conflict

I am right you are wrong  
I am human you are vermin  
My violence is justified yours is terrorism  
I suffer unjustly you get what you deserve  
Me and mine matter yours don't  
There's a difference between justice  
and just us  
Committed to conflict and justice  
I learnt we each have a story to tell  
Not all your people are bad  
Not all mine are good  
Most of us are a mixture of humanity  
and inhumanity

The perpetrator may be a victim  
The victim may be a perpetrator  
All violence violates  
Whoever's behind it  
Suffering does not take sides  
If you cannot know peace neither can I  
It is not a question of me and mine  
Or you and yours but us  
Working it out together  
Slowly, painfully, persistently, prayerfully

A thought from Radio 2 – Aled Jones' programme – included by Nancy Adams in her handout for the discussion described on page 27

# World Day of Prayer 2015

Mary Kidd reports on the 6 March service in Rosyth

Like Christmas, we planned, looked forward and prepared for that one special day of the year – the first Friday in March. Earlier this month our Methodist Church hosted a service for Rosyth and District that was written by Christian women of The Bahamas. Much of this has been described in previous editions of Contact. The sanctuary was laid out to accommodate a Café Church, which took some visitors rather by surprise but it proved to be a welcomed and welcoming feature.



Finally, thanks to all those who helped on the day. There was much to be done afterwards, but it was done quickly and efficiently!



Our Scottish Committee is already working on the service for 2016 which has been written by Christian women of Cuba. The chosen theme is “Receive children, Receive me”. I shall be writing more about this another time.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to all who helped both behind the scenes and on the day. They are:

- My son and my daughter-in-law elect who prepared the sanctuary.
- Martin Tarr, our technical specialist in sound; we are privileged to have a modern sound system and people who know how to operate it.
- Myra Tarr, who accompanied the hymn-singing. *Lyngham* is always a good beginning!
- Sarah McDowall, for the meditation and challenge for us to be servants one to another.
- Our caterers, Gwyneth Kirby and Jean Hall who made “exceedingly good cakes”.

The local service in this area on **4 March 2016** will be held at Inverkeithing Church of Scotland Parish Church of St John and St Peter. Put it in your diary!

**Ed:** Mary Kidd deserves much of the credit for the smooth running of the service. Not only is she a member of the national organising committee, but she marshals the many people who take part as well as doing miracles with flowers!



# Getting the message across

The sermon preached by Jim Mein on Ash Wednesday 2015

As we begin the 40 days of Lent I thought we might look at the temptations Jesus is said to have faced during his 40 days in the wilderness preparing to begin his public ministry – how was he to get his message across. What was his mission plan?

You will be hearing a good deal about mission plans I suspect. In two weeks our Diocesan Missioner is coming to encourage you and then, two months today, your new Rector will be coming with all kinds of ideas no doubt. And we know mission is important – but how do we set about it?

Well, here are three ways:

People expect to be paid for what they do, we all expect to be rewarded for our efforts. So how about giving everyone who comes a loaf of bread – well, bread may not be too much of a draw, but at least good biscuits, decent coffee – or perhaps more subtle rewards – a good social experience, or good standing in society. But in some way make it worth their while. Bribe them into coming. Not so long ago the Church did this in spades with hell-fire sermons promising an escape to heaven – they surely were an attempt to appeal to our self-interest. So we could promise bread, or cake, or some reward.

No, says Jesus. A sort of permanent feeding of the 5,000 might get big crowds following but bribery is not the way to go.

So, what else? Well people are suspicious of claims or promises these days – they expect a demonstration. Just good advertising copy is not enough in our cynical age, we want proof. We really need a demonstration of God's power. Jump off the roof – let's see some evidence, then the crowds will come. I'm not quite sure what proof we might provide today – but not to worry because 'No', says Jesus. Miracles to order are not the way God works.

So, a third way: To be effective in this world you have to be realistic. You don't get elected without making some deals with people you may not like very much. A bit of give and take, an oiling of the wheels and you are more likely to achieve your aims. Be reasonable, lower the bar a bit and more will come in. No, says Jesus, we don't make deals with the devil.

Of course we actually do all these things. We make coming to Church as attractive as we can, we promise friendship and we support to each other if we need help.

**And** we pray and claim our prayers will help and that God will support his followers through the tough times.

**And** we make it as easy as we can, keep the demands low, not expecting great sacrifices but being "reasonable".

Even Jesus did these things to a certain degree: He fed the hungry, he healed those who came to him, and the disciples clearly liked being with him – but the challenge to go beyond any benefits was clear – the cost of discipleship would go far beyond any comfortable benefits. The warnings Jesus gave of what the future held for those who followed him were certainly no worldly bribe.

And Jesus did show his power, calming the storms and all the miracles. But they were never quite enough to be absolute proof. Many could see them, the disciples could see them, and yet still doubt, and desert him. And, essentially, in the end he looked powerless, arrested, scorned, crucified – this was no demonstration of power, no proof offered by God.

/continued opposite



And it may even have seemed to some that Jesus made it easy for people. He didn't impose the full rigour of the law – the woman taken in adultery was not stoned, he regularly broke the sabbath laws, strict fasting was not insisted on. But again, Jesus looked for a righteousness beyond the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees – a commitment greater than keeping the law – he went beyond the letter to the spirit.

So, a bribe, or some proof, or a reasonable negotiation – all to some degree things we properly do – Jesus clearly did them all in the Gospel stories – feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and forgiving those who fell short.

But these ways were all limited, an invitation to base camp, they were not the basis of Jesus' mission – and nor can they be of ours.

It is true that Jesus was, and the Church must be, hospitable, generous – the feeding was for all who came, not just for those who promised to follow – we give nice biscuits to everyone – they are not a bribe for those who belong.

It is true that Jesus was, and the Church must be, impressive, something people admire, that is effective in promoting the welfare of all. But we give people their freedom, their dignity, respect. We can't force our views – prove our case – some were healed, many were not. Faith is about having a choice, needing to commit, to risk. It is taking responsibility, being grown up.

And it is true that Jesus was, and the Church must be, compassionate, understanding, not demanding of people more than they could ever give. We can't make deals, but we must take risks with people, inviting them to give more.

The bottom line is that really loving, *really* loving, means you don't bribe, or force, or deal, but you give freely – and that makes you vulnerable.

The outcome is uncertain; we may not be successful, but we will have exercised our discipleship honourably.

The temptations of Jesus are as real, and just as subtle, for us today as they were for Jesus in the desert.

## Reaching out to others



As mentioned in the last Contact, this year's Gathering will be held at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth on **Saturday 30 May** from 10.00am–4.00pm. It will focus on Mark of Mission 8: "Serving the community in practical ways, reaching out to others especially those in need". The organisers are planning an interesting and varied programme which is not yet to hand.

All, from both churches, are welcome to attend and those of us who have been to previous Gatherings have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned something new.

Booking forms will be available from the end of April from Sandra or on the diocesan website ([www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org).)

In the meantime we have been asked to produce a poster to take with us, with pictures and text of what our partnership is doing in our service to the community. All material will be welcome and Sandra and Martin need your ideas **by the end of April**.



# New beginnings for Paul, Emma and Jessica

Valerie Leslie writes ...

As spring-time comes around again, and we are thinking of new beginnings, I thought that members of St Margaret's would like to hear how Jessica and her mummy and daddy were getting along in their new life in New Zealand.

Paul, Emma and Jessica emigrated to New Zealand from Doha, Qatar in November 2013. Allan and I went to New Zealand last October and spent three glorious weeks in North Island.

Paul, Emma and Jessica live in Auckland. Their home is a comfortable wooden construction much like most of the houses built in Auckland. They are parishioners of St John's Anglican church, Campbells Bay, and Jessica attends a thriving Sunday School. She also loves her 'Mainly Music' activities for which the Anglican church in Auckland is renowned.

Jessica is a good little singer who can learn a tune quickly. She regularly entertains Gran and Grandad on 'Skype' with her latest little tune she has learned at 'Mainly Music'.

Paul and Emma took me to church twice whilst we were visiting them. St John's has a very varied congregation of young and old. They also have quite a few nationalities, which really offers the congregation the chance to learn about cultural diversity.

On my first visit to St John's I met with the female vicar, Anna. She was so welcoming, and it is obvious that she really cares for her congregation. I was impressed with her ability to remember the needs of every single person in her congregation.

St John's does not have a choir as such, but they do have a small band of musicians who play guitar, flute, organ and violin.



A couple of singers also lead the congregation in praise. I was so impressed by their musicality, and the congregation all sang out with enthusiasm. The words of the hymns are on a screen so everyone was singing out. No noses stuck in a hymn book here!

The second visit to St John's was a real eye opener. It was Youth Sunday and Anna's deaconess led the service while Anna joined the congregation.

A young youth leader treated us to a really fascinating sermon on "What makes a good leader".

The service was vibrant and uplifting. I can clearly see why Paul and Emma chose this church. Young and old come together and really respect each other's views. There is a great deal of love present in this church.

I told the congregation of St John's that St Margaret's Rosyth sent them our love and prayers. They were delighted to hear about our church and were keen to hear about our choir.

It was lovely to meet the congregation of St John's and also great to see such a vibrant congregation. There were a lot of similarities to our own St Margaret's parishioners. St John's is an evolving, modern-thinking congregation much like ourselves.

We are about to embark upon a New Beginning as the Rev Alison Cozens becomes our new Rector. It is an exciting time. We have the opportunity to evolve just like St John's. I have seen the joy that this can bring, so I have much hope for the future.

# Our choir in action

Sandra Young was there ...

What a feast of singing – 12 choirs, 400 voices, ranging from young children to very mature ladies – took part in the community choir class in the Fife Festival of Music at a full Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy, on 2 February. There were choirs from all over Fife as well as South Queensferry, but St Margaret’s, the smallest (10 voices), was the only church one.

Each choir performed 3–4 songs of their choice. Interestingly, three choirs chose different settings of “The Rose”, although our version was interwoven with the men singing “Lo, how a rose”.

Being second last to perform, the choir had to wait until late in the evening, by which time they were hot, tired, hungry and (some) nervous, but the true performers they are, they rose to the occasion with a very professional and polished performance.

They engaged the audience immediately with a dramatic entrance by Martin (all those years treading the boards in the G&S have been worth it!) summoning “Come all you people” as the rest of the choir gradually joined him on stage. This was a great success, and immediately got the audience’s full attention. The innovative way the choir was thoughtfully positioned for the different pieces – not a choir all bunched together facing the audience, but side on and in small rows was different and eye catching.

Our programme featured music that we have sung at recent services:

- Come all you people – a rousing gathering song from Zimbabwe
- Lo how a rose/The rose – Michael Praetorius, arr. Craig Hella Johnson
- Nativity – a West Gallery carol by Thomas Jarman
- Nunc Dimittis – from the West Gallery tradition

The adjudicator, Frikki Walker, Director of Music at St Mary’s Episcopal Cathedral, Glasgow, complimented the choirs on their very high standard of singing, but he also had some overall suggestions, all of which echoed what Sue has drummed into our choir over the years!

He commented on our choir’s performance as follows:

“Come all you people” – A great demonstration that church music can be fun! What an entrance! I loved the fact that you looked so joyful!

“Lo, how a rose/The rose” – A clever arrangement! Again, I like the way you engage the audience – not usual for a church choir. Listen very carefully to the balance between the two songs. Some clear and sustained singing here. A difficult, sparse arrangement, well sung without a conductor!

“Nativity” – A spirited performance that really captured the atmosphere of the West Gallery tradition.

“Nunc Dimittis” – A warm sound and very capable ensemble singing. Listen very carefully to each other and try and tune in to each other. Sustain the lines and keep the energy going up until the very end of the phrases. Some unity in vowel sounds will also help the blend. A very creditable performance.

General – A very varied and brave programme that showed the choir’s strengths and demonstrated lots of aspects of your work as a church choir. Sung with great joy and integrity. Well done.

It was a most enjoyable evening which I was privileged to attend as St Margaret’s ‘fan’ club and one not to be missed. Thank you Sue, choir, one and all – you did us proud!

## Music Corner

As always, members of our church family are involved in musical activities over the next two months:

*Songs of Springtime* is the title of the Scottish Chamber Choir's next concert on **Saturday 25 April** in St Andrew's and St George's West Church, Edinburgh at 7.30pm. Music is by Mendelssohn and Ernest John Moeran (1894–1950), an English composer who had a strong association with Ireland. Information from Martin Tarr; tickets £10 (under-18s free) on the door.

This year the Woodmill Singers are taking their own special brand of music to St Margaret's RC Church, East Port, Dunfermline at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 12 May**. Tickets £10 (including light refreshments) will be available from Myra Tarr and Julie Denning.

The Langtoun Singers, who took part in the same class as the choir in the Fife Festival of Music) are performing at a concert on **Friday 22 May** in the Old Kirk, Kirkcaldy at 7.30pm. The choir will be joined by the Kingdom Fiddlers, and there will be lots of great music with a Scottish theme. See Sue Masson for further details.

The Kingdom Singers present their Springtime Serenade concerts in the Carnegie Hall Annexe over two nights – **Friday 29 and Saturday 30 May** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 (£5 for Associate Members) and this includes refreshments. Talk to Ann Duly if you would like to attend.

## Sunday@Six

Sunday@Six is alive and well and has some new services planned to delight, challenge and inspire you. The February service was based on a set of meditative poems by Sister Felicity PC and represented a journey through Lent, but also through life. These were interspersed with Taizé chants and periods of silence. Copies of the booklet entitled "I called – You answered" are available from Sue Masson.

In April, St Margaret's welcomes its new rector and the Sunday@Six slot will move to incorporate Alison's institution service on **Saturday 18 April**.

Do you know what a "love feast" is? I certainly didn't, but Helen assures me it is an old Methodist tradition. Come along and join us on **24 May** – you will be assured of good singing and good fellowship, with the bonus of tea and cake!

Looking further ahead, Norman Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society has agreed to join us on **Saturday 26 September** as part of our Harvest celebrations to talk about the great changes going on in Rwanda.

Sue Masson



It's great fun being in the Choral Union – one of the *three* informal pictures in their 140th Anniversary programme in which Gwyneth Kirby appears!

# Contact points and meeting times

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, St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

## Church activities

Methodist Gift Aid enquiries to  
Stuart Fowell 01383 823936  
stuart.fowell@btinternet.com

Property matters and letting enquiries to  
Martin Rogers 01383 415458  
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

St Margaret's Choir  
Sue Masson 01383 824887  
susan.masson@btinternet.com

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

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

Toddlers' Group (Wed/Fri 0930-1100)  
Elaine Lambert 01383 417071  
elaine.lambert1@sky.com

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

Wednesday Fellowship (Wed 1415-1600)  
Mary Kidd 01383 872332  
cmarykidd@btinternet.com

## Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup is no longer meeting.  
All enquiries should be directed to  
Howard Kirby (chair) 01383 624779  
brambles@rosythmethodist.org.uk

Parahandies Disabled Club (Mon 0930-1400)  
Peter Merckel (sec) 01383 822940  
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

## Scout Group

Group Scout Leader  
see Martin Rogers 01383 415458  
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Beaver Scouts (Tue 1730-1830)  
David Sinclair 01383 410255  
davidgraeme31@yahoo.co.uk

Cub Scouts (Tue 1830-2015)  
Martin Rogers 01383 415458  
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)  
Alan Connery 01383 731391  
scouts\_13th\_fife@btinternet.com

Explorer Scouts (Fri 1900-2115)  
Terry O'Neill 01383 842695  
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

## Guide Unit

Rainbows (Mon 1800-1900)  
Susan Warren 01383 414355  
susarren@aol.com

Brownies (Mon 1800-1930)  
Nicola Byrne 07956 005996  
NicolaByr44ne86@hotmail.com

Guides (Mon 1800-2030)  
Melissa Peel 07850 249911  
6throsythguides@gmail.com

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

## An Easter meditation

O God, who creates all that is,  
    who loves all that is,  
    who is ready to inspire all that is;  
Today, we celebrate life.  
    we celebrate in spite of knowing that  
You, in creating freedom have allowed evil,  
    in loving had to bear the pain of the cross,  
    in offering inspiration are so often ignored;  
For today.  
    Many people are sick and facing death;  
    In many parts of the world people are divided;  
    Cruelty, greed and selfishness abound;  
    People are excluded, feeling helpless and hopeless;  
    The earth is under strain from our pollution;  
    Our own lives are not as we wish they were - - -  
Yet today, we still celebrate life,  
    and we pray with confidence that though:  
In many spheres our environment is in danger,  
    may it continue to succour life.  
In many places nations are divided,  
    may people of courage reach across the lines.  
In many places people are homeless and hungry,  
    may people in generosity give aid.  
Many people are depressed and feel unworthy,  
    may people with insight counsel them with dignity.  
Many people are proud and selfish,  
    may people of humility encourage democracy.  
Many people mourn the loss of loved ones,  
    may they find comfort in your all-embracing love.  
And so today, above all days, may we know that  
    Goodness is stronger than evil  
    Love is stronger than hate  
    Light is stronger than darkness  
    Life is stronger than death.

Jim Mein

## Contact on-line

You'll find this edition, and many previous issues of Contact, on the archive pages of both the church websites, where you'll get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost!

## To our contributors

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. The next issue will be published at the end of May, so please let us have your contributions by the end of play on **Thursday 21 May**, preferably by email to **editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk**.