

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 85
June/July 2016

Rosyth
Methodist Church
Scottish Charity SC028559
www.rosythmethodist.org.uk

St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church
Scottish Charity SC028426
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

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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
(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

On the road: our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. This is a short walk from Rosyth Rail station. The car park is behind the church. Local on-street parking is limited, but there is much more parking space at the junction with Park Road.

Contact

Newsletter of the Methodist - Episcopalian local ecumenical partnership in Rosyth

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Closing date for August/September issue: 26th July 2016

On making an exhibition happen

Evelyn Kenny reflects on the Exhibition of naval uniforms and other costumes

When, as a Methodist representative, I sat in a meeting in early February 2015 of what later became the Rosyth Centenary Group, I suggested that the modern generations might be interested in how their forebears were dressed. The meeting was concentrating more on the development of Rosyth as a Naval Dockyard and as a Garden City along with the commemoration of the Battle of Jutland, but the idea was taken up by our own church group and it became established in the yearlong diary of events to celebrate our church's centenary. Preparations began by talking about the notion in Circuit and other circles and within both our Methodist and Episcopalian congregations. Positive responses followed and our weekly notices kept the concept brewing for the whole year, with various items made ready for collection and display.

Photos of historic clergy vestments were acquired from suppliers of these to the current clergy, archive catalogues were sources to set the timescale in context, 1890 to currently. We had pictures from early Methodist ministers (male) in their various roles in the Mission Field. These were eventually joined by Deaconesses, again doing many tasks and mainly wearing black. Two academic gowns were on display, one from the late Gordon Murray from 1950's and one loaned by Rev Keith Pearce which came from 1940's. Rev

Alan Whitson left his Cassock behind on Easter Day for us to display, I had a stole loaned which had been made for 1988 John Wesley Anniversary showing the Pentecost Flames in the embroidery. A black shirt from our Minister Rev Dr Helen Jenkins contrasted well with a white clerical shirt loaned by Rev Andrew Letby, this being printed with 'liquorice all sorts'. There must be a sermon in that design – the Kingdom of Heaven is made up of all sorts! The general fashions display showed a black cape from 1925, a fox fur and a 'hippie' dress and waistcoat from 1980. We also had 2 pairs of baby shoes from 1940's.



We were able to display some lovely Baptism dresses from 100 years ago to 2003. One from 1960's and one made from Nottingham Lace.

The Bridal display ranged from 1939 to 2000, including 2 different styles





from 1960's – the mannequins which I acquired were of a much larger sizing than the brides had been when the dresses were worn on the big day.

Our organist Sue Masson loaned 3 of her Wren uniforms, one the 'working rig' with 'woolly pully', her captain's uniform and her 'mess dress' for formal dining occasions. She also supplied some photos of herself and Adrian in uniform and at their wedding.

The other selection of Naval wear was kindly loaned to us from Stores at HMS Scotia in Rosyth. These were given to me some five weeks ago, as the officer concerned was leaving to go aboard a ship to the Jutland area of

the North Sea for the May 31st/June 1st ship-based ceremony of Remembrance of the Battle of Jutland in 1916.

Martin Rogers loaned 4 Scout shirts from his own collection, spanning 100 years of scouting in Rosyth.

I'm pleased to be able to thank all the people who loaned their precious items, served refreshments on the 3 days and helped to organise the display and publicity. It may have started off as my idea but you all made a great event happen.

We really are a great team, working together has been a joy and a delight.

Thank you to all.

Evelyn Kenny



An appreciation of the exhibition

St Margaret's Episcopal congregation would like to congratulate Evelyn Kenny and her crew for putting together the amazing exhibition of Church robes, wedding dresses, Baptismal gowns and Scout and Cub uniforms.

As a previous History scholar at

Dundee University I have a real passion for social history so just love learning about how other peoples histories impact upon communities. Evelyn did a wonderful job putting together such a great exhibition of how our church family has lived their lives over the last 100 years.

An appreciation: Continued from page 5

I loved our own Sue Masson's wedding photo's and the naval uniforms. Adrian looked very dashing on his wedding day and Sue was every bit the blushing bride. Sue's photos of her uniform and the uniforms themselves were so interesting. The exhibition was lovingly put together and must have taken a lot of effort. Evelyn you have worked very hard and we at St Margaret's just have to say a big 'well done'. As an ex cub leader (I was a Baloo in the 39th Fife) I was particularly interested in the Scout and Cub uniforms.



I loved the information Evelyn exhibited beside the uniforms, speaking about the moth holes in the old scout uniform made me smile. I recalled recycling my son's cub scout and scout uniforms having removed, and kept, the armful of badges.

Evelyn's exhibition brought back many memories for so many people both in RMC and St Margaret's. We are grateful to all who helped Evelyn put on such a terrific celebration of social history.

Valerie Leslie

Diocesan news

The Gathering 2016

This year's Gathering, originally planned for **Saturday 18 June** at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, has had to be postponed until early Autumn. This is so that the Diocesan office can organise it when the greatest number of people can attend and participate in what is always a wonderful time of sharing and learning in mission and ministry. A new date will be communicated when known.

Summer School, St Andrews

The Diocese and St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews, have together developed a summer school.

Two full-day opportunities to learn from some of the world-class faculty at St. Mary's College, open to all, will be held at the College. These are on: **20 June - 'Exegesis and Preaching'** and **26 August - 'Liturgy and Life'**. Each day begins with registration at **10am** (10.30am for session start) and ends at **4pm**. See the poster in the Crush Hall, or ask Sandra for details. Space is limited, so anyone wishing to go please register with the diocesan office as soon as you can. There is no cost for the day, apart from your own lunch and transport. To register, please email the following details to bishopsec@standrews.anglican.org: Name, Congregation, Mobile/Phone, email Address, Which Day(s) you intend to attend (June 20/August 26).

Sandra Young

St Margaret's Choir at Diocesan Evensong

Myra Tarr reports on a special occasion at Perth Cathedral on Saturday 21st May

We were delighted to have the opportunity of singing with other choirs, and especially the cathedral choir, at this diocesan event. Sadly, Sue and Adrian were away on holiday, and two other regulars were unwell, but we were still able to muster six choir members: two sopranos, two altos and two basses. About five choirs from other parts of the diocese took part; surprisingly few, some felt.

Cathedral choir members had prepared a very welcome soup and sandwich lunch, after which Richard Walmsley, the Cathedral's Organist and Master of the Choristers, led a rehearsal. Half-a-dozen or so young Choral Scholars swelled our ranks, and it was good to have such young voices.

We had prepared the music as best we could and particularly enjoyed the Stanford *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in C. Richard Walmsley's *Preces and Responses*, written for St Ninian's, were a nice change from the ones we usually sing at our occasional Sunday@Six evensongs. More demanding of course, but we like a challenge and hope to use them some time soon. The Elgar anthem "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me*", the first chorus from his oratorio "*The Apostles*", had been hard to practise, as the organ part is beyond difficult, but the cathedral choir were familiar with it, so we were able to follow their lead.

The service, a contribution to the Perth Festival of the Arts that had

started on the previous Thursday, attracted a small congregation who, unusually for Evensong, were able to join in *three* hymns. Bishop David gave an appropriate homily [*Ed: see page 11*]. He is very musical and values the contribution that choirs make to worship.

Choir members and congregation were invited to tea after the service and a great time of fellowship was enjoyed. The cathedral is starting a mammoth fundraising campaign as the building requires over £3 million to restore it – £750,000 alone for the essential work of making it weather-tight! Some of us bought the mugs, tea towels and CDs that were for sale, and some will be available for sale at our joint services as a way of supporting this appeal. [*Ed: More details at <http://tinyurl.com/glc144>*]

Everyone at the cathedral had given us a warm welcome. Of course the Provost, the Very Rev Hunter Farquarson, is well-known to us at St Margaret's, as he was our first Rector for several years before being promoted. When he saw Julie Denning he immediately enquired about her mother Eve, who was of course in our choir for many years.

We look forward to participating in more events at the cathedral. Members of both congregations are welcome to attend services, so watch the joint notices for announcements!

Area Council News

On Thursday 26th May I attended the Area Council meeting at St Peter's Kirkcaldy where David McKenzie-Mills spoke to us about the importance of church music and choral singing in church. This had been scheduled for the meeting back in February but at that time sadly David had been quite ill and had to cancel. It was a real pity because many of the choir who had gone to the meeting in February expecting to meet with David could not come to the May meeting and it was only myself who was able to go.

It was worthwhile though because a suggestion to do a sung compline at sometime in the future was mooted and quite a few members of the council expressed an interest.

David McKenzie-Mills is an accomplished musician as well as rector of St Mary's Kinross so the evening was really interesting and generated a lot of discussion and useful hints on how to get the best out of a musical congregation, even if a choir isn't always available. Of course St Margaret's don't have to worry about this because we are blessed with a choir and two great organists, but a few churches around the diocese aren't so fortunate. We had fun singing and listening to David and everyone agreed that it was a worthwhile meeting.

Later we spoke to our various reports and discussed the Archbishop of

Canterbury's visit to the Church of Scotland's General Assembly. All agreed that it was right and fitting that Archbishop Justin should begin his speech to the assembly with an apology to the SEC concerning the Columba Declaration, which had caused so much hurt to so many in the SEC, especially our Primus Bishop David. A letter from the bishop thanking us for the letter we sent to him declaring our support for him was shown to the meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Nan Kennedy's lovely home on the 1st July. Nan's soiree's are always really lovely and all are welcome. If anyone would like to join me please let me know. It is always great to have some company at the Area Council and Nan puts on a terrific spread. Her home is set in terrific grounds and if it is as nice as it was last year we can sip our wine and eat the buffet outside.

Valerie Leslie

Celebrating Shakespeare

Valerie Leslie reports on a special Sunday@Six service

This year seems to be a year of celebrations. Just as we caught our breath after the stunning events of the 100 years of Methodism in Rosyth service and the Queen's 90th Birthday, another momentous celebration came along. On the 23rd of April we celebrated 400 years since the death of Shakespeare, so on the 24th April the two congregations came together at Sunday@Six to enjoy an hour with the bard.

The audience even got the chance to join in proceedings by singing two hymns: 'Lord of the years' (*Singing the Faith* 470) and 'Come to us creative Spirit' (*Singing the Faith* 726 to the tune of Angels Voices). Well done all and thanks to the choir for raising the roof!

I am deeply indebted to Sue and Adrian for playing their recorders and delighting us with such gems as 'La Volta', 'The Sick Tune', 'Light O' love', 'Fortune my foe', 'Heartsease' and for playing us out with a Jig (from *Love's Labour's Lost*).

Who will forget the Madrigals (which were my particular favourites). Sue, Myra, Adrian and Martin sang with such expertise that closing one's eyes you could believe you were in Covent Garden! The Madrigals were: 'Sing we and chant it', 'April is in my mistress' face', 'Now is the month of maying' (text from Orazio Vecchi) and 'Amyntas with his Phyllis fair'.

From Act 1, Scene ii of *The Tempest*, the parts of Ferdinand, Ariel, Miranda and Prospero were enacted, respectively, by Gordon Pryde, Dorrisia Forsyth, Pam Pryde and Alan Taylor; and the choir presented us with the song 'Full fathom Five', to the original tune by Robert Johnson arranged by Andrew Griffiths. My thanks to them and Sue for all their hard work! I was delighted to be part of this short choral piece.

I have to congratulate Gwyneth Kirby on a splendid reading of Sonnet 18, arguably one of Shakespeare's most beloved and well known sonnets 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day'. Martin Tarr sang 'Who is Sylvia?' from *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Act IV, Scene ii). Sue Morrison delighted us with her reading of 'When daisies pied and violets blue' (*Love's Labour's Lost*, Act V, Scene ii).

Our very own Mary Kidd made us chuckle with her rendition of 'Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more' from *Much Ado About Nothing* (Act II, Scene iii).

I must give heart-felt thanks to the 'students in a pickle' played by 4 young people from Holy Trinity Youth Fellowship. They were amazing, especially since 3 of them only got the script on the night! They were a big hit, and it is hoped that they will come back to join us in many more Sunday@Six events.

Martin Tarr, our 'resident actor', got a big laugh for his portrayal of Sir Hugh Evans the much 'put upon' school master in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (Act III, Scene i). I loved this as did the audience by the sound of the applause.

Then from mirth to a weary sprite. The choir performed 'Never weather-beaten sail' (words and music by Thomas Campion *ca* 1613). Gordon Pryde spoke out with dramatic effect the words of Macbeth "Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow creeps in this petty pace from day to day..." (*Macbeth*, Act V, Scene v). The fact that Gordon performed this without the aid of a safety net – no script to fall back on – was so impressive. I am in awe! Martin Tarr then sang another solo, this time from *Cymbeline*, Act IV Scene ii: 'Fear no more the heat o' the sun' (music by Gerald Finzi).

Pam read the prologue to *Romeo and Juliet* which was beautifully done and 'Heartease' was played as a recorder duo. Martin skilfully as always led the prayers with the responses 'We give you thanks and praise' and 'Hear our prayer, O Lord'. I was so grateful to Martin for this wonderful contribution to the celebration.

Evelyn Kenny read Sonnet 24, 'Mine eye hath played the painter' so beautifully, and it went perfectly with the second hymn – 'poet, painter, music-maker all your treasure bring; artist, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering....' This was such an

appropriate hymn for the evening and it speaks to me as I am sure it did to many in the congregation.

Finally, yours truly got a chance to murder Puck's soliloquy (from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act V, Scene ii). I had been practising it for weeks and had it word perfect until it came to acting it...ah well, Puck gets away with anything! 'If we shadows have offended, think but this and all is mended, that you did but slumber here while these visions did appear'. I think we definitely 'scaped the serpent's tongue... So good night unto you all'.

I must say a big thank you to Howard Kirby for getting the paintings projected onto the screen, to Allan Leslie for sourcing the paintings and to Martin Tarr for helping me put the whole thing together; without him I would have been 'A sorry sight'. Thank you too to pianist Heather Kelsall, who accompanied Martin during his solos, and of course to Sue Masson for playing the organ, recorder and singing.

Now, we had over 40 people at the celebration, some from other churches or no church at all. St Margaret's and RMC should shout hurrah, because it shows our outreach is working!

So to everyone who came along to support this venture, A VERY BIG THANK YOU! And to those who couldn't come, I hope this potted version of the night shows you what a joyful night it was.

Music, song and faith

The sermon preached at the Diocesan Evensong for Perth Festival of the Arts on Saturday 21 May 2016 by the Most Revd David Chillingworth

I joined the Cathedral Choir at the age of 7. And for the most part it has been a pretty smooth progression to where I find myself today. And that is not as absurd as it sounds. For I am convinced that singing for children is one of the best ways of engendering faith – that singing opens up pathways between voice and mind and heart which stir the faith of the child. Or to put it more simply – open your lips to sing the praises of God and things change inside you at the deepest level.

We are coming to recognise that in all sorts of ways and all kinds of circumstances. If you Google 'singing and well-being' you will find a mass of scientific and other research which tells you about the health benefits – psychological and emotional – of choral singing. It's for all of us – it engenders well-being. People sing with dementia patients and it helps. There's Gareth Malone and the Military Wives and his choir at the Invictus Games. There's my desire to sing madrigals and barbershop quartets. And of course there is Singalongasoundofmusic – nun's costume optional. In the end it's about all of us – who in the rush of modern life and some of the dehumanising effects of how we live – find it difficult or don't get time and space or have nobody to listen to us – to express our deepest feelings. And one of the ways in is to come into a beautiful building like this one and sing our hearts out

with others. And sometimes, unexpected and unlooked for, we find the tear in the corner of the eye and the lump in the throat which tells us that there is more going on.

The motto of the RSCM is "I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also". And I suppose the other question of today – in this season of Pentecost, when the church celebrates the coming of God's Holy Spirit as the animator of the deepest places of heart and mind – is whether our singing also holds the key to faith as I believe implicitly does for children. I think it does in all sorts of ways – for example most of the theology we shall ever know is carried in the hymns – poetry which we know by heart even if we can't remember how we learned it. For if singing is one of the ways to well-being than it must also be one of the ways to the deepest well-being of all which is the blessing of peace with God – at one with ourselves and at one with God.

You will notice here that I am not talking of faith as the end of point of an intellectual pursuit. Faith must be reasonable – it cannot simply be irrational – but I don't think it is implanted primarily by intellectual pursuit. The psalm says "O taste and see how gracious the Lord is" – and reminds us that the experience of God is holistic. It's body, mind and spirit. It's in the music – in the bread and

wine of the Eucharist shared with others – in the lighting of a candle and a silent prayer too deep for words remembering those we have loved and lost – in the occasional whiff of incense – in the soaring arches. The question really is what starts the faith pilgrimage – what sets in motion that mysterious and inexplicable journey of exploration in which we search for

God and in that searching find that he has been searching for us.

I hope you have in the fullest sense enjoyed today – meaning that it has brought you joy. And may God bless you as you carry out from here a renewed sense of the depth and the richness of life and of God into whose majesty and wonder we have access through the beauty of music.

Sue Masson's Music Quiz

This issue's quiz

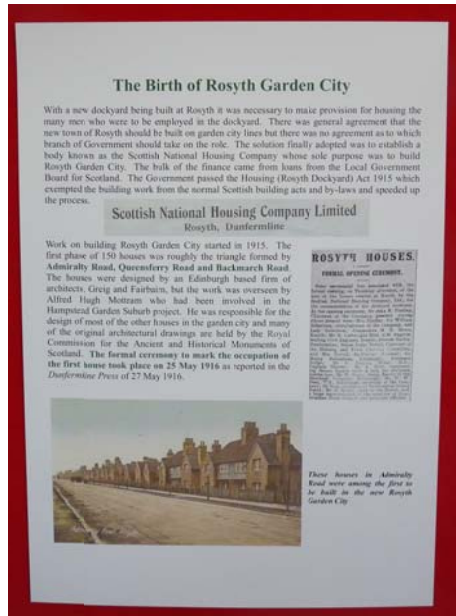
- 1) Whose *Mazurkas* were described by a German critic as *repugnant* and *tortuous*?
- 2) Who wrote the Savoy operas?
- 3) Which musical includes "*Til there was you,*" a song covered by the Beatles?
- 4) Who, in 1999, became the first living commoner to appear on a British postage stamp?
- 5) In which decade did Gustav Holst start to decompose?
- 6) Which of the 3 tenors has Maria for his middle name?
- 7) What name for an African guitar was adopted by Ellas Bates who himself became the title of a hit for Buddy Holly?
- 8) Which Polish-born pianist was made an honorary knight in 1977?
- 9) Who became associated with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra after conducting the Liverpool Sinfonia at the age of 15?
- 10) What nationality was Mozart?

Last issue's answer

'Mercury' is the word that links a 1970's pop group; an element on the periodic table; and a symphony by Haydn.

Rosyth remembered (1)

The high point of the town's celebration of three centenaries were the two captivating exhibitions at the Parish Church in May organised by the Rosyth Garden City Association, one commemorating the town's birth as a Garden City and the dockyard becoming operational, the other the Battle of Jutland. The occasions were made the more memorable by the visit of HRH the Princess Royal for an act of remembrance for those killed in the Battle of Jutland. Many of the panels (120 in all) were the work of Martin Rogers (see right); and the work of children in the town's four schools was also well featured. Martin's presentation to HRH of a copy of his book *The Royal Navy at Rosyth from 1900-2000* was most apt.



Young people

6th Rosyth Guides

Our series on the various organisations that use the church follows on from the description in our last issue of the Brownie Guides.

When a Brownie reaches 10 years old she becomes too old for the Brownies, and must move up to the next section, which is the Guides. A girl can remain a Guide until she is 14 years old. You do not have to have been a Brownie to be a Guide, but it helps. The Guides in our church meet on a Thursday evening from 6 to 8.30 pm.

Linda Wallace is the Guide Leader, and she is assisted by Kathryn Taylor, Karen McAlister and Danielle Bartlet, who are all leaders in training. At the moment, due to a recent influx, there are now 24 Guides. They are divided into 3 patrols, called the Starfish, the Thistles, and the Elephants. There will soon be 4 patrols, the fourth being the Penguins. *[Ed: where do they get their names from?!]* The cost of being a Guide is just £10 a month. There is no waiting list and they have girls coming from Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline as well as Rosyth. A Thursday night can be very busy for them doing Badge work (GO FOR IT!) traditions such as knotting, making waterproof mats, bed rolls, cooking, baking and learning about healthy eating. The last half hour is normally taken up by games, the emphasis being on team games. The badge

work consists of Annual Challenge Badges and Interest Badges. All the girls like the challenge of badge work and strive to achieve as many badges as they can, displaying their efforts on their uniforms with pride. Six of the girls are doing the Baden Powell Badge and 2 are doing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Three girls have been doing Leadership training at the Cairngorms. The girls had a weekend away to Dalgiuse in March, they have also had a day's outing to Clunny Clays, and often play in the Park of a Thursday evening. Previous events include visiting a Science Centre and running a Market Stall with the Cubs (with the proceeds being split 50:50).

The Guides intend holding a Camp later in the year; a Sausage Sizzle at Limekilns; and are going to run a Stall at the Gala. I believe there will be a lot of other activities for the girls to enjoy over the next few months.

Dave Ward

Messy Church

June 12th is our last Messy Church until after the Summer Holidays. We will be thinking about Jesus feeding five thousand people with two fish and five loaves. Baking bread is always popular with the children, and making fish shaped sandwiches is a first! This being the fourth in our series of learning about the miracles of Jesus, look out for the new banner, made by the children, showing four different miracles.

Just because there's no Messy Church doesn't mean there's no chance to meet your Messy Church friends. Why not come along to the Flower Festival on 18th and 19th June, see the flower displays and have a tasty cream tea? Or come along to the Family Barbecue at Silver Sands, Aberdour from 2pm on Sunday August 21st. Just give me a ring to let me know you're coming (624779). And on Saturday September 3rd there will be a family hike (with a choice of routes and distances) at Loch Leven, followed by Afternoon Tea at Cleish Parish Church. Ring for further details.

Have a good Summer. Hope to see you at some of our Centenary events. Look forward to seeing you at Messy Church on Sunday 11th September.

Gwyneth Kirby

Sunday Schools a century ago

100 or so years ago, many Methodist Sunday Schools were beginning to lose numbers, the overall number having remained remarkably steady until the start of the First World War. An exception appears to have been in Rosyth: a report to Synod in May 1918 disclosed that "At Rosyth in Fife, where Methodist work was new, the uniformed organisations were popular and the Sunday School there had 1042 junior members in 1918". (Source: Margaret Batty's book *Scotland's Methodists*.)

Property matters

We have a new back door. Keyholders should see **Martin Rogers to get a new key**. The next step will be to remove the cupboards and replace the floor covering with vinyl flooring as has been done in the crush hall.



Martin Rogers

Fellowship news

Church family news

Congratulations to **Anne Duly** who celebrated her 80th birthday on Saturday 4th June, and to **Valerie and Allan Leslie** who will be celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 12th June.

Congratulations too to **Gwyneth Kirby, Katie Cameron** and **Chris Brisley** for finishing their run in the Edinburgh half-marathon — in Gwyneth's case, a full 12 minutes faster than her time in the Great North Run six years ago!



We were saddened by the sudden and unexpected recent death of **Dr Geoff Headden**, the son of the late Bob and Jean Headden, and nephew to **Jock Headden**. Bob was server and crucifer at St Margaret's in the Naval Base and a talented bass singer. We extend our sympathies to Jock and Audrey, who had spent time with him earlier in the week he died, as well as to his widow, Ella, and their sons Robert and Colin.

Geoff was a Lay Reader, ministering at St Paul's, Kinlochleven, and played a very significant role in laying the foundations of a ministry in the West Highland Region. See Bishop Kevin's tribute in the Diocesan Newsletter (at <http://tinyurl.com/hvrbjyp>), as well as the eulogy from a family friend that appears on page 20. See also page 23

for a trailer about the words, spoken at Geoff's committal at Dunfermline Crematorium, which might be of wider interest and will be in the next issue.

Wednesday Fellowship news

We've had a varied and interesting succession of speakers since February, the last one being Lou Davidson who had just returned from her visit to Haiti with a HaitiHelp team that included a Dental Care group. It was good to know that progress had been made in the building and running of the orphanage on LaGonave, and with the care of very poor elderly people.

The term ended with the AGM which followed our lunch at The Elgin Hotel. Charities it was agreed to support included HaitiHelp, Mary's Meals and A World at School. Tribute was paid to the work and support from our Committee, which comprises: Sandra Young (Vice President), Olive Lee, (Treasurer), Mary Dempster (Raffle Convenor), Roy Jarvis (Registrar), and our tea ladies, Erica and Lesley. They all do a grand job which contributes to the success of the Fellowship.

At the AGM we received a few interesting suggestions for the programme in the Autumn. Meetings resume on September 7th and you will be made very welcome to come and join us even if it's for an occasional visit. Keep an eye on the notice board and weekly notice sheets to see what's on.

Mary Kidd

Diary for June to July 2016

Sunday 5 June

Pentecost 3	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Rev Major Stewart Young

Monday 6 Jun	7.00pm	Property Committee Meeting	
	7.30pm	Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church	

Tuesday 7 Jun	7.30pm	Coffee, Cake and Crafts – a monthly evening craft club run by Jean Hall and friends	
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Friday 10 Jun	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Sunday 12 June

Pentecost 4	9.00am	Breakfast and Messy Church	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens (celebrant) Rev Prof Trevor Hart (preacher)
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Edward Idle

Tuesday 14 Jun	10.15am	EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's home	
	7.00pm	St Margaret's Vestry meets in the small lounge	

Friday 17 Jun	9.30am	Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall	
	onwards	tea, coffee and home baking	
	10.00am	Flower festival with a nautical connection	
	to 12noon	Refreshments available at Triangles	
	7.00pm	Choir practice	

Saturday 18 Jun	2.00pm	Flower festival with a nautical connection	
	to 4.00pm	Afternoon teas funds raised towards Action for Children	
	7.30pm	Dunfermline Choral Union Summer Concert, Vine Church, Dunfermline	

Sunday 19 June

Pentecost 5	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Rev Alison Cozens (celebrant) Rev Prof Oliver O'Donovan (preacher)
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Brian Curtis MBE Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

Continued overleaf

Diary for June to July 2016

- 2.00pm Flower festival with a nautical connection
to 4.00pm Afternoon teas: funds raised for Action for Children
3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House All welcome
6.00pm Sunday@Six - Flower festival Songs of Praise
- Monday 20 Jun 10.00am Summer School, St Mary's College, St Andrews
to 4.00pm 'Exegesis and Preaching (see page 6 for details)
- Friday 24 Jun 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice
- Saturday 25 Jun 7.00pm Benita & Walter Ireland, Nostalgic Moments
Concert, St Finnian's Church, Lochgelly.
To reserve tickets contact Margaret Dineley on
01592 3589333 or margaret.dineley@gmail.com

Sunday 26 June

- Pentecost 6 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Mitchell Bunting
Traidcraft goods on sale after the service
- Tuesday 28 Jun 10.15am EDWJ meets at Jack Fowell's home
- Friday 1 Jul 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking
7.00pm Choir practice
7.00pm St Andrews West Area Council Annual BBQ
at Warroch House, Dalqueish, near Kinross

Sunday 3 July

- Pentecost 7 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens
11.00am Morning Worship Mrs Jane Peers
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)
4.30pm Sung Evensong, St Peter's Church, Kirkcaldy
KY11 1HB. All welcome
- Monday 4 Jul 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church
- Tuesday 5 Jul 7.30pm Coffee, Cake and Crafts - a monthly evening craft
club run by Jean Hall and friends
- Friday 8 Jul 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

Diary for June to July 2016

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 10 July

Pentecost 8 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

(Sea Sunday) 11.00am Morning Worship Prof Jeremy Bradshaw

Note: No Messy Church during School Holidays

Tuesday 12 Jul 10.15am EDWJ meets

Friday 15 Jul 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 17 July

Pentecost 9 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Stephanie Njera
Evelyn Kenny (Worship Leader)

3.00pm Service at Orchardhead House

Friday 22 Jul 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 24 July

Pentecost 10 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Robert Morton

Note: No Sunday@Six

6.30pm CEMC service of thanksgiving and appreciation for
Rev Geoffrey Baines and Deacon Sue Langdale

Tuesday 26 Jul 10.15am EDWJ meets

Friday 29 Jul 9.30am Triangle Coffee Shop in the Crush Hall
onwards tea, coffee and home baking

7.00pm Choir practice

Sunday 31 July

Pentecost 11 9.30am Sung Eucharist Rev Alison Cozens

11.00am Morning Worship Rev Deidre Homer

Monday 1 Aug 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, Rosyth Parish Church

In 2003 he achieved the remarkable distinction of gaining a Fellowship of the Royal College of General Practitioners by assessment rather than, as more usually, by election. At age 60 he decided to retire to give more time both to his family and to the Scottish Episcopal Church.

I first came across Geoff vicariously in about 1997 when with Kinlochleven's & Duror's then incumbent, a fairly lugubrious individual little given to overt enthusiasm. However, that day he was almost euphoric about this new doctor who had arrived in Kinlochleven and who was already becoming an active member of St Paul's congregation.

I got to know both Geoff and Ella when they became part of a very informal and totally inexperienced Scottish Country Dance group that met periodically to blunder round the Community Hall in Duror. I did not know him as a doctor but solely as a cheerful, unpretentious individual who rapidly became a friend. The evenings were never quite as much fun when he and Ella weren't there.

My admiration for Geoff only increased when I discovered that he had been quietly training for some years to become a Lay Reader in the Diocese of Argyll & The Isles and, when he completed training and had been licensed, he became much more widely known and appreciated. He was already very highly regarded medically and socially and now his spiritual and pastoral value simply soared. Invariably cheerful, affable and friendly, he was never trivial, never disparaging, never condescending or critical, and always had time for individuals.

For those that don't know, Geoff's 'area', in which he was licenced, consists of 6 small churches, spread over almost 30 miles, most of which are struggling numerically and financially. For the past year it has had no full-time priest. That that disparate group is still together, and in a surprising number of ways thriving, is very largely thanks to Geoff. Indeed, it would be hard to over-state his contribution.

Those of us who knew Geoff can only be grateful that we had the opportunity to spend time with him. He was a powerful presence, physically, intellectually and spiritually. As well as relief and comfort to his patients, he brought a huge amount of spiritual influence, outreach and education to the Scottish Episcopal Church in the West Highland Region, the Diocese of Argyll & The Isles, and beyond.

His untimely and tragic death has deprived us of someone who, without exaggeration, was a cornerstone of the West Highland Region and, indeed, the Diocese. In the face of something that we simply cannot understand, the hearts, prayers and sympathy of all who knew Geoff go out to Ella, Robert and Colin in their grief and loss.

Geoff was a great man, he has touched very many of us for the better and our lives will be the poorer without him.

Encountering Corpus Christi on holiday

Adrian and I have just returned from a lovely holiday in Seefeld, in the Austrian Tirol. On the Wednesday we had taken the train to the next village and then walked a circular route back through beautiful, flowering alpine meadows. It was midday when we stopped to have our lunch at a village called Reith when suddenly the church above us started to ring its bells. After a couple of minutes at least 3 other churches way below us in the valley joined in and we were treated to a fantastic concert.



Although we didn't know it at the time, this was the precursor to the Feast of Corpus Christi the next day. (Corpus Christi is a Latin rite that celebrates the belief in the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.)

Thursday morning dawned bright and clear and we were woken at 6am with more church bells and a cannon firing a 16 gun salute! This was repeated throughout the morning, calling the faithful to mass at 9.00, signifying the end of mass and the start of a procession all around the town with services at various other churches and shrines.

The procession comprised lots of statues and banners, the church choir all in Tirolean dress, the town band similarly dressed, a regiment of muskets, representatives of the police force and fire brigade, the priest under a canopy carrying the monstrance containing the bread and wine, and the congregation. I was very taken with the small boy who had to pull the bass drum whilst it was being played – surely the worst job in the band!



The day finished with an open air concert in the town square by another concert band, playing tunes from a number of European countries, although not Scotland. To address this omission Adrian spoke to the conductor afterwards and, along with our thanks for a super concert, did suggest a number of Scottish pieces that they might like to add to their repertoire! Watch this space.

Sue Masson

*If you have interesting encounters on your holiday which you think might be of interest to our readers, please let Howard Kirby know!
(editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk)*

Trailer for “A consistent faith and life”

Following on the death of Dr Geoff Headden (announced on page 16, with an eulogy included on page 20), the committal service at Dunfermline Crematorium was taken by Rev Dr Malcolm Kinnear, the minister of Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber Parish Churches. Those present felt that the thoughts he shared will be appreciated by a wider audience. So see the August/September issue, not just for a commentary upon an individual but on the matters involved in attaining ‘A consistent faith and life’.

One Minute Please

What did Jesus say?

“I am the resurrection and the Life”

John 11 v 25

All that is important in our faith

Very Rev Jim Mein's reflections at the Joint Communion on 24th April 2016

Consider:

Acts 11: 1-18;

Revelation 21: 1-6;

John 13: 31-35.

Three great readings. In the Gospel: *"Love one another: by this everyone will know you are my disciples"*. In Revelation: the great vision of a new world, with *"The home of God is amongst mortals: he will dwell with them"*. In those two brief passages you have all that is important in our faith: God is with us, in us, and we are created to love one another. What else is there to say?

Well I'm going to start with the third reading. Partly because it reminds me of one of the many disasters in my ministry. I was trying to lead an all age worship service. I had a sheet hung in the chancel by its 4 corners and filled with dolls of different sizes and colours and a whole variety of animals. At the critical moment in the reading I tried to lower it but only one side came down, all the animals and dolls falling out onto the choir. It wasn't quite as bad as when I had the Sunday School too close to the water, ice cubes and steam with which I was illustrating the three persons of God on a Trinity Sunday but the solemnity of the Biblical reading was somewhat broken.

That reading from Acts 11 is, in its way, just as important as the claim that in the mystery of the incarnation,

God is with us, or the fundamental commandment that we love one another. It is important because it says we are all one – and that is a message our world, and perhaps even more our religions, desperately need to hear today.

I might get political later but let me concentrate on the Churches. I hope I'm not just a grumpy old man who claims the sun always shone brighter in my youth, but I do feel that the Church has lost its way over the 50 years of my ministry. When I was ordained in the 60's the Churches were a vibrant part of society. The world council of Churches, the British council of Churches, Christian Aid, were significant movers and shakers in areas like the anti-apartheid movement and the debate over nuclear weapons. We, perhaps the Methodist Church in particular, were involved in justice for the poor and oppressed. We worked together, planned for visible unity, and set up the ecumenical parish in Livingston. I wonder if the Churches would set up your present working together here if the need for it had only arisen today?

I don't blame today's Church leaders – after all I guess I've been one myself for many years, but I do believe there has been a process where declining membership led to a more inward looking Church which made it less attractive leading to further declining membership, making us even more

inward looking and concerned with our own small groups survival – a spiralling circle of decline. And I believe the fundamental underlying reason for this circle is our failure to respond to the incredible developments in our knowledge which have assailed us in recent centuries. Of course there are exceptions, wonderful work being done by many individuals and some congregations but the confidence, and with it the joy and the hope that should permeate our faith seems to me to have declined.

But what do I mean about our failure to respond to the recent developments in human knowledge? Well, I heard a Muslim Iman on the radio the other day say that anything which was not permitted in the Koran could not be permitted today – and it reminded me of debates in our Christian Churches where both sides argue from individual texts in our Bible.

Of course the Bible is important in our faith – and I started today by drawing attention to the three readings we heard. But to pretend that all modern problems and debates can be decided by 2 or 3 thousand year old texts is ridiculous. It was certainly not the attitude of Jesus who made very clear time after time to the religious powers of his day that their appealing to ancient texts did not excuse the injustices to the poor and weak that they imposed.

Jesus continually moved the debate on and promised that our understanding

would continue to evolve – guided by the holy spirit which was within us all. So I come back to that image from our reading this morning of Peter dreaming of the sheet coming down filled with animals, clean and unclean. This is an inclusive image and is repeated again and again by Jesus and the other N.T. writers.

It is difficult for us to understand how shattering it must have been to the religious people to hear Jesus talking about Samaritans, or lepers, or tax collectors or women. It has taken the Churches 2000 years (actually not very long in human history) to begin to apply this inclusiveness to people of different colour or sexual orientation or indeed to women. We talk rather than act on our relationships with other Christian denominations but have not got very far yet with our inter-faith relations. I think we are just beginning to think more inclusively about other living species beyond humanity and to value environment as a whole:

The truth is that the fundamental thrusts of the Bible – God is within us, love one another, include rather than exclude – these are our inspiration. But the specifics have to be worked out in each generation, each situation.

The fundamental demand of being inclusive is that we control our selfishness – this means both our individual selfishness and also being exclusively concerned with only our own group, whether it is our nation or our religion. How we vote, over Europe or anything else, should not

All that is important... Continued from p 25

just be decided on what we think is best for us, but on what is just, what is good for the world, what is good for our neighbour. To get that across is the *raison d'être* of religion and it is where I believe we have slipped back from the idealism, hope and commitment that was in both society and Church in the decades immediately following the last world war.

But just finally: I would not have been so negative as you may have heard it, or realistic as I would claim, about the Church if it were not that I see signs of new hope. I guess our human development has always gone in waves, peaks and troughs, some lasting centuries some only a generation or two. But the peaks get higher and the troughs not so deep. I see science and religion coming together with mutual respect at last: I see religious leaders insisting we can hold to our own insights while still recognising the insights of other faiths. I do think that the fanatical fundamentalists are tipping over the point where they will not be taken seriously. All it needs is our having the courage to follow the spirit of Jesus rather than the law of religious power brokers. That's all – quite a challenge!

Rosyth remembered (2)

In Part (1) of this article (p13) I said that Martin Rogers had prepared 120 panels for display at the centenary exhibitions. These comprised 47 for the Rosyth Garden City display, 64 for the Rosyth Dockyard display and 9 for the Jutland display. (Plus 68 panels for the Rosyth Methodist Church centenary display.) But in addition to all this he has been producing a series of Focus booklets, recording the development of the town. Just 4 are shown here.



The 9 titles now available (as at June 2016) cover :
1: Admiralty Road
2: Queensferry Road
3: Dollytown Old and New
4: Castlandhill and Selvage area
5: Harley Street, Crossroads & Parkgate area

- 6: Backmarch Road & Aberlour Street
- 7: Middlebank Street, Woodside Avenue, Burnside and Wemyss Street
- 8: Park Road, the Public Park & Rosyth Brickworks
- 9: Rosyth Castle & Doocot.

Thank you Martin for all that you do.
Howard Kirby

Tricky prayer—raw honesty

Rev Major Stewart Young's sermon at Morning Worship on 5th June 2016

Based on Luke 18: 1-8

In my ministry as an Army chaplain, a lot of my work revolves around the pastoral care of soldiers and their families. The Army is really just a microcosm of wider society – on the whole we see most of the same family and personal problems that arise in the community, with some added factors from the military life, like prolonged separation and the problems related to moving home regularly and the effects that can have on all aspects of personal and family life.

And while the Army has a heart for those soldiers who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, it's also true to say that the Army likes things to function efficiently, and that sometimes means that it's maybe not as patient as it might be with those whom it sees as being 'problematic'. And part of my job is to help these poor unfortunates have their cases heard by the system; to ensure that they're treated fairly and with a degree of compassion.

At times that means that I've got to be pretty persistent with those who wield the power to make decisions that could affect a soldier's career, so it won't surprise you that I've got a special place in my heart for our gospel story today, the familiar parable of the persistent widow. There can be no doubt that there are times in our all our lives when

persistence is necessary when we're in need of someone's help.

I heard a lovely story of a persistent American a while back, which I think you'll appreciate, and I'm given to understand this is a true story.

Apparently in the town of Meridian, in Mississippi, Mr George Phillips was just about to go up to bed one night when his wife called down and told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

So George opened the back door to go and turn off the light, but he saw that there were people in the shed helping themselves to his tools and his lawnmower.

So, quite naturally, he went back inside and phoned the police. And the helpful person at the police command centre asked George, "Is someone actually in your house?", and he said no there wasn't anyone in his house, but they were in his garden shed helping themselves to his fine collection of tools and his trusty lawnmower.

"Right," they said, "I'm afraid all our patrols are busy right now, there's no-one available, so just lock your door and an officer will be along when they are available."

Well, being a fine upstanding citizen and a faithful tax payer, George wasn't

overly impressed with this, but he said "Okay," and he hung up. But then he counted to 30, and phoned the police again, and said to the helpful person at the police command centre:-

"Hello. I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people in my shed...well, you don't have to worry about them now, 'cause I've just shot them all." And then he hung up the phone and waited.

And right enough, within five minutes, three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance all showed up at the Phillips residence.

And, of course, the police caught the burglars red-handed.

But once they'd sorted the burglars out, one of the policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

To which George replied, "I thought you said there was no-one available!"

Sometimes we have to be persistent when we want someone's help. And that's the message that we usually get when we read the parable of the persistent widow – if we keep at God in our prayers, then he'll answer them. Isn't that how we usually read this passage?

We look at the parable of the persistent widow, and we see very much the point that in our prayer lives, we should be a bit like my little Irish Terrier when she's chasing a rabbit across the huge stretches of

grass that surround our barracks – that we should keep at it; we should stick with our petitions, our requests, until we get an answer. And that's a fair point – it's the one that Jesus himself emphasised.

But, today I wanted to get us thinking about another aspect of prayer that this parable raises for us. And it has striking similarities with many of the young soldiers and their families that I find myself dealing with. Because one of the things that I usually say to them when they first come to ask for my help, is that I need them to be brutally honest with me – I need to know all the facts, no matter how colourful, or indeed unpalatable, they may be, I need to know all the facts so that I can represent their case as effectively as possible.

This is where I find some similarities with an aspect of prayer that concerns me a bit :-

You see, it concerns me that many of us in the Church have been put off in the past from really being honest in our prayer life, and it concerns me that this must be affecting the way we live our lives of faith – our lives that we seek to live in God.

This parable of the persistent widow can help us see the need for our prayer lives to be characterised by a raw honesty. Now let me explain that.

We're not told what the widow actually wanted, other than that she was seeking "justice against her adversary". So we do know that it was justice, and not vengeance that she

was seeking, so we know that right was on her side. But we could speculate all day long about precisely what she was asking for.

But I think that it's more helpful for us to think about the position that she was in as she placed herself before this judge.

It's important to understand that the biblical account and our knowledge of Jewish custom tells us that this wasn't a case of arbitration that would've come before the Jewish Elders, because if it had been, then, under Jewish Law, there would've been three judges.

So, here we have a case where the woman has had to go before one of the paid judges, appointed, effectively, by the state. And such judges were known for being corrupt. And you couldn't hope to have your case settled favourably, unless you could either bribe the judge or bring some form of pressure to bear upon him, through the influence of someone of standing who might speak to the judge on your behalf – a bit like my position as a chaplain grants me access to the Army's decision makers on behalf of our soldiers.

But the fact that this widow was without money or some form of patronage meant that she had nothing to help her obtain justice, other than the bare truth of her case and her persistence. And so she was forced to continually bring the facts of her case before the judge in the hope that he would finally listen to her. There was

nothing else she could do. She simply had to bare her soul to this judge, time and again, and hope that he would sort out her problem for her.

Before I came to the ministry, I was a policeman in Hong Kong for about 15 years. And in the early days of my career there, when I was still in uniform, I frequently came across people who came to the police as a last resort when something had gone wrong for them, and they hoped somehow that we could sort out their problem for them.

And all too often, the problem would be something that was really quite difficult for them to speak about – perhaps something that was deeply personal or embarrassing, often family disputes that would mean letting someone else know your business – something you would only bring to the attention of a stranger if you were truly desperate to find a solution. And in the typical oversimplification of police-speak, such cases were generally classified as “disputes”.

So it was, that when I was just 21 years old, I found myself not long out of the Police Training School and patrolling the streets of Tsim Sha Tsui on the Kowloon Peninsula in Hong Kong, when a call came up on the radio that there was a “dispute” which required a police presence.

Short story about having to deal with a family dispute which had been very embarrassing for the family that had called the police for help, but simply

felt they didn't have anywhere else to turn.

When people find themselves having to resort to seeking assistance with a grievance that they have, it's often the case that it takes a lot for them to do that. And that's often because they feel embarrassed that they've "gotten themselves into" that situation in the first place – which is often how they view it.

And it takes a certain amount of raw honesty to expose your personal life like that – for in our minds, it carries with it the potential that we'll be judged as much as the person who has aggrieved us. And we're often reluctant to take that step. Just think of how many rape cases go unreported for just those reasons. It takes a degree of raw honesty to bring a personal grievance out into the open and to ask for help.

So what's all this got to do with prayer?

Well, we have a bit of a problem with prayer sometimes, because we're brought up to respect and revere God in a way that can actually stop us from being honest with him. I see it all the time in a scaled down way as I speak to people as a minister, as a Padre – as God's representative, if you like. Many of us feel that we just can't say certain things in case they offend God or in case they might offend "the Church", or in case they might possibly embarrass us.

We don't talk to God about the pain that hasn't gone away; about the prayer that we feel hasn't been answered; about the person whom we feel has it in for us; about that part of us that just hasn't fallen into place; about that part of God for which we can't seem to find a place.

More often than not, we don't talk to God about these things, and because we don't, we make it very difficult for God to help us with them.

You know, despite the respect and reverence with which we're brought up to treat God, God still gets a lot of stick. There are a lot of people out there who have very little time for God, or who want to blame him for any number of the twists and turns of fate that life has dealt them. And many of them rant and rail at God with little, if any, respect or reverence.

Believe me, in my job, I get to spend a lot of time on the receiving end of the anger, the frustration, and often the downright contempt, in which God is held by many a young man or woman whom life has dealt with sometimes very harshly – some whose backgrounds or upbringing were far from ideal, and who've suffered a lot as a result of that. And sometimes, very regrettably, it's the case that the Church, either through its schools or other institutions, or simply through its people, has been instrumental in leaving these young people with a very jaundiced view of God. And the directness of their Army training seems to leave them very unhesitant

in expressing their negative view of God, often very colourfully.

So take it from me, I think God has got a pretty thick skin. And we're not going to offend him if we're honest with him. Quite the contrary, in fact. I truly believe that God wants our prayers to be characterised by raw honesty – a raw honesty that will allow us to tell God what we're really feeling; what we're really struggling with.

And remember, we're the ones that need the help – God already knows what we're struggling with, but it's that cleansing, healing process; that bringing it out into the open, that will really allow God to help us.

Yes, we might not get quite what we were hoping for – we have to remember also that God's plans for us might not be quite what we think God would want for us. And we have to remember that we can see only a small part of the picture, but God sees the whole. And our part in that whole might not be quite what we'd expected or hoped for.

It might also be the case that our timing and God's timing might not coincide. But if that is the case, then there will be good reason for it. We might not see that reason to begin with – we might not even see it this side of heaven – but that's one of the aspects of living by faith with which we all have to struggle at times.

So if there's something that's troubling you, something you don't feel you've had an answer to,

something that you feel's dragging on, look again at the persistent widow, and remember that it's not only persistence that we see in her story, but also the raw honesty to bare her soul before the only one who could help her, time and again, in the hope that he would sort out her problem for her.

The only difference for us is that we don't bare our souls before God in hope, but in faith. And faith is the assurance that God will hear our prayers, and will act in our lives.

God will not be offended by raw honesty in our prayer lives – he won't judge us like our neighbour might – he'll only be grateful that we are willing to bare our souls to him, no matter how painful that might be for us.

And if we can have faith enough in God's love for us to bare our innermost feelings to him, then we can have the assurance of his promise that he'll give us the strength to face whatever his will might hold for us.

Praise be to God for his infinite mercy, compassion and understanding.

Amen.

‘Go everywhere they go—share all their risks and more’

Padre Stewart Young (3rd Battalion The Rifles) offered these reflections on a Chaplain’s role following interest expressed after the service he took on 5th June.

Around a century ago in the trenches of Flanders Field, when asked by a newly-arrived fellow chaplain for his advice on ministering to soldiers, Padre Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy uttered these words:-

‘Live with the men, go everywhere they go.

Make up your mind you will share all their risks and more, if you can do any good.’

And as regards spiritual work he said:

‘...there is very little, it is all muddled and mixed.

‘Take a box of fags in your haversack, and a great deal of love in your heart and go up to them, laugh with them, joke with them.

‘You can pray with them sometimes, but pray for them always.’

There’s no doubt that for Army Chaplains this advice is as true today as it was during the First World War. We may prefer to carry a bag of sweets in our webbing, rather than the box of fags that would have been such common currency back then, but when it comes to getting alongside soldiers, you still need to be where they are, and for them to know that you’re sharing the same risks, putting

up with the same discomforts and deprivations, is powerful currency when it comes to them being willing to listen to you or seek your advice or assistance.

Thus it is that my service as an Army chaplain has taken me to any number of places my soldiers have been sent to, from the forests of the Czech Republic to the Canadian Prairies, from remote outposts in Afghanistan’s Helmand Province to a vast training area in the heart of the Georgian Caucasus. It seems to be the nature of the Army’s tasking that we tend to find ourselves operating in some of the more obscure locations that would be unlikely to feature on most people’s wish list of ‘Top 10’ destinations they’d like to visit one day!

Whether at home or abroad, on operations or in peacetime, soldiers’ openness to matters of faith and spirituality remains as ‘muddled and mixed’ as it was in WW1 and the pickings are still somewhat thin. Like so much chaplaincy work, being Padre to a battalion of soldiers is substantially a ministry of presence. It is by being there with them in the good times and the bad that you earn the right to come alongside them when they are in need of pastoral care, which is where most of my work with these young men and women finds its

focus. And it is primarily through sitting by them through the hard times that the scant opportunities for sharing faith and the hope of the Gospel arise.

The day-to-day life of the Battalion finds me out on physical training most mornings just trying to keep my 50+ year-old body in serviceable shape while the young Riflemen hone their sturdy young frames to withstand the rigours of infantry life, which mostly seems to comprise carrying substantial amounts of heavy equipment for considerable distances over moor and mountain, then using it to fight or to defend themselves. However, simply by being there and taking part in PT sessions already lets them know that I am doing my bit to be able to move with them when they go on exercise or when they are called upon to deploy in an operational role.

Having undertaken two tours of duty in Afghanistan, it is clear that it is when our soldiers are 'at war' that the work of their padres really comes to the fore. They appreciate that you are there with them when they have to come to terms with news of a loved one being ill back home, but cannot travel back to comfort them. To be a listening ear in such cases is a privilege and often opens the door to deeper conversations about having faith in God's providential care, as well as the opportunity to pray for and with a hurting soul. While this can also be part of my role when we are away for extended periods of training on the Canadian Prairies or the Kenyan Plains

(our two largest overseas training areas), being on operational deployment with soldiers always has an added edge. To be with young men and women when they are in danger and when they cannot find the words to express their heartfelt grief at the loss of a comrade is very humbling indeed. There is something visceral about living through danger and grief together; a shared experience unlike any other that creates a particular bond that is hard to articulate. And it brings with it a closeness that can allow for matters of the eternal to be discussed quite matter-of-factly, again a privilege to treasure.

Alas, much like the itinerant nature of the Methodist Ministry, Army chaplaincy is a life of relatively short postings (usually no more than 3 years) so it is very much a case of 'one sows, but another reaps the harvest'. We all sow where we can, in faith, knowing that we will rarely see the results, but it is in sharing the journey that I find myself blessed beyond measure. I hope that this short article has allowed you to feel part of that journey too, because as I often remind my soldiers, it is only through the generosity of the Good People of Methodism releasing me to serve as an Army Chaplain that I am able to be there for them, 'everywhere they go'.

Puzzle page

With puzzles from Dave Ward

New puzzles

- 1) How many times can you take 6 from 36?
- 2) Two prisoners in a jail have a chance for freedom but get it wrong then it is DEATH. They are to be sat facing each other in a darkened room and a hat placed on their heads, it could be either red or black. As soon as the light is switched on they must shout out either red or black and nothing else. They cannot see their own hat and have only 1 second to answer. If either one of them is correct in guessing the colour of his own hat then they will both be free. Should they go for it or not? if so WHY?
- 3) A man has to send secret messages back and forth to his Agent in another country. How can they devise a foolproof system so that no one could read the messages? CLUE: They have a box that can be locked using padlocks.

***For Sue Masson's Music Quiz,
see page 12***

Answers to previous puzzles

Q1) Where do I put KLMNO, above or below the line?

B C D G J O

A E F H I K L M N

A1) All straight letters go below the line, all curved letters go above the line.

Q2) How does the man work out which switch operates which light?

A2) He switches on one switch, call that switch 1, he leaves it on for 10 minutes then switches it off. He then switches on switch 2 and goes into the building to check which light is on,

Whilst there he touches the other 2 bulbs and finds that 1 of them is still warm, that is the bulb that switch 1 switched on. Therefore Switch 3 must light the 3rd bulb which is still cool.

Q3) How many apples did she start with?

A3) The answer is 15, at the first toll she gives half her apples which is seven and a half plus half an apple which makes eight leaving seven to take to the next toll etc. Then three to the last toll.

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 & letting enquiries:
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
Gordon Pryde 01383 860450
gordonpryde@btinternet.com

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

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)
Gary Dewar 01383 411938
gary.dewar@sky.com

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 (Thu 1800-2030)
Linda Wallace 07455 213809
6throsythguides@gmail.com

** An asterisk indicates a change since the last issue (in either meeting time or contact details or both)*

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



**Rosyth Methodist Church
Centenary**

**Flower Festival
And
Afternoon Teas**

The festival will have a nautical theme and will be open to anyone to contribute a floral display. Afternoon teas will put funds raised towards Action for Children

Thursday 16th June

5-8pm set up

Fri 17th 10am -12pm

Sat/Sun 2pm - 4pm



CONTACT on-line

You will find this issue, and many previous issues of CONTACT, on the archive pages of both of the church websites, where you will get the benefits of colour without the extra printing cost.

Our next issue

Grateful thanks to all those who have contributed to this issue. The next issue will be published in early August, so please let us have your contribution by the end of play on **Tuesday 26th July**. You can send it to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.