

Bennochy Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

Registered Scottish Charity SC 005628

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Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

MARCH 2014



From the 'Manse'

The congregations of the Presbytery will gather at Kirkcaldy High school on the 22nd of March for “*Celebrate and Discover2*”. Each congregation has been asked to present their life and witness under the theme, “*I am the vine and you are the branches*”.

It is all about being connected, and recognising that Jesus as the vine is the source of our love and life and as the branches; we can do nothing without him. This gathering gives us, as a presbytery, the opportunity to give witness to this great image of Jesus. We might not grow vines, but we can see and understand the importance of the church being connected through one vine, the source of our strength that comes from Jesus Christ. I hope as many of you as possible will contribute to our ‘tree of leaves’. This will be our central display, showing we are all connected as we worship and live for God. Please come along on the day, and share in this time of learning, fellowship and worship.

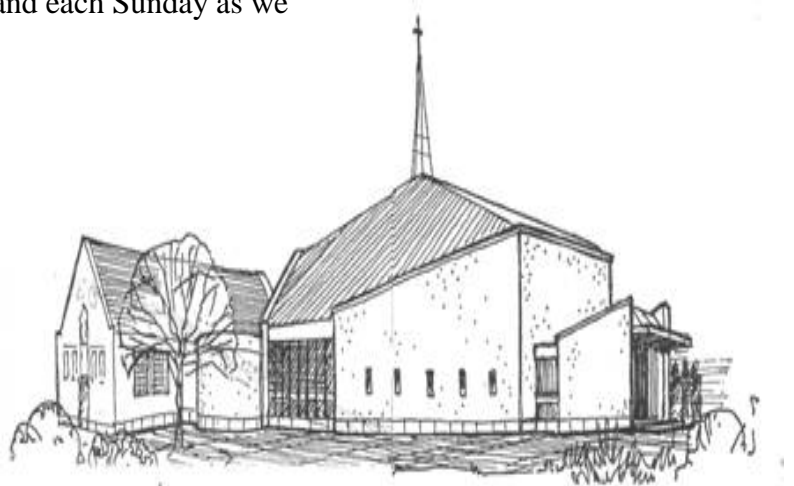
It also gives us the opportunity to share two particular initiatives that tie in with the theme. We have been working our way round the parish delivering a leaflet about the congregation, invites to join us in worship and a gift (Fridge magnet of our new stained glass window). In the run up to Easter our *Mission ripple* will continue, and we hope to complete the parish at Christmas. Then it is back to the beginning...! We will also publicise the *Olive Branch cafe*, as we seek to create an ‘open door’ to our community.

The growth of our ‘vine’ is vital, as we seek to share the love of God and the person of Jesus Christ with our neighbours. As branches of the vine we are called by God, to be his voice, his feet and his hands.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd and each Sunday as we worship God together

With all God’s blessing

Robin



Précis of Board Meeting, 3rd February 2014

The following reports were presented to the board meeting on 03/02/2014

The Business Committee reported that no full meeting of this group had taken place since the last Board meeting. Two sub committees had met to consider security within the Church, storage, upgrading of areas within the building and team committee membership. This committee will meet on the 10th of the month to further discuss these subjects and prepare a report for the Kirk Session on the 17th.

The Health and Safety (H&S) group advise us that fire safety issues are ongoing, with meetings held with outside consultants having taken place. This is to consider our legal responsibilities and required certification. Storage within the Church has become critical requiring a radical approach. The boiler room still needs clearing. New water mains plumbing has now been installed and a carbon monoxide detector has been situated in the kitchen. Many other issues are under scrutiny.

The Finance Team report was very short this meeting. A legacy has been left to the Church by the late Mrs Mary Cook with the stipulation that the Treasurer purchase an item appropriate to the Church's needs. The financial account for 2013 is in progress.

The Fabric Committee reported the new water mains had been installed under the estimated cost with a saving of over £280.00 to the Church. On- going repairs are being carried out whilst general maintenance to both Church and Manse are being looked after. This group also brought to the Board's attention the storage issues within the building. The Board members discussed the various possible remedies at length. Eventually it was decided to look at the stage area in the Methven Hall as a possible conversion into a store. The Fabric committee convener was asked to investigate this issue further.

The issue of storage has been brought to our attention by three of the four Committees. The Clerk was instructed to prepare a letter to all Hall Users inviting representatives to a meeting to discuss this problem. It would also be helpful if **all groups or individuals using these facilities considered what they have stored and the necessity for stored items** before this meeting.

Malcolm Walker
Clerk to the Board.

Kirkcaldy Visit to Corrymeela and Belfast 7th – 11th May 2014

I am hoping to organise a visit in May from churches in and around Kirkcaldy to Belfast and the Corrymeela Community Centre at Ballycastle, to take part in this year's Friends Weekend. I propose we travel by coach and ferry from Edinburgh to Belfast city centre which takes about seven and a half hours. There are also regular flights from Edinburgh to Belfast City Airport.

In Belfast there will be opportunities for sightseeing and a seminar with experts, including Duncan Morrow, who was commissioned by the Scottish Government to write a report on the problem of sectarianism. We will join supporters of Corrymeela from all over Britain and Ireland at the Friends Weekend. This is always a very enjoyable event, with inspiring worship, good food and accommodation in a very beautiful setting. It is always inspiring to meet the young volunteers from all over the world who are working there. Staff from the Community will explain the work that is being done in local communities. There will be a break on Saturday afternoon during which a visit to the Giant's Causeway could be arranged. There is a golf course not far from the Centre and the town of Ballycastle is an attractive seaside resort, with a variety of shops and traditional Irish pubs.

I estimate that the cost, traveling by the cheapest method, will be around £175-£190 per person. If you are interested please get in touch with me.

Bob Purdie.
6 Lomond Gardens,
Kirkcaldy, KY2 6AE.
01592 646681, purdie.bob@googlemail.com
The Corrymeela Website: <http://www.corrymeela.org>



Crossreach

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under its new name, CrossReach continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so it has a long history in the field of social care.

They employ more than 2,000 staff and support some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. Annual expenditure is about £51 million with funding coming from local authorities. They also rely on donations and legacies to help continue their vital work.

CrossReach (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council) reports each year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive and the like

News from Zambia

Jenny has given us the following details of the student we are to support in his carpentry course this year:-

The student I have in mind for you is an older person (38) and therefore beyond any funding we can get for vulnerable youths. His name is Stanley Mweetwa, and I have asked him to write a letter of introduction to you.

He was urged by his church to do church planting at Bible college (which the Brethren in Christ paid for) he completed this and then was not given clear instructions how (or where) to proceed, so he decided to do carpentry & joinery to have a back up profession whilst he was evangelising. He comes from Macha, about an hours drive from Choma. He seems a quiet unassuming person but willing to work too. When I asked him how he and his family were going to survive he answered he was already growing vegetables both in Macha (which his wife presumably looks after) and here in Choma, where he hopes to sell the surplus. He has 4 children to look after, and as far as I can gather is staying with a friend in Choma to avoid paying rent, but will obviously have to make some contribution to household expenses.

Here is his letter (more or less word for word)

Dear Brothers / sister,

I am greeting you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As for me I am still fine.

I thank the Lord for the opportunity to introduce myself to you the church of God. Firstly may I say my names are Stanley S Mweetwa aged 38 years. Staying in the outskirts of Choma I am from about 78 kilometres away, a Christian and now training in carpentry & joinery course at Chodort Training Centre. Therefore I am asking for assistance so that I can finish the course.

I have challenges in paying my school fees due to limited resource and high level of unemployment I am facing. If assisted I will have a skill to help me earn a living and train others in communities for the better of their lives as we continue serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the grace of the Lord be with you always

yours faithfully

Stanley S Mweetwa

If you would like to write to Stanley on occasions, please let me know.

Margaret Simpson

PARTNERPLAN

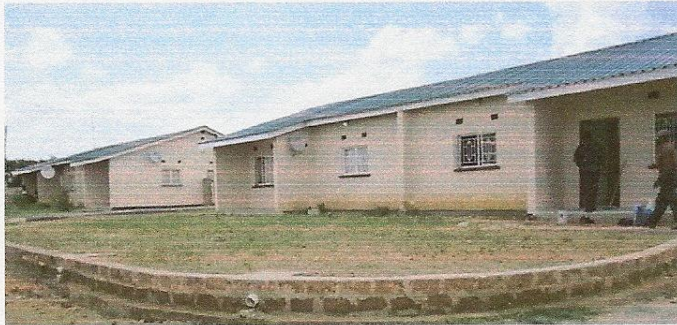
Jenny Featherstone - Zambia February 2014

Chodort Training Centre, Choma
PO Box 630451
Kitwe
Zambia

Dear Church friends,

I hope 2014 is treating you kindly. I hear it is very wet in the UK, particularly on the Levels near where I lived in Somerset, I hope you have not been affected by the weather in any way. We have just come through an almighty deluge this lunchtime, where the streets were flooded and impassable by foot without paddling. This however is normal for Choma in the rainy season, and soon even the 2/3 metre deep puddles will dry up. At this time of year the mighty Zambezi is in flood, and the flood plains stretch for 25 kilometres to Mongu in Western Province. There the Lozi king will soon leave his lowland palace using his elephant barge, paddled by 50 warriors, in favour of his highland palace where he is in less danger of getting his feet wet every time he steps out of the front door! Other casualties of the rains are large animals like elephants and hippo several of whom are swept over the falls each year.

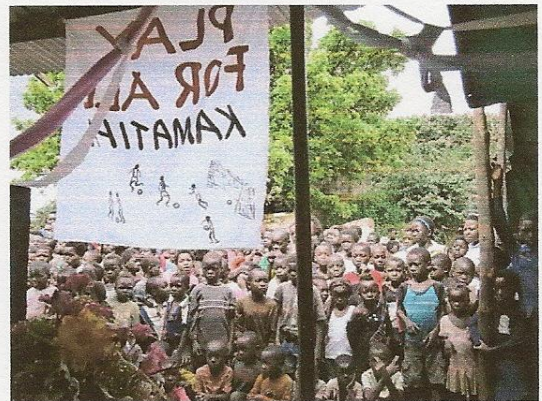
Here in Choma, roughly a 15hour drive from Mongu, our building programme is progressing nicely. Houses 1 – 4 are now occupied by tenants 5 is at roof level and 6 at window level. We are planning on buying the roofing sheets soon and then we will progress with the interiors. As I mentioned before, with the influx of civil servants we have no difficulty in renting our houses once they are built, and people approach us nearly every day.



Moira and Dave Lee from Newmachar stayed with me for almost 3 months, and, despite my efforts, Moira left to join Dave on the 21st December; however we welcomed the arrival of Malcolm Evans on the 3rd January. Malcolm has worked for many years as a start-up business

advisor and will be with us at Chodort for 2 months. He is looking at our carpentry productions business methods and costings, and will come up with some recommendations which will make our carpentry business profitable for the first time in many years.

January saw the 2nd anniversary of Play4all and I was delighted to go to Kitwe for the event. The building had been decorated and a tent put up in case of rain. There was drumming, dancing, dining and cake, and none of the children seemed put off by the almighty downpour which happened half way through, and just kept dancing in the mud! Play4all now runs 5 mornings a week, and needs to increase its pool of volunteers to be able to give more attention to the children. The object of play4all is to provide a safe place for the unschooled children who roam the compounds. It has affirming adult role models and uses play to increase thought processes like problem solving, social play and imaginative play. The volunteers are not teaching per se, but by being there and helping the children in the games they play they are increasing their life chances. There are around 3-5,000 school age children who do not go to school in Kamatipa alone.



121 George Street • Edinburgh EH2 4YN

t 0131 225 5722 f 0131 226 6121 e world@cofscotland.org.uk w www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worldmission
Charity Number: SC011353

Whilst in Kitwe, I also took the opportunity to visit the other group I worked closely with when I lived there, DOWIZA. This is a group of HIV+ widows with dependent children. They are doing a gardening project, but I intend to write a separate article about this.

Some frustrating news is that Mr Mwango, the vice principal for Chodort, and production manager, has been deferred from a bladder cancer operation 3 times this year. Each time he has been too far down the list to receive treatment before the theatre nurses left for the day at 2pm. This is part of the aftermath of the nurse's strike in November, which was declared illegal by the government. Subsequently over 100 nurses were sacked from the University Teaching Hospital (UTH) just before Christmas. Another bewildering fact is that, according to Mr Mwango's medical notes, UTH has known about the growth for 2 years but has not considered treatment before now. Please pray for Mr Mwango to have a successful operation. He is a most popular person in Chodort and beyond, I admire his positive outlook and value the sound advice he has given me since I arrived at Chodort.

Items for praise

- For the second anniversary of Play4all Kamatipa.
- For the renting of four houses on Chodort estate so far this year.
- For constructive feedback about our carpentry production.
- For the determination of the women of DOWIZA to make a difference in their lives
- For the successful graduation of all our students

Items for prayer

- For Mr Mwango as he waits for surgery in UTH
- For days for girls and clerical clothing projects to be well organised and successful
- For Play4all to flourish in 2014

With every good wish for 2014

Jenny

email jenny.featherstone@gmail.com

skype jenny.featherstone Zambia

Address Chodort Training Centre; PO Box 630451 Choma, Southern Province

Deaths

10.13	Mrs Betty McLay, 25 Rosebery Court, KTY1 1DG
30.11.13	Mrs Barbara Christie, 33 Aboyne Gardens, KY2 6EL
30.11.13	Mrs Grace Cairns, 34 Maryhall Street. KY1 1BH
	Miss Mary Forbes, 83 Smeaton Gardens, KY2 5BP
08.11.13	James Colville, 153 Overton Mains, KY1 3JG
.11.13	Alex Martin, 15 Baldwin Crescent, KY2 5SW
10.01.14	Mrs Andrina McLellan, 45 King Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5JT



KIRKCALDY FOODBANK NEWSLETTER ~ January 2014

Registered charity: SCIO 44446

The collection, sorting and distribution of donated food is now well underway and our volunteers are working flat out three times a week from our operational hub at Dysart St Clair Kirk, in Dysart. 30 volunteers have now been trained and a further 20 are almost ready to join the team.

Now that we are up and running we can begin to streamline how we do things by addressing the questions that begin "Have we thought about...?" or "Would it be better if....?". Some solutions that we have come up with include:

- Extending the operational hours of the Dysart centre
- Separating and streamlining the tasks of sorting & stacking, assembling the food parcels and then delivering them to the distribution points.

All of this is driven by the need to get the food out as quickly as possible to the people who need it most.

A shopping list of the currently most-needed and least donated foodstuffs looks like this:

Wanted

Fruit juice

UHT milk

Sugar

tinned fruit

The shelves are very well stocked at the moment with: baked beans, tinned soup and porridge. There has been a substantial donation of porridge from a local manufacturer and it is good that we can supply this easily-prepared and nourishing food to our clients. For gaps, see shopping list!

Local supermarkets continue to provide donation points for their customers and the steering committee is constantly addressing ways in which to optimize this donation channel.

Volunteers have worked hard to devise a system for sorting donations, packing it away and then packing it up again for distribution and this can be very difficult to organize systematically. Havelock Europa have very generously offered to fit out the packing room at Dysart St Clair with cupboards and tables. They will also fit shelving for storage. This will make a big difference and should speed things up quite a bit.

Donations of money are a great help in funding any running costs that need to be met. The Foodbank has received individual donations from as far away as Berkshire as well as money from fund-raising activities such as carol-singing (Kinghorn Parish Church) and donations from other churches, schools and organizations in and around Kirkcaldy. All donations are recorded and gratefully acknowledged.

Not surprisingly, the Christmas period was particularly busy, and from December 17th until now (January) 184 boxes have been distributed by our three main distribution points, St. Bryce Kirk, The Cottage and Link Living: 97 have gone to single people, 33 to couples and 54 to families of four. Of course, this does not include the immediate support offered by the Salvation Army and several of our

local churches. All of this is a lifeline for the people who need our help.

The Foodbank has a list of referrers who are authorised to issue vouchers. Referrals can be made by the Cottage Family Centre, Link Living, St Bryce Kirk, the Salvation Army, Barony Housing Association, the Scottish Welfare Fund and Frontline Scotland. Further details and addresses can be found on the website at www.kirkcaldyfoodbank.org.uk

Some of our volunteers have contributed their thoughts and impressions of working with the Foodbank:

"I was overwhelmed by the generosity shown by the general public during the Christmas period it renewed my faith in the kindness of people to others in need. The need for the Foodbank has been shown clearly since it opened in December and think it will sadly continue to be needed during 2014. The enthusiasm of the volunteers has also been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to work with them." (May Chalmers)

"The number of clients coming to St. Bryce is gradually increasing. The ages range from late teens to mid sixties and benefit issues are the main reason.

The saddest situation is that of the "sofa surfers". These people have no home and spend a night on one friend's sofa and another night or two on another sofa. They cannot stay more than a few nights at a time with any one friend as it could affect that person's benefits. Several people have said that now they have been given food they can put some extra money on their power cards and get some heat in their homes. It is a very humbling but worthwhile task we have all undertaken." (Val Malcolm)

"I felt like a fish out of water on my first day as a volunteer. However a system was in place and we soon knuckled down to the task in hand. It is always easier to 'spot' more efficient ways of working and to tweak procedures once they are in place rather than working from a completely blank canvas so thanks to the steering group who worked hard behind the scenes to set things up and apologies if it seems as if we are all keen to make changes!

As a volunteer group with many who don't know each other, all the challenges of working with different personalities, different ways of working, different levels of expertise and experience, need to be overcome quickly and these differences put aside. We must focus on our goal.... *to feed the hungry*... help each other to help others.

We had to start before things were perfect or we wouldn't have started at all. We all knew there would be teething problems. However each time I have 'helped' out there have been changes for the better which is very encouraging. Everyone is working hard together as a team. The number of 'boxes' required seems to be growing the amount of food donated is humbling.

Thanks to Dysart church for the use of rooms and to the team who have made best use of that space for stock control.

Being part of the Foodbank is bitter sweet. It has shown how people can and do come together either as volunteers or to donate food in an amazing and selfless way. However, although I appreciate the current and desperate need for the Foodbank, like others, I hope that such poverty in Fife can be overcome without the need for them in the future." (Kerry Horsburgh)

Thanks to all contributors.

Contact the Foodbank via kirkcaldyfoodbank@gmail.com



KART CORNER SPRING 2014



Registered Charity No. SC037866



Sponsored Event

Just an update to let you know that the final total raised from our sponsored event held in September was £1057!!

Thanks again for all those who took part.

Costa 3:16

This group meets on a Wednesday evening at Costa in Kirkcaldy.

The group was set-up for the older X-Site members as an opportunity for them to continue to develop their own understanding of God and their place in the world. The young people are showing signs of faith and maturity.

Please pray for these young people that their faith would grow.

Activity Day

Please pray for the Activity Day being held at Whyte's Causeway Baptist Church on 14th Feb. **Give thanks** for the Activity Day held at St Bryce Kirk in November. 34 children attended and it was great to have three older young people helping.

Pray for other churches to want to take part in this outreach work for the local children in the area.

If you would like to contact Chris:
Email – chris.beattie@kart.me.uk
Telephone - 07746373860

Kirkcaldy North PS

This term Chris has begun to take part in assembly time and to run football coaching after-school every Monday.

Pray for this work to be blessed and for the kids to learn more about God and football!!



Youth Event for Viewforth

19 pupils from Viewforth HS attended this youth event held at Connect Church on Thursday 23rd January.

We played a game of Human Bingo – to get the young people and leaders mixing, then Gordon Roy (SU worker) led a session on Circus Skills. We ended with pizza and a chance for the young people to give suggestions for the next event. We hope to hold these termly from now on.

The pupils gave some very positive feedback and the leaders attending (from Pathhead Parish, Connect Church and the Methodist Church) were delighted with the response.

Vacancies

Prayer Coordinator

Do you have a heart for the young people in this area? We are looking for a prayer coordinator whose goal will be to have every school in the area prayed for.

SU Group Leader

There is a vacancy for an SU group leader to work in one of our local Primary Schools.

If you are interested in either of these roles please do contact Chris.

Booksale

Kinghorn Church are holding a KART Booksale on Saturday 1st March from 10am to 4pm in the church hall on the High Street. A wide range of good quality second hand books for all ages will be on sale priced at 50p each. Light refreshments will be on sale throughout the day. Please drop in to give your support to KART.



VineTrust

Jubilee Hope

"Sponsor a Mile"

In 2001, Vine Trust's first medical ship, Amazon Hope, journeyed to the Peruvian Amazon in search of those most in need of access to medical care. Amazon Hope was then joined by our second ship, Amazon Hope 2, in 2006 which allowed us to expand our primary healthcare provision further in the region, and now benefits over 100,000 villagers every year in the Amazon rain forest.

These projects were made possible by generous donations from all over Scotland, the UK and overseas.

This year sees the continuation of the Vine Trust's work to provide medical care to those communities, who previously had little or no access to health care, and its expansion through the addition of our third medical ship, MV Jubilee Hope.

Jubilee Hope is currently in the early stages of her epic journey from Glasgow to Mombasa in Kenya, before being transported some 520 miles overland to Lake Victoria and then sailing to Mwanza in Tanzania around Easter this year.

Once on Lake Victoria, Jubilee Hope will provide medical care to some of the 150 inhabited islands in the Tanzanian sector of the lake, our aim being, to replicate the success of the Amazon Hope project, and reach at least 100,000 people each year who currently have no access to any meaningful health care provision.

This is where you come in. We are seeking to raise £40,000 in 40 days!

Can you help? Back in 2001 that's what we managed to achieve when we bought Amazon Hope 1. This time the boat is all ready to go and we are asking people to "Sponsor a Mile" of the 8,585 mile journey from Glasgow to Mombasa. Each mile costs £5 and you can contribute to the campaign through our online donation page <https://secure.vinetrust.org/products/donations>, by texting "VINE05 £5" (or £10, £20 etc) to 70070 or by filling in the donation slip on the bottom of this letter and returning to the address given.

Thank you for any support you can give us in prayer or in finance.

Willie McPherson

I would like to support the Vine Trust Tanzania Jubilee Hope Appeal by giving a gift of £_____.

Gift Aid declaration - for present and future donations (Vine Trust - SC017386)

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money as per the following (tick box which applies):

☐ This donation only

☐ This donation and any future donations

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Donor's details Title: _____ First Name or initials: _____ Surname: _____

Full home address: _____

Post code: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Please notify the Vine Trust if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you would like more information about any of our projects please get in touch.

Email: admin@vinetrust.org Phone: +44 (0)131 555 5598

Post: The Vine Trust Barge, Prince of Wales Dock, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7DX

News From The Sunday School

NEWS UPDATE

Since the last Newsletter we have had 2 birthdays, Brodie 11 in December and Ollie 3 in February.

We have welcomed Anna Drummond, Ollie Watters, Rebecca and Scott Thomson into SundaySchool.

Morgan has auditioned and has attained a part in the Sound of Music which will be at the Adam Smith Theatre in the Spring. We will miss her in Sunday School while she is rehearsing and performing, but we are looking forward to seeing her in the show.

CHRISTMAS

We hope you all enjoyed our part in the Christmas service. They really did very well. We have had quite a few compliments from members of the congregation.

We had our party after the service, food and a fun filled visit from Santa HO! HO! HO! with a gift for everyone. Thanks Santa, look forward to seeing you again this year.

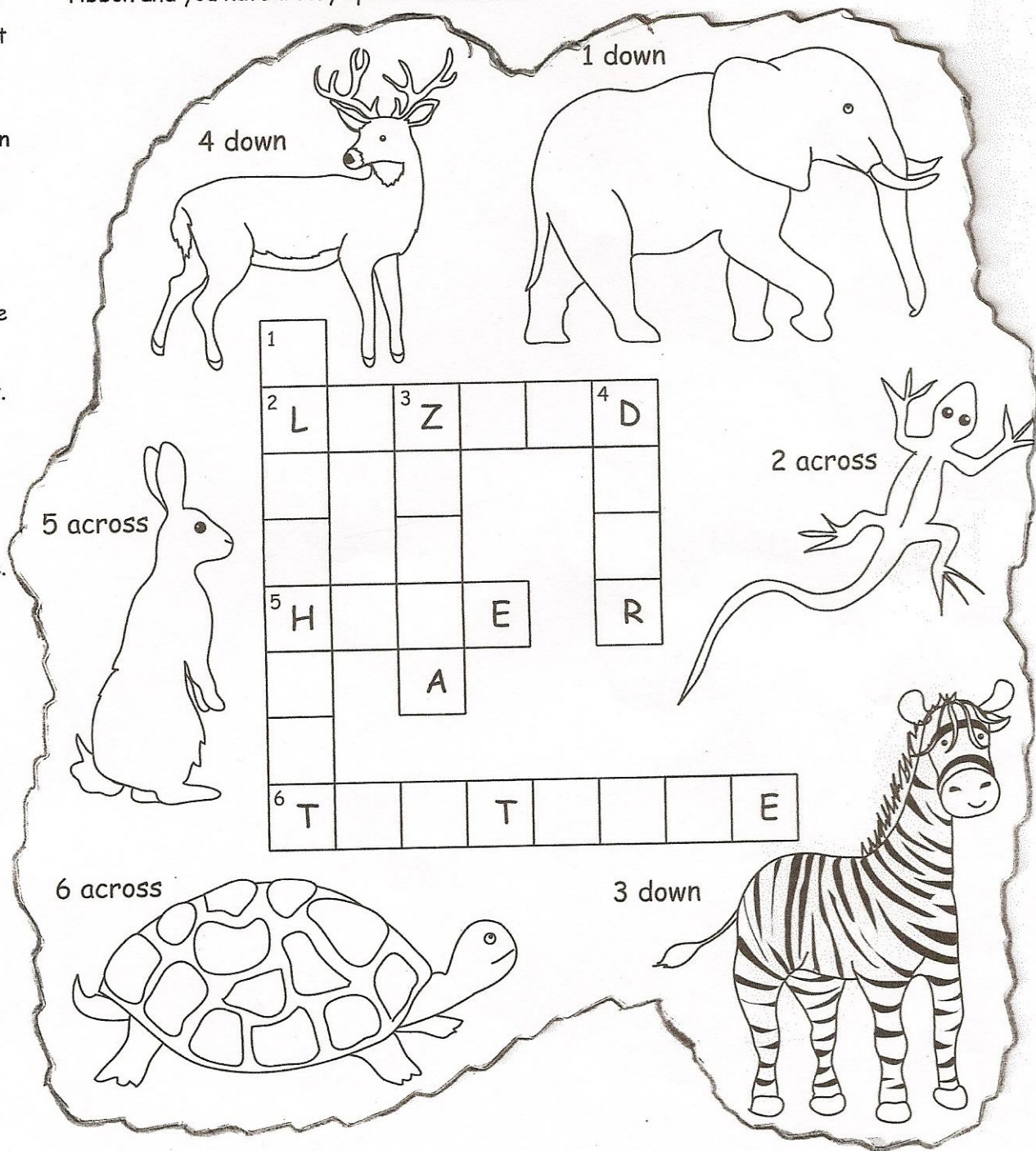
William's Bible Verse

You should teach them God's commands and explain to them how they should live and whay they should do, Exodus Chapter 18 Verse 20.

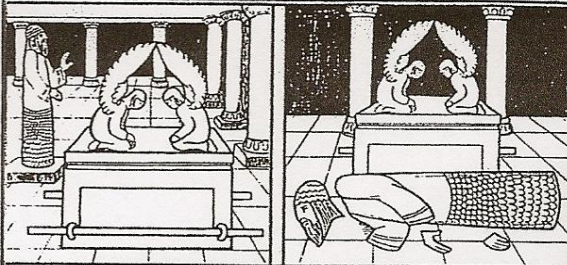
ACTIVITIES

Mollie, Anna and Ollie have been studing Noah's Ark, learning all about the animals. Why don't you have a go at their puzzle.

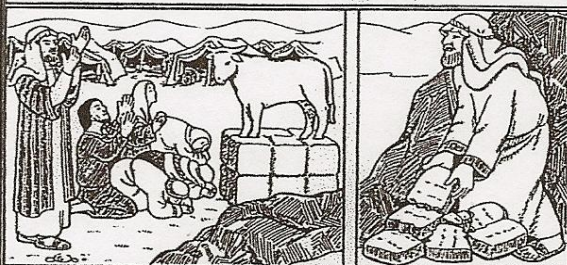
Brodie and Morgan havebeen learning about the 10 Commandments. To remind them they have been making large bookmarks. Why not make one for yourself. Colour in the pictures, cut out both strips, cut a piece of card (an old cereal box is good for this) the same shape, glue one strip on each side, make a hole at the top, thread through a piece of ribbon and you have a very special bookmark.



God has said



No other gods



No idols



Love God's name

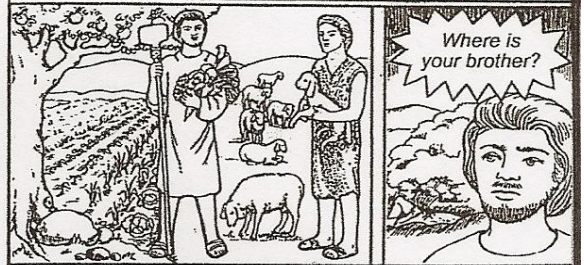


Keep God's day holy



Honour your parents

God has said



Do not murder



Be faithful



Do not steal



Tell the truth



Be satisfied

Holy week services:

Tuesday 15th April at Bennochty Church
Wednesday 16th April at St Bryce Kirk
Thursday 17th April at Abbotshall Church
Friday 18th April at Linktown Church

All services begin at 7 p.m.

Sunday 20th April Easter communion service at Bennochty Parish Church



Dates for your diary

Friday 7th March
Sunday 16th March
Saturday 22nd March

World Day of Prayer
Communion
Celebrate & Discover



Tuesday 8th April

Women's Group Bunny Drive

7th – 11th May

Proposed visit to Corrymeela & Belfast

11th-17th May

Christian Aid Week

- The date of the Annual Stated Meeting has still to be arranged. This will be intimated in the near future

Get Together Club

The Club meets every Thursday from 2 – 4 p.m. If you fancy good company and fellowship why not give us a try. Looking forward to an outing for a High Tea. Contact Helen Lundie (tel. 205750).



Christian Aid Week 11th May - 17th May.

Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee invite you to an evening with Amy Menzies entitled "Land is Life" and is about her recent visit to Cambodia. It is in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk on Friday, 7th March, 7.30p.m. Admission free but donations welcome for Christian Aid's work to combat world poverty. There will be light refreshments and a Fair Trade stall. All welcome.



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 10.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. for teas, coffees & home baking. Soup and sandwiches served from 12 noon.

Website: www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk