

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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JUNE 2014



From the 'Manse'

A season of great sporting events will soon be upon us; the World Cup in Brazil, the Commonwealth games in Glasgow and the Ryder cup at Gleneagles; not forgetting the Open golf and Wimbledon. For the arm chair fan, what a feast, you will never need to leave your living room!

So it will be feats of *higher, faster and stronger*, great ball skills will be on display, athletes like gladiators will slug it out and he who holds his nerve will win, as the final put is sunk for victory.

We might never take to the field of the Maracana or Hampden, the fairways of Gleneagles, or the courts of Wimbledon but, strange as it seems, scripture does ask us to be athletic in our faith, with a perseverance that keeps us running to the finishing line. The book of Philippians says this,

"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (3: 12-14)

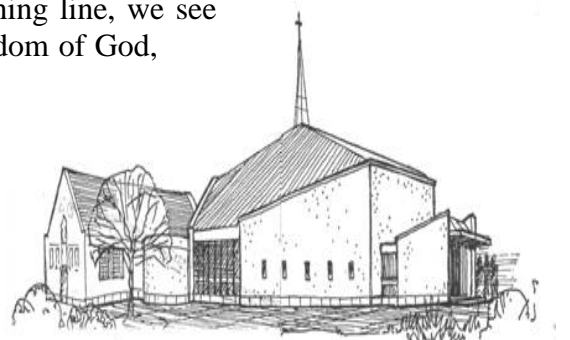
Or, *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God".* (Hebrews 12: 1-2)

Or, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."* (2 Timothy 4: 7)

So here is our challenge, in faith to aim higher, in hope to run faster and in love to grow stronger; to keep going when the game seems to be slipping away from us and to persevere when you have had one of those days. We also know that God's spirit runs the race of life with us; we are never alone, and at the finishing line, we see Christ who calls us to keep going, as we pursue the Kingdom of God, here on earth.

With all God's blessing,

Robin



Mission Partner, Zambia - News Up-date.

Jenny Featherstone is now Head of Chodart Training Centre in CHOMA, newly proclaimed as the provincial capital of Southern Zambia. This decision has seen the move from Livingstone to Choma of thousands of civil servants to the area, which, in turn, has brought business for builders and, downstream, for the building programme in the College with its grounds adjacent; the 7th and 8th houses for rent now under construction.

Prospects are therefore good. However, there are always difficulties in recruiting students who can pay £300 for the year's Carpentry Course. At interview, they give assurance that the money will be found from among the family. This does not always come about - there is illness, no work, poor harvest etc.

In this academic year 2013, only 13 students enrolled (10 in number make the class viable). Staff have to be paid. Actual cost of course £648 approx. So funding is sought from Charities and Churches.

We contributed to the Carpentry Course for one student for the coming year 2014 during our Harvest Festival service recently. In fact, any donation acts as a safety net when family finances collapse.

The Course is TEVET approved, with final exams, and includes modules such as H.I.V. education and entrepreneurial skills, 2 hours a day. There is then opportunity for work to hand on the construction site.

Jenny is working on several initiatives:-

- to convert a shipping container into an internet classroom, run by solar power, and under the umbrella of the charity PEAS, which intends to roll out 100 secondary schools in Zambia. They would then be on the national grid.
- a double classroom planned to be built on the site; this would accommodate more vulnerable students.
- a clerical clothing project - slowly developing.
- "Days for Girls", an important facility for girls - particularly those from rural areas, whose education is considered less than that for boys. One example of the programme is that re-usable hygiene wear is provided.
- contacts abroad; one in New Zealand is requesting small goods e.g. cheeseboards from the Carpentry Course.

As regards personnel, a volunteer, Mike Rosen, has arrived from Sweden to help with I.T. and marketing. Another from Canada, Andrew Potts, is giving 2 days a week in production.

The site manager has left earlier than expected - hopefully and prayerfully the Church of Scotland, in conjunction with Challenges Worldwide, is looking for someone to fill this post.

Regarding the project PLAY 4 ALL, a wonderful Children's Education Programme in Kitwe, which we supported last year - equipment - training - tools (see photo display in vestibule), now the Management team has been disappointed in Play Leader, Ernest, who is no longer in the post and has yet to hand back the laptop. However, a newly qualified teacher, Jane, is doing a good job with Play4All running again 5 days a week.

Then there is the matter of Jenny's transport - vital for visits over long distances and mostly tough terrain. Soon she is to get a car from Japan, 13 years old and hopefully in good condition. The pickup truck she uses has had a severe breakdown - nearly £2000 has been spent on it; it has to be kept on due to the contract of import (a 3 year tax free import for the church). There is also available a 3 ton truck. It also needed £300 of repairs -----.

In the Southern Hemisphere it's now the season for planting - usually maize. The College site has spare ground for use: grubbing up tough bushes and small trees before sowing seed. Hopefully and prayerfully, the produce will be good for sale. The rains are due mid-October. Given ample water supply, good ground can give 3-4 crops a year. For example, Jenny has a well in the College garden and at present has a crop of broccoli, carrots, courgettes, strawberries, spinach, lettuce and spring onions!

Much to reflect on - Jenny asks for our prayers over all the work and issues on-going. She sends her best wishes and thanks to everyone for contributing to the scene in and around Chodart College.

Further item from Zambia - Jenny writes

If you are thinking of another project for Chodart, we have 4 young men who graduated last year currently doing "blundering", i.e. the posts you put in before putting up the ceiling. This is for houses 5 and 6 (to be seen at a later date in a video shot of ground under construction). This is their second job to my knowledge and they are making quite a good job of it.

I asked them if they could form a little firm and start advertising, but their reply was that they had no tools and therefore could not set up on their own. The sort of tools they need for this job are very basic - saws, hammers, chisels and screwdrivers.

I asked them to put a proposal together to see how much it would cost to set them up in business. Unemployment is so high, and it seems a shame that for the want of a few tools they can't grasp any opportunities to stand on their own two feet.

If a church were interested, I would try and make it a revolving loan (although in my experience paying everything back is difficult) and then the theory is the money could be used to set another group up.

All the best to you and all Church members.

Margaret Simpson

Christian Aid Week - 11th - 17th May 2014



During our Sunday service a separate collection was taken towards Christian Aid which realized £272.89. This was followed by a Soup and Sweet Lunch which raised £467.18. The main business of the week was the door to door collection throughout the Parish and Dunnikier Estate which accounted for £2,933.54 with a further £187.91 available through the Gift Aid arrangement. Donations of £30 were gratefully received. A healthy total of £3,892.52 resulted.

Sincere thanks to the ladies who attended to lunch, to our members who collected and indeed to those who generously supported this most worthy cause. Our efforts will provide much needed help in many ways to those who live in circumstances of poverty, and bring some light and hope into their situations.

Life & Work - Have you ever thought to borrow one of the magazines and peruse its pages? Did you know that there is always opportunity to take out a subscription for a shorter period of time? This month of June, the offer of a six month subscription of £11 is available. If interested in a "read": Church news and views, Letters and Reflexions, Action overseas and all the current events & issues, then contact: Margaret Simpson.

Guild

Sixteen members of the guild were at Lochgelly on the 31st May to see the musical South Pacific. We then came back to Kirkcaldy to the Victoria Hotel for a meal. Nine guild members are attending the Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Council communion service at Burntisland Parish Church on Thursday 5th June, which ends this Guild session till September.

Wilma Wright

Deaths

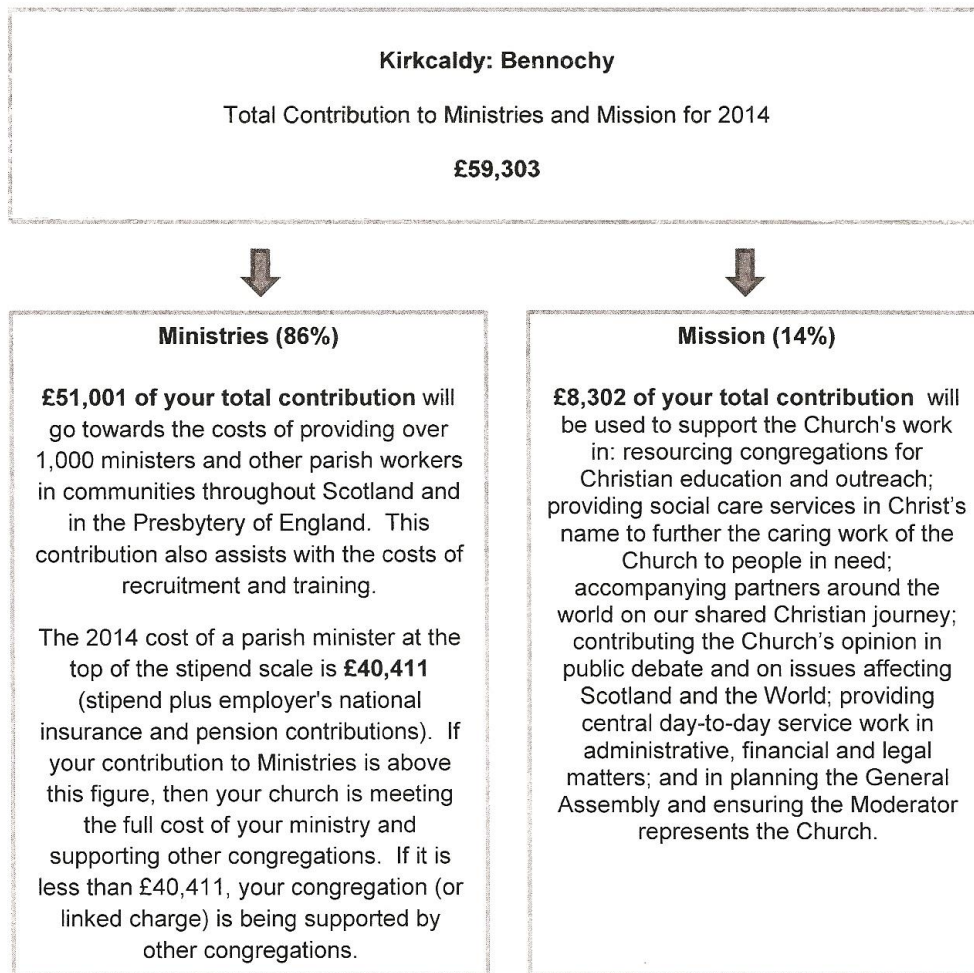
20.03.14	Mrs Kath Scott, Adam House Nursing Home, Dysart.
21.04.14	Mrs Helen Chapman, 65 Kennedy Crescent.
26.04.14	Mrs Catherine Meredith, Abbeyfield House, 55 Meldrum Road.



This is the text of a letter dated February 2014 from Rev Alan Gibson, Head of Stewardship at the Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, thanking us for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to thank you most sincerely for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offerings. It is important that you should know what happens to this money and this letter (along with the enclosed Ministries and Mission leaflet) intends to explain how our congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution will be used to enable the work of the Church in 2014.



As you will see, the contributions your church makes ensure a very diverse ministry is maintained and that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared in many ways and in many places. Many churches have made additional Ministries and Mission contributions throughout the past year and these have also been gratefully received.

Should your church wish any support or resources from the Stewardship and Finance Department please do not hesitate to contact me. The National Stewardship Programme is now into its second year and our team of consultants are willing to guide your church through a stewardship programme, or simply to provide you with some ideas and advice. Please remember that the consultants will work with your church free of charge – **there is no cost for their time.**

I do look forward to assisting you in any way I can.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Alan W Gibson
Head of Stewardship
Email: agibson@cofscotland.org.uk

Congregation Number 251531

**BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2014**

		BUDGET 2014
INCOME		
Offerings	£	£
WFO Scheme (Gift Aid and non Gift Aid)	60,000	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	11,900	
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	3,750	
Other Offerings, Donations Gift Days etc	2,150	77,800
Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	5,100	
Regular Fund Raising Events	4,900	
Weddings and Funerals	1,300	
Income from Investments	2,000	
Use of Premises	3,800	
Gift Boxes	530	17,630
Total Ordinary General Income		95,430
EXPENDITURE		
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work		
Ministries and Mission Contribution	64,803	
Less: Endowment Income	(887)	
(£58,416 payable to Church of Scotland and £5,500 payable to KART)	63,916	
Presbytery Dues	1,100	65,016
Local Staffing Costs		
Minister's Travelling Expenses	1,600	
Minister's telephone and other expenses	450	
Pulpit Supply		
Other Salaries	11,814	13,864
Building Costs		
Fabric repairs & maintenance - Church	4,000	
Manse	1,500	
Heating and Lighting - Church and Halls	7,000	
Insurance	3,000	
Manse Council Tax	2,300	
Upkeep of Grounds - Church	1,600	
Manse	700	20,100
Other Local Costs		
Telephone, Postage, Printing, Stationery & Photocopying	1,500	
Publicity & Advertising	700	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	850	
Equipment	500	
Training	500	
Pastoral Care	500	
Cleaning Materials	700	
Other expenses	1,800	7,050
Total Ordinary General Expenditure		106,030
ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND DEFICIT FOR 2014		£10,600

Sunday School

NEW START

We would like to welcome Reece who joined us on Easter Sunday and are looking forward to him coming as often as his circumstances allow.

BIRTHDAYS

We have had one birthday since our last report, Scott was 6 on 25th April. William will be 16 on the 14 June and Morgan will be 11 during the summer holidays on the 5th August. We wish them all a very happy birthday.

EASTER

Everyone took part in the Easter Sunday Service. The older children reciting poems and the little ones' choir is certainly turning into a star attraction.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

We would like to congratulate Morgan for her performance in the Sound of Music. It was an excellent show enjoyed by all who attended.

WILLIAM'S INSPIRATIONAL VERSE

Daniel 6 26

"He is a living God,
and He will rule for ever.
His kingdom will never be
destroyed,
and His power will never come
to an end."

PRIZEGIVING

We shall be closing this session of Sunday School with our Prizegiving on Sunday **22nd** June. This will be early in the service so we can have our now usual indoor picnic with food and games.

NEW SESSION

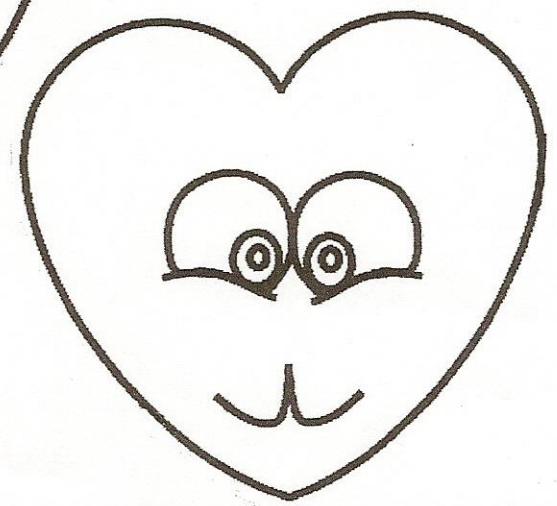
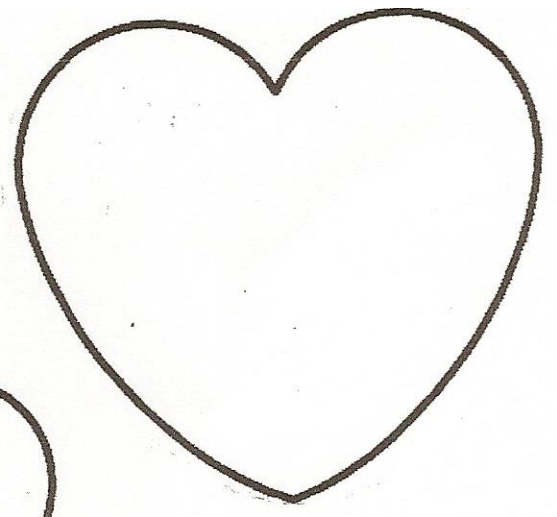
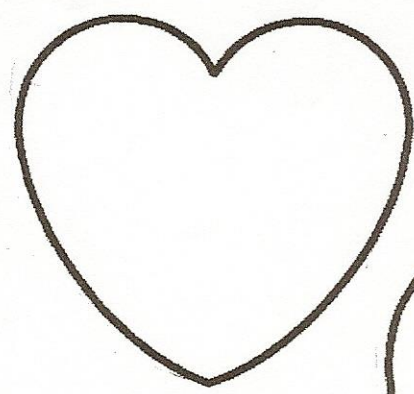
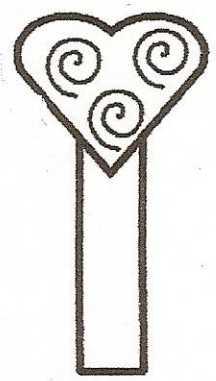
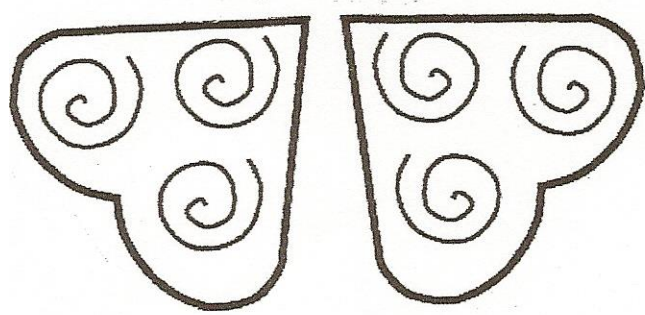
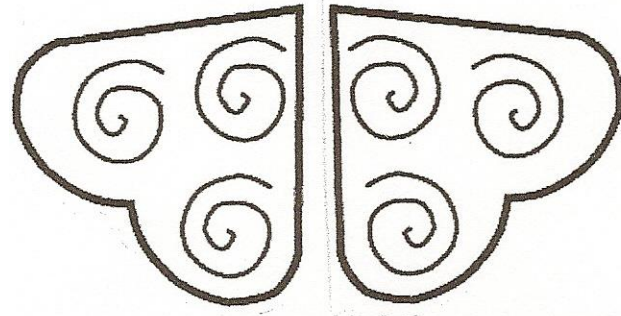
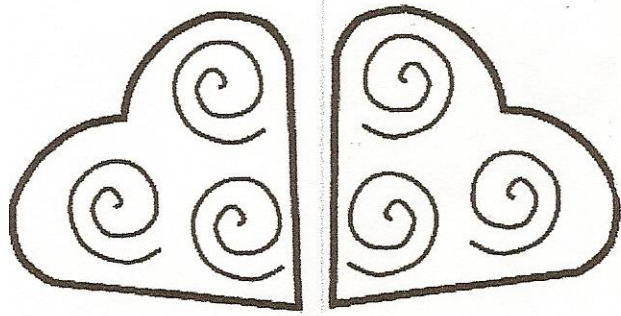
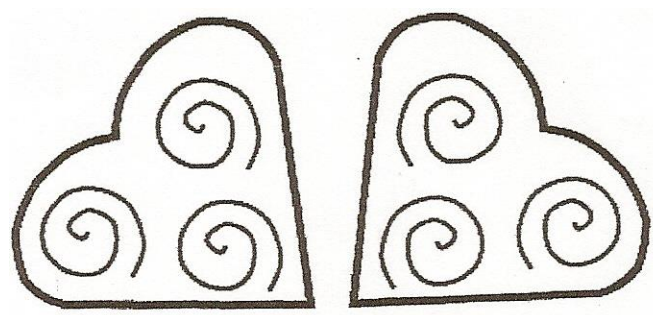
Our next session starts on Sunday 31st August looking forward to welcoming everyone back then.

We would like to wish everyone a happy Summer.

ACTIVITIES

Anna, Callum, Mollie, Ollie, Reece and Scott can find the odd one out, can you?

A puzzle, its all in the hearts! Can you cut them out and make a lion out of all the heart shapes?



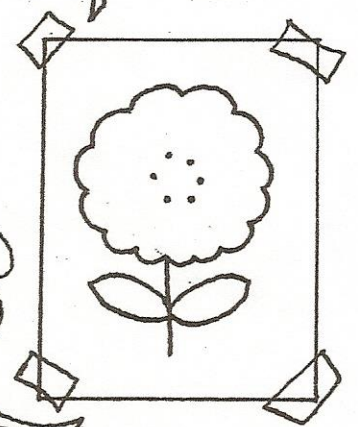
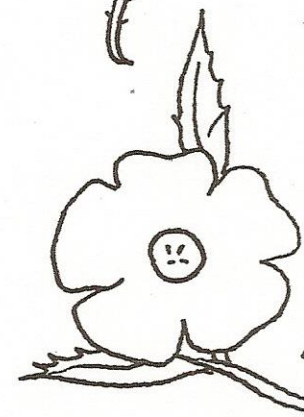
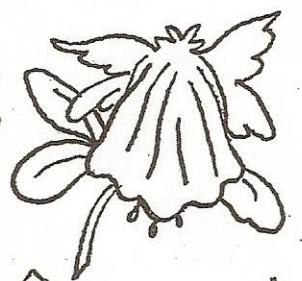
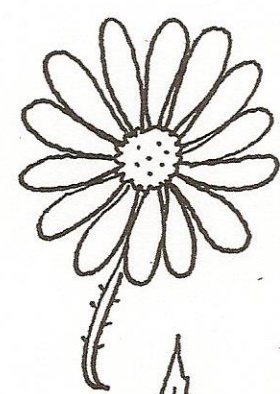
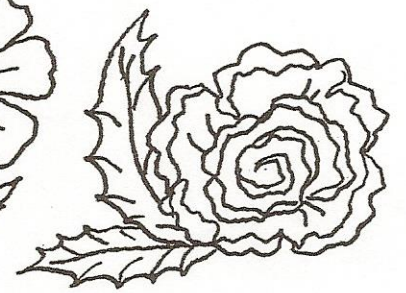
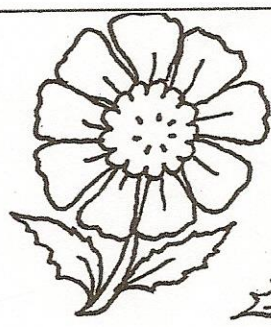
puzzle

Jesus taught the people in the open-air. He said that God makes the flowers look more beautiful than even the richest king.

Which is the odd one out?

Now colour them in.

Read Jesus' words in Matthew 6:25-34.



Summer Services

Sunday 22 nd June	Communion Service (with special offering for KART) Sunday School Prizegiving
Sunday 6 th July	United service in St Bryce Kirk
Sunday 13th July	United Service in Bennoch Church
Sunday 20 th July	United service in Linktown Church
Sunday 27 th July	United service in Abbotshall Church



Get Together - The get together members and friends met at the Victoria Hotel for a meal which we all enjoyed on the 22nd May. We meet as usual every Thursday at 2 p.m. during the summer. Come along and give us a try. You will be made most welcome.

St John's Taekwondo Club 10th Anniversary Celebrations



St John's Taekwondo Club is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year. Started in 2004 by Rev Nicola Frail, the club has successfully trained many local young people over the last 10 years. To aid in the celebrations Master Josh Segal, sixth degree black belt, and Mr Alex Miller, sixth degree black belt travelled from the USA to support the celebrations.

The club held a taekwondo camp, where students from all over Scotland trained and tested with the two guest instructors and Ms Nicola Frail (4th degree). The weekend was completed with a traditional ceilidh.

A 24 hour taekwondoathon and raffle raised an impressive £1200 towards the events, and the club would wish to send sincere thanks to all the local people and businesses who supported these events, sponsoring individuals and donating cash and prizes. From –

Changes hairdressers (Danni); Pearsons butchers; Supreme; Keddies Pram Shop; Today store, Wilson Avenue; Micklejohn Photography; Boots; Toys R Us; Food Express; Next; Victoria Hotel; Ramsay Travel; Bear Scenter.

Other news within the club has seen Michelle Fairful gain her black instructor collar and Jennifer Spense, Amy Murray, Ellie Greentree and Rosheen Wallace complete level 1 Instructor training. Ms Nicola Frail has now tested and passed her 5th Degree in Rotterdam in May 2014.

All classes are well attended. However, new members are always welcome.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'



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.bennochparishchurch.org.uk