

# Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: [www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk)

**MARCH 2015**



## ***From the 'Manse'***

*My notes from the congregational meeting held after the service, 15th February 2015.*

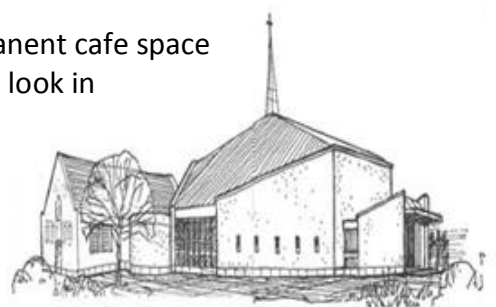
I want to share with you some possibilities for the future development of our church building. We begin with the sanctuary.

Our sanctuary lighting requires to be replaced. We have the practical problem of the cost involved in replacing the tubes, due to a lack of access. On a more positive note, we have the potential to improve the lighting in ways that are specific to our needs on a Sunday morning. For example, to help with the visibility of the projection screen and use of the video camera. One possibility is to introduce a form of 'drop lighting' that will not only be easier to maintain, it will also give a sense of filling the roof space, so reducing the aspect of height and I believe would be visually more attractive

We need to talk about the pews! If they were to be removed, this would give us greater flexibility in how we use the space as a venue midweek and on Sunday mornings. For example; putting the seats out in different ways will give us more options for different forms of worship - one possibility - we could create a small chapel area focusing on the stained glass window. Flexibility would also allow us to shorten the rows by having more aisles, so eliminating the large gaps we have in the centre of the congregation. We would have the number of seats we actually need (or just slightly more. Ideally you want your building 80% full. This allows space for visitors and late arrivals.) We would also be able to be more inclusive for wheel chair users, so people are no longer sitting at the end of rows, in effect in the corridors.

The third possibility has different & interrelated options. Centred on creating a new entrance to the halls that would give us a clear and visible access to the building. We might take it for granted as to how to enter the building - a visitor does not have that knowledge. The possibilities are:

- To build out from the ramp entrance and create a permanent cafe space with a lot of glass. This is deliberate, so that people can look in and see what is happening, so removing some of the mystery of what happens in this building. We need to make it easier for people to literally walk through the door.



- To create a single point of access into the building, from the present side door, through the Elgin hall and then into the sanctuary, including on Sunday mornings. One way in and one way out. This would entail remodelling the sanctuary by turning it around 180 degrees, so you would enter the back of the sanctuary.
- To remodel and open up the side entrance by moving the gents toilets, possibly to the Meldrum room

The fourth option is the creation of a community garden. In our parish there are very few public green spaces. So how about saying to our neighbours, it is OK to come and sit in our garden. For that to happen we need to communicate that our railings do not say '*keep out*'! We already have the money to buy two benches and other ideas are in the pipe line.

The most important thing to say is this. This cannot just be a fabric project to upgrade the building or make us more comfortable. It has to be a central part of our identity (*who we are*) and our purpose (*why we are here*). Both of these are about the mission of God.

Let me expand this a bit, around three words and put yourself in the shoes of the visitor.

- How do we welcome people into our space? The building says a lot to people about who we are, and more people enter our building through our 'side door' during the week, than our 'front door', on a Sunday.
- How do we create an environment for worship that is adaptable / flexible and family friendly?
- Our witnesses has to say to our neighbours, our door is an '*open door*'. Your concerns for the community are our concerns, and as we work together in partnership, we will share with you, the God we believe in. That is what the God's mission is all about. We don't take God into the community, he is already there and strange as it sounds, there will be times when the community will challenge us with what God is doing in our parish!

This is not going to happen without a huge commitment from the whole congregation. So we are sharing with you what your Trustees have been talking about. There are no secrets here and no decisions have yet been made. But it would have been wrong for your Trustees not have done some ground work in advance.

The bottom line is this, without the support and the commitment of the congregation, these things will not happen.

- That commitment is a commitment to change. To recognise that the church has to be a church for the 21st century.
- That commitment is a commitment to support. To support decisions that will be made on your behalf and with your consultation.
- That commitment is a commitment to fundraise. Very practical. We do not have all the monies required. We will also need to apply for grant money.

It all depends on what you see as the priorities for Bennoch church in the next 3 years. Time is short, we can't wait. This is the crossroads, where we need to decide the direction of travel, of this congregation.

***Robin McAlpine***

# Kirkcaldy Foodbank – helping to bridge the gap

We have had a food bank in Kirkcaldy for a whole year now and the need for it doesn't seem to have diminished at all.

The reasons many clients give for requesting a voucher include very low pay or gaps in their benefit payments. How does the food bank system help to bridge this alarming gap and put food on the table for those who need help?

The food which is collected in supermarkets, churches and schools and at fund-raising events throughout the area is sorted and packed in Dysart St Clair Church, ready for distribution to the four locations in the town where it can be collected by clients. St Bryce Church is possibly the busiest of these, and volunteers there tell of their concern for the people who come there to redeem their vouchers. Some are extremely reluctant to accept what they see as charity and have to be persuaded that there is no shame in being a victim of changing life events, sometimes even of the system we are part of. In the other venues, too, we hear similar stories.

Kirkcaldy Foodbank has around 60 volunteers who do the collecting, sorting, packing and distributing. All have received basic training in health and safety related issues and many of them have chosen to become official members of the Foodbank.

Not all of them belong to a faith group but are nevertheless living out the principles of justice and care advocated by the main religions. We cannot help but be aware that inequality and need do not reflect the values of the Kingdom of God and it falls to organisations such as Kirkcaldy Foodbank to do what they can to redress the balance. Without the support and generosity of so many members of faith groups, people in the workplace, school pupils and other benefactors the Foodbank would not be able to operate.

Please continue to make donations of food or money, particularly in our 'low seasons' like spring and summer when Christmas is over or people are thinking about going away on holiday.

Members of Christian churches may like to consider a Lent appeal. Other faiths will also have special times for giving to others.

And if prayer is part of your tradition, please pray for the Foodbank, its volunteers and clients and for the community of which we are all a part.



## Christian Aid 2015

This year Christian Aid week is from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May. A credible sum, enhanced by the inclusion of Gift Aid, is annually raised by our members in door to door collection. More collectors would ease our task, so, if you can give a little time towards this worthy cause, it would be much appreciated, not only by us, but also by those, at home or abroad, who benefit from our efforts. Please contact Angela Stewart, Christine and Charlie Low, who will be delighted to have you on board.

## Deaths

17.11.14	Mrs Jean Robertson, Abbeyfield House, 55 Meldrum Road, KY2 5HY
29.11.14	Dr Robert Purdie, 6 Lomond Gardens, KY2 6AE
05.12.14	Andrew Neish, 34 King Street
06.12.14	Mrs Kate Murray, 15 Montgomery Street



## News from Zambia

These are the two recent letters received from Jenny Featherstone, our missionary partner in Zambia – one to myself and one to the members of Bennochy, as draft of the official World Mission Newsletter to be published shortly. There will be an opportunity for those who wish to contribute financially, as the ‘Zambia boxes’ will be placed in the vestibule and the Methven Hall during the month of March.

*Margaret Simpson*

Hi Margaret,

Priscilla did well in her exams. She was with us on her industrial attachment and had a good report. She has now left as the course runs for 1 year from January to December.

This year we have 17 Tailoring students, 3 of whom are struggling to pay for their fees. In the tailoring class we also have a girl who is deaf and dumb (cerebral malaria from childhood) and one with dwarfism, so it is a pretty wide range of students this year.

In carpentry we have 10 young men and at the moment they are making the ceilings for the new classroom block which is being built a mile away from the main site.

Usually we get a grant from CHAZ (Churches Health Association of Zambia) for 15 vulnerable students (either through poverty/ ill health / lack of education or a mixture of these) but shortly before graduation last year we were told they were being disbanded and may reform in a year or two under another guise. This has left us with 8 carpentry students with no hope of paying fees, and three tailoring students in the same boat! We are looking round to see if there are organisations here to help us, otherwise we may have to discontinue carpentry, with all the disappointment that entails. It will be a great blow, so please remember us in prayer as we try to put something together. I am seeing the person from the ministry of youth and sport on Wednesday in the hope that they can do something, and am completing an endless (it seems) form for USAID who practically want to know how many freckles I have on my nose! :-). This has to be done before Friday and posted to the embassy in Lusaka. Still, God has been very good to us in the past so I am sure He has His hand on our situation.

Another point of prayer is a large tender the carpentry department has put in for an order of 200 items. If we get it it will keep us busy and hopefully in the black. We should know any day,

Every good wish to you and all at Bennochy,

*Jenny*

Dear Church friends,

This year has already been quite eventful so I thought I would drop you a line about all that has been going on. Firstly I had a good time escorting Helen Scot (Church of Scotland) and Rev Graeme Halls (Methodist Church Britain) to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration service in Kitwe on 16<sup>th</sup> January. This was held in the original church at Mindolo where UCZ was formed, and had their very first service. We then moved on to a more auspicious event at the main National Football stadium in Lusaka on the 18<sup>th</sup> where acting presidents, former presidents and presidential candidates rubbed shoulders with pop stars and UCZ dignitaries as they were entertained by marching bands, choirs and speeches during a church service for over 10,000 people. The United Church of Zambia had gone to town on the Jubilee weeks holding exhibitions, sports competitions banquets and symposiums as well as these two Church services.

Sandwiched between our UCZ jubilee visits on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Rev Halls and I visited the play4all project in Kamatipa Kitwe. We were greeted by a gaggle of children eager to meet the new faces. As well as Rev Halls, Rev Rosemary and James Fletcher (who were over for the celebrations) came too, to

see what happens at play4all. As I think I mentioned before, we have had a couple of break ins recently, so with that and wear and tear the games and puzzles are a bit depleted, but Jane is doing a great job drawing objects and letters on paper plates and making other low Tec games to help the children develop those all-important pathways of learning. At the end of January we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary. Jane has put some pictures on the Play4all website. Please do check it out, it has been professionally done by a well-wisher and it is spot on about our philosophy. The more hits we get the better.

<http://play4allzambia.org/>

We also thank God we had very quiet and peaceful elections on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. It was a very near thing between President Edgar Lungu, and his nearest rival Hakaende Hichailema, affectionately known as H H. After having a white Vice president we now have a female one, Inonge Wina, formally from the ministry of Gender & Child Development, so we are expecting great things.

All things new at St Stephens too, where we welcomed our new Minister Rev Oscar Musonda last week. He has come to us from Masuku about 2 hours' drive away and where they only got electricity in 2014. He has been very encouraging to the congregation there and has started building a new clinic as the old one is in desperate need of modernising. Unfortunately they have no UCZ Minister now, so please pray that somehow the good work will continue.

We at Chodort have some challenges this year with our students. Our computer classes (which are usually 95%+ full,) are down to 75% this batch for the first time ever. Our main help for funding vulnerable students has also pulled out unexpectedly from funding 15 students. We are still teaching about 13 vulnerable students in the hope we can get some help from somewhere. They have applied to the local government for bursaries. I have spoken to two local NGO's (World Vision and Brethren in Christ) and am filling in forms for USAID so we are pushing doors. These young adults are so keen to learn, and stand little chance of getting out of poverty unless they learn useable skills.

In our 2015 budget projections I have to find around £20,000 to balance the books this year, (so lack of students & accompanying fees is not a good start!) but am very encouraged by our income generation projects which both seem busy. Roydah has finished 130 school uniforms for Masuku, and is making 50 days for girls packs to go there too. We are also hoping to get an order for uniforms from another UCZ run school, Njase, which has 900 boarders, so she may be kept busy! The carpentry production unit is also flying high. They made just over K75,000 profit last year and there is a potential order from Room to Read of K200,000 for desks and bookshelves, with the promise of more to come if we can secure this one.

#### **Items for praise**

- Our Carpenters have turned a K96,000 loss into a K75,000 profit in 2 years.
- With some help from our friends in Dortmund we have been able to raise the lowest wages by 40% to bring us in line with government guidelines.
- For a peaceful transition of governments, despite posturing and bad feeling before the elections.
- Our beautiful new classrooms are near completion
- Play4all has a great website and Jane is running the project really well despite having minimal support from me.

#### **Items for prayer**

- That we will get help funding our vulnerable students this year and into the future.
- For Room to Read, that we may form a successful partnership with them.
- For wisdom and insight in the decisions we make about the use of the new college classrooms.
- For the success of the celebrations in April as we have the grand opening of the classrooms.

Every good wish to you all,

***Jenny Featherstone***



## KART CORNER SPRING 2015



Registered Charity No. SC037866



### ***Sponsored Event***

In November 2014 KART held its first "Tour-2-France" sponsored event. 27 supporters divided into 10 teams kept a daily tally of how far they walked, jogged, hill-walked, dog-walked, cycled, exercise-biked, swam and tread-milled every day for 14 days. Our aim was to take a virtual tour from Kirkcaldy to France and then hopefully back again. On Day 1 we were in Gretna Green, Day 3 in London, Day 5 we were in Calais and by Day 8 we had completed 2203km between us and were in Cannes in the south of France. By Day 14 we had completed a grand total of 4138km and were just 322km short of making it back to Kirkcaldy!!

After the 14 days were completed we met to find out the final distances reached and to celebrate with some French cakes and pastries.

The total raised in sponsorship, by those who took part, was a fantastic £1863 and this, as in previous years, should be matched by Santander by £1500 giving a grand total of **£3363! C'est magnifique!!**

### ***Please Pray***

- Pray for Chris and Laura as they are due to become parents for the first time in March.
- Pray for all volunteers who run SU groups. Pray for God to encourage them in the important work they do.
- Pray for all chaplains who visit our local schools. Pray for God to use them to help children learn more about the Christian faith.



Prayer

### ***Activity Day***

**Give thanks** for the Activity Day held at Whyte's Causeway Baptist Church on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. 15 children took a 'Journey through the Bible.' If your church would like to hold an activity day then the next dates will be 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015, 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015, 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Please contact Chris if you would like to hold an activity day in your church.

### ***Easter Code***

KART will be helping Abbotshall Church with an Easter Code at Strathallan Primary School on Wednesday 1st April. This two hour interactive class about Easter is for ~ 50 pupils in Primary 7. The key element of this event is to take groups of children on a journey through the last week of Jesus' life. In doing so the children will gain the 'keys' to help them unlock why the Easter Story is still celebrated and important today.

The event features games, mime, spontaneous drama, video, craft ideas, discussion, storytelling, music suggestions, and much more.

Please do pray for Chris, Rosie and James as they gather the team to go into the school.

If you would like to contact Chris:

**Email – [chris.beattie@kart.me.uk](mailto:chris.beattie@kart.me.uk)**

**Telephone - 07746373860**

### ***Football***

Chris is now running 3 football groups at Fair Isle, Kirkcaldy North and Pathhead Primary Schools. Pray for all the children who attend and that they will take part in the football camp due to take place at Lendrick Muir in July.







## CHRISTMAS

We all hope you enjoyed our part in the Christmas Service.

Shall we ever forget the Fairy on the Christmas Tree?

Everyone did very well. We then enjoyed our short party afterwards with a visit from a very jovial Santa with a gift for everyone.

Now we are all preparing for the Easter service.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

## NEWS UPDATE

Happy birthday to Ollie who celebrated his 4th birthday on 23 February.

Mollie is enjoying her Christmas gifts especially a chocolate coin making machine.

Rebecca has been practising for her gymnastics trial.

Morgan had a great time performing in the Adam Smith panto. She has lots of other performances later in the year.

Brodie is still enjoying her many activities including Taekwondo.

## BIBLE VERSE

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is not here-he has been raised!" Mark chapter 16 verse 6

## *Do try our Easter wordsearch*

e	g	g	s	a	s	c	a	s
a	d	o	p	h	u	h	i	t
s	t	o	n	e	m	o	i	a
t	o	m	b	a	e	c	v	e
e	a	s	r	v	p	o	e	r
r	d	y	f	e	g	l	y	t
g	j	i	t	n	u	a	f	b
c	a	e	s	d	a	t	i	u
h	r	g	s	f	r	e	c	n
e	d	o	c	u	d	b	u	n
f	s	a	s	m	s	n	r	y
d	e	b	m	s	n	a	c	e

cross	easter	peter
jesus	eggs	crucify
mary	chocolate	alive
tomb	treats	heaven
guard	bunny	stone

## Forthcoming Events

Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	RNLI SOS Fundraising Afternoon
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	World Day of Prayer
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	<b>Stated Annual Meeting</b> of the Congregation (after the service)
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Communion
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Auction by Open Door Team (for church funds)
10 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> May	Women's Group Bunny Drive
	Christian Aid Week

## Easter services

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Palm Sunday service
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Joint Holy Week service at 7 p.m.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	' <i>Christ is Risen!</i> ' Easter Morning service with communion



**Bennochty Church Community Hall, Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy**

**[opendoor@bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:opendoor@bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk)**

Your community café is open every Thursday from 11am - 2pm. From 11.00 we serve refreshments and home-made cakes; this is generally a peaceful hour when people like to catch up with friends over coffee. From 12.00 the café becomes more vibrant when we serve reasonably priced soup and sandwich lunches made freshly on the premises. Vegetarian options always on the menu.

Sample menu

<b>Teas/Coffees</b>	<b>60p – 80p</b>
<b>Coke, diet coke, irn bru</b>	<b>60p</b>
<b>Cheese toastie</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
<b>2 x buttered toast &amp; tea</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
<b>Cakes</b>	<b>30p - £1</b>
<b>Soup of the day with crusty bread</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
<b>Choice of sandwich</b>	<b>£1.50</b>
White or wholemeal bread & crisps	
- Cheese and pickle (v)	
- Egg mayo (v)	
- Ham, tomato & mustard	
- 'Just for Today' – eg chicken salad wrap	

**New 'Combo' - Soup, ½ round sandwiches & crisps    £2.40**

The Café depends on valuable volunteers to serve you. Perhaps when you visit, you may see yourself in a voluntary role. If this is something you would like to discuss, please ask to speak with the Team Leader on duty.

Be assured of a warm welcome at the Olive Branch – your community café.

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