

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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JUNE 2015



From the 'Manse', a brief reflection after this year's General Assembly

Some people have asked if I 'enjoyed' being a commissioner at this year's Assembly! I am not sure that 'enjoyed' is the first word that comes to my mind. I certainly enjoyed catching up with people, some I had not met for a very long time. It was also good to hear the breadth of the work of the church, through the reports of the various Councils and Committees, and of course, we had our usual fixation on 'human sexuality'. This time in relation to whether ministers and deacons can be in civil partnerships and or in a same sex marriages. People hold strong views on both sides, depending on how scripture is interpreted and how people think the church should be reaching out to modern Scotland. The debate on same sex marriage will continue, as it comes down under the Barrier Act to be discussed at presbyteries, to return to the Assembly of 2016.

A lot of what is reported to the Assembly does not make the headlines, but this year, through a publicity campaign entitled "*Tomorrows calling*", the church is challenging, encouraging and asking people to consider a call to ministry, and some of our younger ministers have become the 'poster boys and girls' of this campaign. The introductory video can be found on the Church of Scotland website, and on You Tube.

Much of the good work of the church and its Councils and committees goes unnoticed. It is not deemed news worthy, but is it the church, on our behalf, spreading 'Good news' in Scotland and beyond. From the work of *Crossreach* supporting the elderly and the vulnerable, to the Church and Society Council speaking against welfare sanctions, the treatment of migrants and supporting the churches stance against nuclear weapons.

Some of the most moving contributions came from overseas delegates. A minister from Nepal giving us a first hand account of the recent earth quake and a Bishop, describing how dangerous life is for clergy, in the world's most dangerous city, Aleppo in Syria.

One of the major themes of this year's Assembly was change. No matter what area of the churches work was being discussed, the church needs to recognise our changing society and respond in a way that shares the Good News of Jesus Christ in ways that are relevant and appropriate.

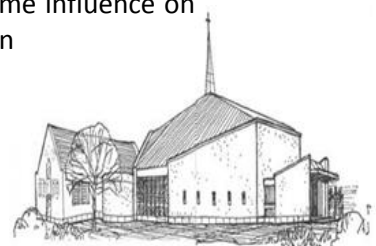
We even had a session on the history, or at least part of it, of the life of John Knox. Who says we are not Presbyterian! It was the 500th anniversary of his birth in 2014.

This year's Assembly was 'badged' as '*Living Stones*'. Many of the reports picked up on this theme and the Moderator's daily reflections, looked at different scripture passages that describe the church as '*living stones*', coming together to do the work of God.

Enjoyed? Maybe, but also encouraged to know that the church still has some influence on society. Nicola Sturgeon attended as First Minister on the opening session and our service chaplains were praised by a retiring Major - General.

So here's to the next one. With all God's blessing,

Robin





Christian Aid 2015

We have had a splendid response to our Christian Aid Week efforts and raised £3,187.73 in the door to door collection, £421.57 from the Soup and Sweet Lunch and £412.22 from the collection during the Service on Sunday, 10th May. Added to this is the tax recoverable value on Gift Aid which realises £218.50. A fantastic total of £4,240.02.

Thank you most sincerely to everyone who donated in any shape or form and to our members who distributed and collected envelopes, a job well done.

Christian Aid is in its 70th year and it is just as important today, if not even more so, than when it first began, that we continue to give support to those in need at both home and abroad, irrespective of colour, culture or creed.

With appreciation,

*Angela Stewart, Christine and Charlie Low,
Co-ordinators*

Kirkcaldy Deaf Group

For many years now the Church of Scotland has encouraged and supported those who use British Sign Language (BSL) to meet and worship together. There are three formal congregations in Scotland (Albany Deaf Church in Edinburgh, John Ross Memorial Church in Glasgow, and St John's Church for Deaf People in Aberdeen), but also smaller groups of Deaf people who meet on a regular basis around the country.

One of these groups meets in Kirkcaldy, currently on the third Monday of each month, 12.30pm, at 10 St Brycedale Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

If you have knowledge of BSL and would like to be involved with this group, or have questions about Deaf ministry, please contact Rev. Rosie Addis, Chaplain to Deaf People, raddis@churchofscotland.org.uk, or tel/sms 07738 983393.

For more information on the ministry to Deaf people in Scotland, please visit the Church of Scotland webpage

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/ministries_council/ministries_in_the_church/ministries_for_communities/deaf_ministry.

Life & Work Magazines - If anyone would like to give this informative magazine a try there is a 6-month subscription offer for the months July to December. Speak to Margaret Simpson for details.

Deaths

27.02.15	Mrs Isobel Grimshaw, 98 Redcraigs, Kirkcaldy.
03.03.15	Mrs Joyce Campbell, 2 Mona Terrace, Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy.
14.03.15	Thomas Stevenson, 11 Forth Park Gardens, Kirkcaldy.
01.04.15	Mrs Agnes Williamson, 112 Alexandra Street, Kirkcaldy.
30.04.15	Mrs Caroline Todd, 33 Abbotshall Road, Kirkcaldy.
01.05.15	John Jarvis, 129a Victoria Road, Kirkcaldy..
26.05.15	Robert Duncan, 28 Ben Ledi Road, Kirkcaldy.



World Mission

On Sunday, 3rd May, we had the pleasure of an interview/conversation on screen with our Mission Partner, Jenny Featherstone. She was speaking from home, within the grounds of Chodort College in Choma. The sound system was working well and it was a friendly communication with Robin and later with Phil Reeves and myself.

Jenny thanked us so warmly for our contribution towards college students, and with further donations from other congregations within the parish, the course of Carpentry will continue just.

The financial plight puts the college in a very difficult position: funding for 15 vulnerable students stopped in December last, (Global Funding, administered by Churches Health Association, is to go elsewhere), serious competition from Choma Trades, supported for 5 years by African Development bank offering the course for K250 as opposed to Chodort college course for K2,900 - (already subsidised) and once you stop a course - very difficult to re-establish.

The tailoring course will definitely continue, 8-12 paying students @ K2,400 p.a.

Jenny is constantly applying for funding sources - US AID for 13 students in 2016, but their priority is towards orphans and vulnerable children - Ministry of Youth & Sport - no. Choma Community Development Projects - promised but did not deliver, J F to try again.

Minister of Education to negotiate at that level. He is Keith Waddel from Church of Scotland, formerly one of Jenny's colleagues in Mwandia, Zambia. Government salaries are 3 times more than what Chodort College can pay.

This year there is a projected shortfall of K220,000, depreciation counts for K90,000. Jenny's brief is to raise K150,000 this year!

We asked her about the Project PLAY4ALL which we supported when in her previous post in Kitwe.

100-200 of a morning

300-500 for a special event, where they get a drink and a bread bun.

They no longer can afford to offer a nutritious drink for the most malnourished children.

Jenny is a 12-13 hours' drive away, so it is in the hands of Jane for the running of the project + organising volunteers, training and repairs after any break-ins. Jenny anticipates a visit there with Robin.

Jenny would also welcome help with I.T. and Phil will look into this.

All in all, tough going for Jenny, her Staff and for those most likely to fall by the wayside - namely, vulnerable students of the Carpentry course.

Our support and interest is appreciated. We keep her in our prayers.

***Margaret Simpson,
Correspondant.***

**BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2015**

		BUDGET 2015
INCOME		
Offerings	£	£
WFO Scheme (Gift Aid and non Gift Aid)	55,000	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	12,000	
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	4,000	
Other Offerings, Donations Gift Days etc	2,900	73,900
Other Ordinary General Income		
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	5,100	
Regular Fund Raising Events	3,500	
Weddings and Funerals	1,200	
Income from Investments	1,700	
Use of Premises	5,000	
Gift Boxes	370	16,870
Total Ordinary General Income		90,770
EXPENDITURE		
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work		
Ministries and Mission Contribution	58,026	
Less: Endowment Income	(854)	
	57,172	
Presbytery Dues	1,000	58,172
Local Staffing Costs		
Minister's Travelling Expenses	1,500	
Minister's telephone and other expenses	350	
Pulpit Supply		
Other Salaries	12,300	14,150
Building Costs		
Fabric repairs & maintenance - Church	5,000	
Manse	1,000	
Heating and Lighting - Church and Halls	7,000	
Insurance	3,100	
Manse Council Tax	2,300	
Upkeep of Grounds - Church	1,500	
Manse	470	20,370
Other Local Costs		
Telephone, Postage, Printing, Stationery & Photocopying	1,800	
Publicity & Advertising	730	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	850	
Equipment	500	
Sunday School	300	
Worship	1,050	
Training	500	
Pastoral Care	500	
Cleaning Materials	500	
Other expenses	750	7,480
Total Ordinary General Expenditure		100,172
ESTIMATED GENERAL FUND DEFICIT FOR 2015		9,402

Money Matters

Our Finance Team has changed recently and they are pleased to advise the following new Structure:-

George Drummond - Session Clerk / Finance Convener
Margaret Kinnear - Treasurer
Monika Solarek - Book Keeper
Audrey Taylor - Gift Aid Convener
Ena Thomson - Roll Keeper
Christine Low - Payables
Bob Colville - Insurance & Investments

We met recently to formulate our 3 year action plan which is a recent requirement of Kirkcaldy Presbytery.

Our objective over this period is to - Negate the deficit by March 2018 through increased income and reduced costs.

To assist in achieving this we identified 5 elements where we will concentrate our efforts;

- Bringing ownership of costs back into Finance
- Map out Annual Stewardship Plans
- Promote In-Memoriam Legacies
- Increase Gift days to 2 per year
- Formulate a Social & Fundraising Group

Through the coming months we will report and promote more detail behind these elements to elaborate and will no doubt add to them in order to meet our objective.

I would ask your prayerful support in achieving our aim and our work here at Bennochty.

George Drummond

Some notes from the Communication Team

Team leader: Ragnar Ingebrigtsen

Order of Service/Intimations - Liz Steedman Notices by Thursday pm if poss. Friday latest.

Website Manager - Allan Morton For all the latest news on what's happening at Bennochty

- Don't forget to keep Allan updated.

Newsletter Editor - Ragnar Issues 1-3 go out 3 weeks before each of the main communions, to be delivered with cards.
Christmas issue available end November, along with WFO envelopes.

Fife Free Press - Liz Church notice - deadline Tuesday pm
NB The 'Church News' section is compiled by the Press from information received. If you want to ensure something appears in this section, information can be submitted along with the church notice.

External noticeboard - Alan Keddie

St. Johns Taekwondo Club



Everyone at the club are doing well and the numbers are very steady with around 30 students. They are all looking forward to these upcoming events in the next few weeks.

Upcoming events

One of the instructors from Barcelona is coming to Kilmarnock to do some training over the week-end of 23rd/24th May. Miss Busca's training will be on self defence and warrior style training.

St. Johns taekwondo club is going to hold an inter-schools tournament on the 13th June at Templehall Community Centre. At this tournament students from Mr McCulloch's clubs in Kilmarnock will be attending, along with Ms Frail's other schools in Meigle and Dishforth. This will be the first tournament that the Kirkcaldy club will hold for the other schools to attend.

Chief Master Von Schmeling will be visiting the schools in Scotland during July/August, visiting the smaller schools in Europe.

Past events

There was a black belt testing in Meigle in April and two of the St. Johns students tested and passed their grading. They were put through their paces and did amazingly well. I am sure you would like to say a massive well done to Archie Laurie and Mrs Lorraine Fairful from Kirkcaldy and Mr Stuart Cowie and Mr Ian Davidson from Meigle.

During the Easter break Hannah Higgins and Michelle Fairful visited Prague for the 2015 European Leadership Camp. The two girls met the new head of Europe, Chief Master Von Schmeling from Paraguay along with his team. They were very helpful and taught them how to be better instructors.

Bell Ringers

We have had an interesting year, exploring new music, learning to read music, humming along to basic exercises and generally enjoying the peal of bells.

We work now with a good set of 15 bells, of Whitechapel origin. Do you remember that they were restored thanks to generous funding from the 4th Co. Boys' Brigade, also by Mrs. Christie in memory of her husband, Jim - all much appreciated.

The usual run is from mid C to top G, and sometimes using the little descant bells of A-B-C - very easily handled, and occasionally the heavier Bass bells of B-A-G., certainly giving weight to a piece!. We have also tried 2 bells per person - can be easy! An old tune - "Daisy, Daisy", a tricky one, "Humoresque" and a favourite, "Theme from the New World Symphony", and for starters "Westminster Chimes".

You never know - we might be ringing in the garden - some sunny day!

Margaret Simpson



SUNDAY SCHOOL



NEWS

Congratulations to Kristen on her Wedding Day which was on Saturday 9 May 2015. Our very best wishes go to her and her husband for a long and happy future together.

Our numbers have decreased lately.

Where have you gone?

We do still have our regulars Callum, Mollie, Rebecca, Morgan and Brodie. We are looking for new recruits come along and see us on a Sunday and join in the learning and the fun.

Isobel Neilson has also been missing due to ill health. We want to wish her well and hope she is back on a regular basis after the Summer.

CHRISTIAN AID

We enjoyed the Christian Aid material finding Ethiopia in the atlas and learning a little about the country and the hard life of its people. We also had discussions as to what our favourite possessions are - the answers ranged from Tunnocks Teacakes to mobile phones.

After all of that a Christian Aid Balloon was blown up and taken home.

The Christian Aid verse

Galatians 3 28

So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus.

HOLIDAYS

It's nearly that time of year again. We are having our prizegiving on June 21 at the beginning of the Communion Service. We shall then go for our customary picnic - fun, food and games - perhaps outside if the weather permits. Then it's the Summer Holidays.

We all hope everyone has a lovely time during the Summer and look forward to seeing you all again on 28 August 2015.

Summer Calendar

Saturday 6 th June	<i>Messy Church</i>
Sunday 21 st June	Communion Service & Sunday School Prizegiving
Sunday 5 th July	Joint Service in Bennoch Church (Service conducted by Catriona Morrison & Marc Prowe)
Sunday 12 th July	Joint service in Abbotshall Church
Sunday 19 th July	Joint service in St Bryce Kirk
Sunday 26 th July	Joint service in Linktown Church (service conducted by Robin McAlpine)

- The Olive Branch Café will finish on Thursday 2nd July, and will be closed during the summer while work is carried out in the church and halls. It will re-open for business as soon as the work is complete – date to be announced.

Get Together - The members and friends of the Get Together Club had an outing to the Victoria Hotel for high tea on Thursday 7th May, which everyone enjoyed.



Sing Up!

A new inclusive, informal and inspiring

COMMUNITY CHOIR

is starting up in Bennoch Church.

There will a taster session on

Wednesday 10th June

6.30 – 8.00 p.m.

No auditions – all are welcome

Come, join us and

make your voice heard in your community.

Contact Dianne on 07980 367632 for more information