

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland Kirkcaldy

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Website: www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk

OCTOBER 2015



From the 'Manse',

My visit to Zambia gave me the opportunity to see first hand two projects. In the Southern town of Choma is the Chodort training centre, where our mission partner Jenny Featherstone is principle, and in the copper belt region of the country is the city of Kitwe, where Jenny started the children's initiative 'Play4all'.

Chodort is run by the United Church of Zambia. It supports and seeks to help disadvantaged young people gain economic independence by offering training courses in the trades of carpentry and dressmaking as well as IT skills.

'Play4all', as the name suggests, seeks to change lives through play. Young children, many of whom do not attend school, gather to learn through structured play, focusing on teamwork, creativity and problem solving.

Over the years we have had the privilege of supporting both of these projects. Many of us might never visit Zambia, but in our sharing, we show God's love in action for these young people. Thank you for your generosity.

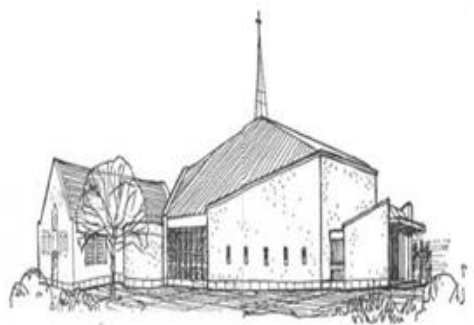
One of the things you have to do for study leave, is to write a report. This will soon go on the church website, giving you the opportunity to find out more about my visit to Zambia. If you have not yet done so, please log on. We have a great website, full of useful information. See www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk

Zambia is a fascinating land. Faces smile in spite of poverty. Churches are full and faith is very much alive! I hope, if it can be arranged, that you might visit and witness what I did. Watch this space!

With all God's blessing

Robin

- Read the latest Newsletter
From Jenny Featherstone
overleaf.



PARTNERPLAN

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia September 2015

Chodort Training Centre, Choma
PO Box 630451
Kitwe
Zambia

Dear Church friends

Recently I heard about a water scare in Britain where a certain area had to boil drinking water. I smiled to myself to think this could make national news, as I have been doing it here in Zambia since 2007! The safest water supply we have here is bore hole water which is pumped up from many metres deep. Even our water companies (SWASCO for Southern province) do not treat water to UK standards and tummy upsets are frequent.

But water is not the main problem at the moment, - it is the electricity supply. In a country which has 1/3 of the water in sub Saharan Africa, and 3 major hydroelectric plants you may think "what's the problem?" Our 50 year old dam wall on lake [Kariba](#) is unstable and the hydroelectric turbines not in good condition, thus the water levels are kept low to put less strain on the dam. This, plus naturally low water levels, has triggered a huge power crisis which will probably last till the new

The waterfall on the right of picture hardly has any water now



year when the rains are established again. It is not just the 8 hour a day power cuts (yes, that is 8 hours a day 7 days a week) that are the problem, many people cope with this by using charcoal to cook and candles or kerosene lamps in the dark. It is the knock on effect on the economy that is the looming disaster for Zambia. Mines and agriculture need electricity, but so do small shops, supermarkets, small industries like our carpentry production at Chodort and of course hospitals and schools.

One effect close to home was that a misplaced candle set fire to clothes in the house of one of our workers, Mr Chavula. His wife lost all her clothes and the kids their school uniforms. In fact it is probably the poor who will feel the pinch most. Fuel prices have begun to rise again, a huge increase in inflation (K14 to the pound instead of K10 at the beginning of the year) means that all imported goods have gone up. Shops have to use generators to keep open in working hours and are passing on all these increased costs to their customers.

PARTNERPLAN



Moira on her last visit helping judge the tailoring competition at graduation

It is not all gloom and doom however, our lives at Chodort have been brightened by a succession of visitors. Vicky Williams came over for a couple of months and helped enormously with marketing and general business advice, she was followed by Rev Robin MacAlpine from Benochy, one of our supporting churches in Kirkcaldy Scotland who was interested in seeing first-hand how everything works here. Moira Lee is a most welcome visitor, returning for the 3rd time to support Play4all and be a pair of helping hands with useful things like updating the website (www.chodort.org).

Still to come is a short visit from Bunmi Olaysiade our Methodist world church representative for Africa, and visitors from Germany and Ireland, including David Nixon, my predecessor, who are coming for the official opening of our new classrooms in October.

I must hurry to finish this however, as the power cut is from 6.00 to 2.00pm today and I need to email this before the power goes!

Items for praise

- For the enthusiasm of all our volunteer / visitors
- For safe journeys so far on Zambia's notoriously accident ridden roads
- For continued orders for our production units
- For good partnership relations with churches in the UK

Items for prayer

- The most effective way to get around the electricity cuts for our production team
- For inflation to slow down and level off
- For a national solution to the power crisis
- For wisdom in how we use the new classrooms
- For a successful launch of the classrooms in October
- For the success of the bid to Comic relief for funding vulnerable students next year

Every good wish,

Jenny

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Money Matters

Stewardship Season is with us again when we are asked to look at our Time, Talents and Money in relationship to our commitment to God's work here at Bennoch.

This year we are asked to look specifically at Money.

Our Gift day is scheduled for 18th October but our Financial Commitment goes beyond this as we are tasked with regular giving. By this I mean -

- Standing Order - Fixed amount taken direct from your bank account
- Free Will Offering - Each envelope contains an amount which is dedicated each week and made up for the weeks un-attended
- Both these can be donated in conjunction with Gift Aid where, if you are a tax payer we can claim back approx. 25p in every pound you donate (no strings attached)
- Open Plate - Cash donations received as and when you attend - this amount is showing an upward trend. Ideally we would encourage all members who use the Open Plate to donate as per any of the 3 categories above.

In addition to these categories we should also be annually reviewing the level of our donations - we are all used to price increases in our home and social lives and the Church is no different, so we would ask that consideration is given to this please.

Over the next few weeks all of these aspects will be promoted with a view to encourage the Church as an essential part of your Budget.

If you wish to learn more about what you can do please don't hesitate to speak to me or any of the Finance Team.

George Drummond

Session Clerk / Finance Convener

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest Service took place on Sunday 27th September. The Church was suitably decorated, and members filled the side pews with donations of all kinds of groceries in tins and packets, which were later uplifted by the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy in the district, via the Foodbank.



A special collection was also taken to support the work of Jenny Featherstone, our missionary partner in Zambia, which amounted to £417.12. The harvest hamper brought in a further £35, which was added to this, making a total of £452.12. The hamper went to Sandra Marshall, the winning ticket being picked out by a young participant of 'Messy Church'.

Deaths

02.06.15	Miss Jean Bogie, Abbeyfield House, Kirkcaldy
04.06.15	William Bain, 25 Chapelhill, Kirkcaldy
16.07.15	Mrs Margaret Honeyman, 12 Rosebery Court, Kirkcaldy
07.09.15	William Ritchie, 20 Balwearie Gardens, Kirkcaldy
13.09.15	Mrs Barbara Yeaman, 36 Roomlin Gardens, Kirkcaldy
14.09.15	John (Jack) McIntosh, 17 Lina Street, Kirkcaldy



BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
Meldrum Road/Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR
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Charity Registration Number SC 005628
(Registered Scottish Charity)

TO ALL MEMBERS
BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH
KIRKCALDY
September 2015

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER 2015

As you are aware there has been a fair bit of activity within the Fabric improvements within the Church and in particular the upgrade of our heating system and construction of our new store. These improvements have required substantial funding which had come from our consolidated funds held in Edinburgh. Our local Finance situation has become vulnerable as we maintain the day to day running costs of the building.

An important part of our income is generated by our now traditional Gift Days. The Congregational Board has agreed that these days continue due to their importance and have sanctioned an additional gift day to coincide with Bennochys Birthday in March. The rational is that as a family we gift twice yearly, Christmas and Birthdays so we consider our Church family no different.

Our first Gift Day this year will be held on Sunday 18th October. If you are unable to come on this Sunday but still wish to contribute to the Gift Day Appeal, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Gift Day" in the collection plate when you are next at Church, or hand it to your District Elder on their Communion visit.

If you are debating the level of donation for the gift day I would ask you to consider the value of gift that you would give any of your family members as a guide, if your personal circumstances allow. Our Christian giving is a sign and a measure of our Christian faith and commitment to God's work here at Bennochys

If you are a taxpayer, please consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration Form if you have not already done so, as the Church will be able to recover the appropriate level of income tax from your donation. Every £1 becomes £1.25. Gift Aid Declaration Forms will be available on the day or ask any Sunday Welcome Team member who will assist.

We wish to thank you once again for your continued support in God's work here at Bennochys and pray that you continue to have a Church home where your life is enriched by worship and Christian fellowship.

With all God's blessing from the Finance Team

Property Developments

As you are all aware two major developments have taken place over the Summer months and are now complete.

Firstly, a new heating system has been installed, replacing the boiler with two A- rated interconnected boilers, changing all the radiators in the halls and corridors and adding a new radiator in the sanctuary. Modern guards have been fitted to the radiators and pipes for safety reasons, and the boiler room has been re-located.

The new system allows greater flexibility in the heating of different parts of the building which will hopefully lead to greater comfort for the congregation and for all users of the building. If used properly we can be more efficient and save energy and associated costs.

Secondly, a new central store has been built by removing the stage in the Methven Hall and building a dividing wall to create two storage areas in that space, accessible from the corridors. This will allow us to improve storage arrangements and enable us to re-instate the Meldrum room as a meeting place

- It is important that the radiator settings are kept as set by our Church Officer. If anyone feels they need to adjust the temperature for a particular meeting please ensure it is returned to its original setting before leaving.

Bennoch Women's Group

The Group's 2015/16 session began on 1st September with a walk around Beveridge Park and supper at Balwearie Golf Club. On 15th September our guest speaker was Mrs Linda Young, a past president of Kirkcaldy Presbyterial Council's Guild, talking about her trip to Malawi.

On 13th October we will be having a pamper night. The Group's main fundraiser evening, our annual Family Quiz Night, takes place in the Methven Hall on Saturday 24th October at 6.30 p.m. Come along, bring family and friends, for a great evening of competition and fun. Tickets are available from members of the Group. £5 adults and £2 children. This will include a raffle and delicious dessert supper. All ages very welcome. Teams of four persons please.

On 3rd November Tom Slaven will be giving a talk on the history of mining. A members' craft night is arranged for 10th November. We visit the Adam Smith Theatre to see the KAOS production of Sister Act on 17th November. On Saturday 21st November we will be serving refreshments, cake and candy and run the Body Shop table at the Church's Christmas Afternoon Tea at Bennoch from 2 – 4 p.m. Toiletries can be given to Group members or handed in to the Methven Hall on Friday 20th November. The Minister, Rev Robin McAlpine, will be telling Group members about his trip to Zambia on 24th November. This is an open meeting and we invite members of the congregation and friends to attend. The Guild is also having Robin talk about Zambia at their meeting on 10th November at 2 p.m. This will also be an open meeting.

Bruce Davies will be our guest speaker on 1st December and we look forward to 15th December, when we will have our Christmas Dinner at the Duchess Restaurant.

The Group usually meets every fortnight at 7.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room. Please speak to a member of the Group or phone Irene Wood on Kdy 267995 if you are interested in attending any of our meetings. New members will be made very welcome.

Irene Wood

Church Liaison Member

The Guild

The Guild session is now under way and our members are about to embark on a new Project Partnership Scheme over the next three years. The six projects for 2015–2018 are as follows –

Ascension Trust, Street Pastors: Rev Sandy Gunn

Care for the Family, Let's Stick Together: Fiona Marks

Christian Aid, Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia: Val Brown

Feed the Minds, Breaking the Cycle of FGM: Adam Sach

Mission International, Haiti Project: Richard Woods & Hugh Henderson

Prospects, All Friends Together: Ivy Blair & Irene Munro



Details of the previous six projects are given below, which show the considerable amounts of money that have been raised for these worthy causes.

2012-2015 Projects

Comfort Rwanda, Building a better Rwanda	£109,596.72
Crossreach, Heart for Art	£155,917.03
Mary's Meals, Making a difference in Liberia	£134,109.22
Ministries Council (Priority Areas), Passage from India	£108,994.33
Scottish Churches Housing Action, Julius Project	£130,808.15
World Mission Council, Out of Africa into Malta	£135,651.45
Final three-year total	£775,076.90

Since the beginning of the new 6-project model, we have now surpassed 4 million pounds (£4,220,996) and since 1969, when the projects began, the total raised is now £6,014,158! Thanks to all whose hard work and dedication have helped generate these incredible totals, allowing the Guild to impact many lives both in this country and much further afield.

Bennochty Guild meets on alternate Tuesdays at 2.00 p.m. in the Elgin Hall and new faces are always made very welcome.

Handbell Ringers



The Bell Ringers meet on a Tuesday night at 6.00 p.m. and new members are always welcome.

These are some of their tunes.



The Get Together recently enjoyed a bar lunch at Dunnikier Golf Club. They are now looking forward to their Christmas Party in December and anyone wishing to join them will be very welcome.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

It's that time of year again, when members of the congregation fill a shoebox with gifts to bring some Christmas cheer to those living in poverty around the world, both adults and children. Covered boxes are now available in the vestibule for collection any Sunday. Please bring your filled box to Church on Sunday 8th November but, if this date is not suitable, you can bring it on 1st November. The shoeboxes will be uplifted on Thursday 11th November. By filling a shoebox you can bring joy and laughter to someone this Christmas.



In addition Blythswood Care Round lorry comes to Kirkcaldy once a month to collect donated goods such as clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac and foodstuffs. It will be parked at the Esplanade Car Park, next to the old bus garage, from 12.30-13.00 on Mondays 12th October, 9th November and 14th December

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We welcomed back to Sunday School in September Brodie, Morgan, Rebecca, Mollie, Ruby, Anna and Callum.

They were all very busy during the holidays. Here is a list of some of their activities.

Brodie Visited Legoland, Thorpe Park, and Lanzarote and is now in her second year at Kirkcaldy High School.

Morgan Performed in lots of shows. Will be starring in the Silver Sword next month. Once again has been successful in getting a part in the Christmas Pantomime at the Adam Smith Theatre. Moved into first year at Kirkcaldy High School.

Rebecca Was in a very hot Spain for 10 days. She is now in primary six.

Mollie Enjoyed all the fun in Blackpool during her holidays. She is now in primary three.

Ruby Visited her caravan lots of times during the summer. She has started in primary one at Torbain Primary School.

Anna Had lot of fun at Centre Parks. She is now in primary one at Capshard Primary School.

Callum In his own words he was far away at a scream factory and soft play area. He also started in primary one at Torbain Primary School.

We are also welcoming William back to Sunday School as an Assistant. After all his years in Sunday School he wants to help us. We hope he has lots of new modern ideas to augment our curriculum of learning through stories, crafts, projects and performing. (Christmas is just round the corner).

If anyone knows of any children aged between 3 years and 16 years who would like to join us they would be made most welcome.

Autumn Calendar

Sunday 18 th October	Gift Day
Saturday 24 th October	Family Quiz Night
Sunday 25 th October	Communion Service
Sunday 8 th November	Filled shoeboxes required
Saturday 21 st November	Christmas Afternoon Teas

Family Fun Quiz Night

Saturday 24th October 2015
6.30 p.m.



Tickets: £5 Adults, £2 Children

Come as a team of four or come and make up a team . . .
(No individual questions.)

Dessert Supper & Raffle

Christmas Afternoon Teas

Our Christmas Afternoon Teas are on Saturday 21st November from 2.00 – 4.00 p.m.
Tickets are £4 and donations of home baking would be much appreciated. Put this date in your diary and watch out for more details of stalls, etc nearer the time.



Sing Up!

Have you heard about the new, inclusive, informal and inspiring

COMMUNITY CHOIR

in Bennochry Church

every Wednesday, 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 info