

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland

# Newsletter

November/December 2015



This is the pre-Christmas edition of our Newsletter. Regular readers will notice that we are trying out a new A5 size format. Please let us know what you think.

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.

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Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

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

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**December 2015**

***From the 'Manse',***

In case you don't get the Fife Free Press, here is my recent "Heart of the Matter" contribution on Advent.

*It will soon be the season of Advent. The word comes from the Latin word "adventus" which means coming. In the four weeks prior to Christmas, Advent is the time when we wait for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.*

*Set aside the traditional picture of the Christmas card, the nativity play and the commercial frenzy of buying gifts and be amazed at the idea of God coming into the world. The Christian church believes that God is the source of creation and life and that this same God, decided to enter the world and live as part of it, as Jesus of Nazareth.*

*If you seek the true festive spirit of Christmas why not look at the Church of Scotland online Advent calendar. Filming locations range from Israel to Orkney, and from busy food banks to quiet sea shores. Themes covered include hope, the desire for peace and God's love. Others recognise that Christmas is a difficult time for many people, and reflect on those experiencing loneliness, poverty and loss. Have a look, the web address is [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) and follow the link.*

This Advent; let us wait with patience, let us follow Jesus with hope and may we dwell, always, in the love of God.

With all God's blessing this Advent time



***Robin***

## News from Zambia

Jenny Featherstone has responded to our Harvest collection, and also to the special collection for IT equipment on Communion Sunday, with the following letters -

*Thank you and the congregation at Bennochys so much for the Harvest contribution of an amazing £452.12 considering there were other concerns too.*

*The table tennis sounds a good idea, I am not sure for Play4all though because of age differences, storage and crime, but I am sure our students could be very entertained!*

*I think the money from Harvest will go towards the subsidies for student fees. We have cleared all the fees of our vulnerable students (9 at K2,700 and 4 at K2,400) but still have not met the actual cost which is around K5,200 per student so I think we have to find around K33,000 to break even. Some of that will come from any profits we make in Carpentry production, but your money K 8,428 at current rates will go a long way to help. As you must realise the exchange rate has soared to 18.6 to the £ as opposed to around 11 at the beginning of the year, and this and the 8 hour a day electricity cuts are causing a lot of problems for businesses. Prices of imported (and in some cases not imported!) goods are rising every week. I paid K155 for a celebration cake in April and the same size for our new classroom celebrations next Tuesday now costs K395!*

*The greatest knock on effect is on those who have very little. Mealie meal, the staple diet, is now K90 a bag as opposed to K60 a few months ago. I thank God we were able to give our lower paid workers a 40% rise this year to meet government requirements, but I fear it will soon be all swallowed up!*

*Please give my heartfelt thanks to all at Bennochys and maybe we can skype in a week or two when I am less busy?*

*every good wish  
Jenny*

*Lovely to hear from you again, and thank you so much for the monies collected. We really feel supported by you.*

*I have just had a word with Gershom in IT and we will need new batteries for the solar panels as they are quite run down now (they have lasted 5 years!) and with the power cuts set to continue till March we need a reliable power source for our IT classes. The old ones are likely to work less well too now as the rainy season is almost upon us and that means a lot more cloud. At current rates your gift converts to around K6,000 which is just K1,500 short of a new set of batteries so I think we will go with that.*

*Many thanks again, sorry this is a short note but power goes in a few minutes,*

***All good wishes,  
Jenny***

## **Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**

The congregation has been busy for the last 2 months preparing for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal. The boxes were covered in colourful paper and then filled with items which we take for granted but can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. Hat, gloves and scarves, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, pencils, paper, sweets and a small toy are some of the items which can be put in a child's box and other boxes can be filled for men or women. The collection point for Kirkcaldy area was Templehall Church, where a short service for adults and schoolchildren was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November before the lorry transported the boxes to a depot where they were checked before going through customs to Eastern European countries. Albania, Hungary, Moldova, Kosovo, Romania are just a few of the countries where the shoeboxes go.

Thank you to everyone who filled a shoebox or gave a donation and also to those who helped in any way, by covering boxes to loading the lorry. Dunnikier School filled 51 shoeboxes - a big thank you to the teachers, office staff and pupils for their help, and 104 boxes were filled by the congregation. This has been a very successful appeal and by filling a shoebox with simple gifts you can bring joy and laughter to someone this Christmas. Thank you for being part of it.



# Money Matters

## Legacies

As Robin has mentioned over the last 2 Sundays and also noted in the recent Newsletter, we are in Stewardship Season and this season we are looking at Finance and the level of giving from our members.

Our Gift Day was the start of this Campaign and to date we have raised in excess of £2500 with more to come, and I'd like to thank all who have contributed.

We have also promoted in previous Newsletters the various options which are available to our members to give regularly to the Church -

- Open Plate
- Standing Order
- Free Will Offering
- Gift Aid where, if you are a tax payer we can claim back approx .25p in every pound you donate (no strings attached)

One area which we have not addressed is one which is very delicate and one which we don't like to think about, and that is Legacies.

What is a Legacy?

In simple terms it's an amount of money or property left to someone in a will after death.

Legacies are also a lifeline for Churches.

Each year around several thousand people leave a gift in their wills to various Churches to finance;

- mission projects
- maintain beautiful church buildings
- growth of faithful communities.

Legacies make a difference.

For example, between our previous Congregations and now combined in Bennochty we have received well over £70,000 with varying amounts;

£100, £500, £1000, £13000, £32,000

These funds were put to good use where it was used for the following;

Stained Glass Window, Risograph, Curtains, water heater, pew Bibles, Lectern Bible, Flower vases, Pulpit Fall, tables, Sunday School prizes, Organ fund, various fabric improvements, Garden bench – the list goes on ...

For many people, leaving a gift in their will is a final opportunity to make a lasting gift to God. It is also a way to make that lasting difference to the future of their church and community.

Legacies are a natural part of thanking God for his gifts within our lifetime. We are stewards of everything we own, not just our income. Many of us give regularly to the church each week or month.

Delicate subject I know, and one which no-one likes to think about, but we do in our Home life as we plan our departure in a way where our loved ones left behind are provided for.

Why not consider a gift for God's work here in the Church, as over the years it has been part of our lives and God has provided for us over these years.

It can be as little or as much but, as demonstrated earlier, **it will make a difference.**

If it is something you would like to learn more of or talk privately I would be happy to help. Please let me know.

I'd like to finish with a different kind of Legacy, which is a saying that one of our members left behind - it's from Ian Maxwell and was in his Funeral order of service, which made me smile and think.

It was his favourite saying; "Don't talk about it – just do it"

We do tend to talk or mull over things before we eventually get round to doing them. I would ask that you all give prayerful consideration to this delicate subject and making the difference to God's work here in Bennoch.

Thank you in anticipation.

***George Drummond***  
***Session Clerk / Finance Convener***

## Gift Day

Our recent Gift day raised £2618.10. Thanks to all who contributed towards this successful day.

Our Christian giving is a sign and a measure of our Christian faith and commitment to God's work here at Bennochty so again, many thanks.

Our members also contributed generously to the following recent collections

Harvest Collection for Jenny Featherstone	£452.12
October Communion for Jenny Featherstone	£315.98
Poppy Scotland on Remembrance Sunday	£324.04

And last, but not least, the amount raised to date at our Christmas Teas on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November is £1,124.96.

A big thank you to all who helped in any way to make this a successful event – by baking and contributing to the stalls, helping set up and serving, and just by buying tea tickets, raffle and tombola, and coming along on the day.

### *The Finance Team.*

**Free Will Offering Envelopes** - Along with this Newsletter you should receive, where appropriate, FWO envelopes for the coming year. If you no longer require these for any reason, please inform Ena Thomson, our FWO convener (tel 269630) or tell your elder. If you would like to set up a standing order for your weekly offerings please speak to Audrey Taylor, our Gift Aid Treasurer, or any member of the Finance Team.

## Life and Work magazines

As from January 2016, orders and distribution of the magazines will be under the charge of Moira Meek, who is taking over from Margaret Simpson. Thanks to Moira for taking on this task, and thanks also to Margaret, who has taken care of the ordering and distribution of the magazines since the start of Bennochty.



**Bennochy Church Community Hall Elgin Street Kirkcaldy**  
**[opendoor@bennochyparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:opendoor@bennochyparishchurch.org.uk)**

Your community café is open every Thursday from 11.00am - 2.00pm. From 11.00am, we serve refreshments and home-made cakes; this is generally a peaceful hour when people like to catch up with friends over coffee. From 12.00pm, 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</b>
<b>cakes</b>	<b>50p - £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	£1.90
- 'combo' - soup, ½ round sandwiches & crisps	£2.40
- baked potatoes with choice of 2 fillings	£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.

## **Deaths**

09.10.15	Mrs Margaret Williams, Abbeyfield House, Kirkcaldy
11.10.15	John Wooton, Marchmont Home, Kirkcaldy
15.10.15	Ian Maxwell, 1 Lina Street, Kirkcaldy
23.11.15	Lillian Haig, Marchmont Home, Kirkcaldy
26.11.15	William Whyte, Barogil Home, Cluny



Have you heard about  
**RHYTHM OF FIFE**  
the new, inclusive, informal and inspiring  
**COMMUNITY CHOIR**  
in **BENNOCHY CHURCH, Elgin St**  
**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 07980 367632 for more info



## **Quilting Group**

*Have you ever thought of joining a craft class?*

A new Quilting Group has just started up at Bennochty Church most Monday nights 6.15 - 7.45 p.m. We are a small group of industrious ladies but no previous experience is required. Lots of help, laughs and girl talk. Sew...so.... if you'd like more information phone 07980 367632. You'll be made most welcome. Cost - 50p, including tea and biscuit.



## KART CORNER WINTER 2015

the Joseph Rank trust



Registered Charity No. SC037866

### Football

Chris leads football groups at 4 of our local Primary Schools. The groups at the North P.S., Fair Isle P.S., Dysart P.S. and Pathhead P.S. are all flourishing and numbers are good. Please pray that these groups will continue to grow and that all those involved take part in other activities such as camps and SU primary events.

- Pray for all the school assemblies led by Chris and local chaplains in the lead up to Christmas.
- Pray for new members to join the KART management team.

### SU Groups

**Supaseekers** is held after school on Wednesdays at Kinghorn P.S. **Ignite** at Viewforth H.S. restarted after the October holidays and takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes.

A new group is starting in November on Tuesday lunchtimes at Fair Isle P.S.

Please pray for all the children who attend these groups and the volunteers who run them. Pray that God will bless and be at work in the lives of all those involved.

### BOUNCE

Bounce is for P4-P7 children and takes place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November from 1.30pm-4.00pm at St Columba's Church Hall, Glenrothes.

There will be games, inflatable fun, interactive games and snacks.

The event is run by SU Scotland and parents of any children who wish to attend should contact Chris as soon as possible.

### If you shop online you could help

Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust raise funds with your online purchases.

Just visit [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and support Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust.

### Pray For Schools Scotland



The vision of *Pray for Schools Scotland* is to mobilise Christians to support their school communities through prayer.

Please join other KART supporters at Whytescauseway Baptist Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of November to pray for our local schools and young people. Meet 10.30am for an 11am start.

### Costa 3:16

Costa 3:16 is a group for local young people who are in S5, S6 or higher education. The group meet every Wednesday evening from 7 - 8.30pm at the Costa in Next at the retail park. The group are currently working their way through Judges. A few new members have recently joined the group which is very encouraging. ☺

If you would like to contact Chris:  
Email - [chris.beattie@kart.me.uk](mailto:chris.beattie@kart.me.uk)  
Telephone - 07746373860

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



### NEWS

We had a surprise visit from our elder Mr Charlie Low on Sunday 8 November. We all hope he enjoyed his time with us and are looking forward to his next visit.

### CHRISTMAS

We are well on with our preparations for Christmas. This year our participation in the Christmas service is on 13 December. Do come along and support the children, they put a lot of effort into their performances.

We shall be having our usual Christmas activities after our performance and a very special visitor will we hope make an appearance.

### REECE, REBECCA AND BRODIE

We have three birthdays to report Rebecca celebrated her 10th birthday in November. Reece will be 5 and Brodie will become a teenager in December.

### MORGAN

Rehearsals are well underway for the pantomime at the Adam Smith Theatre. Morgan is looking forward to her performances.

### WILLIAM

Now that William is back with us he will once again be giving us his inspirational verse. This is what he selected for this Christmas time.

### LUKE 1 31-33

"You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord will make Him a king, as his ancestor David was, and He will be the king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; His kingdom will never end!"

### HOLIDAYS

We will be on holiday from Sunday 20 December 2015 starting again on Sunday 10 January 2016. Any new children would be made most welcome.

We would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

## Advent services

December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Family 'gift' service
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Contributions by our Sunday School
December 20 <sup>th</sup>	Lessons and carols led by our choir
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Watch night service @ 11.15 pm for 11.30 pm
December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Joint service @ Bennochry



- The Service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December is our **Gift Service** to support the work of the Salvation Army in Kirkcaldy. Please bring a gift or a toy for a child, preferably for a baby or a child over 9 years old. All gifts must be new and unwrapped and will be distributed locally by the Salvation Army to the needy in the district. No clothes please.

## Messy Church

Messy Christmas @ Bennochry Church will be held on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30-5.30 pm. Come and join us and get messy with glitter and paint, as we make Christmas themed crafts, a large stable and share a Christmas meal. Everyone welcome, although children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information contact Louisa Turner, Development Worker - 01383 729526



## Bruce Davies CD

One of our member's, Bruce Davies who is a Professional Singer & Song Writer has released a new C.D. It's his first to exclusively feature songs of the Christian faith & forgiveness and are available from Bruce or via his website - [www.brucedavies.com](http://www.brucedavies.com). **Price £10**

