

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

October 2016



We hope all our readers have had a happy summer break and are now bursting with renewed energy. This could be a good time for you to try something new - check out the rising choice of activities available in our Church halls.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

October 2016

'From the 'Manse',

The good news is that there are a lot of things happening at Bennoch Church. The challenge for us is to now maintain this ministry into the future. The bottom line is that we need new volunteers, for the Olive branch cafe, Messy church and for a new initiative with Dunnikier primary. It would be great if you felt a sense of call to help

Our **cafe** runs every Thursday from 11 - 2 pm and needs people to join the Open Door team, who have responsibility for running the café. We need volunteers to help 'man' the cafe itself and if you have some experience of working in a kitchen - all the better, since we are looking for a new kitchen manager. This is a paid position.

At the moment **Messy Church** runs every 6 weeks on a Sunday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30pm. It is an informal church for families where we have fun, eat together and get Messy! If we can get more volunteers, then it is our hope to run Messy Church every month. We have families who come to Messy Church who do not attend on a Sunday morning.

We have been working on the idea of a **community garden** and one possibility is to work in partnership with Dunnikier primary. If we can get volunteers to help with their garden area, on Wednesday afternoons, then we will set up small "eco projects" in our garden, where the children, will come to the church and get involved, hopefully with volunteers from the church. One example might be planting some fruit trees to create a small orchard.

All of these ideas are great opportunities for community engagement and partnership working, but we need new volunteers. Yes, I will say it. **"Your church needs you!"**. So, if you feel you might be able to help with any of these projects, please get in touch with me or our Session Clerk, George Drummond. The more people we have involved, the wider we can spread the load and develop the ministry of Bennoch church in our local community.

With all God's blessing,

Robin

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is on Sunday 9th October and will be led by Mrs Nancy Gilmartin. Donations of non perishable food will be collected for the work of the Salvation Army and an offering will be taken for the work of Jenny Featherstone. This donation will be sent on to Jenny to help with the excellent work she does out in Zambia. Please remember her in your prayers and be as generous as you can in your giving. Thank you.



Mission partner: Jenny Featherstone, Zambia.

Chodart College is awaiting a container arriving from Ireland, to be used as a class room for a course in catering skills for students of this academic year 2016-17. Ten students minimum are required under government regulations for exam procedures.

Monies given for students have been kept in the euro account, due to the uncertainty of the kwacha currency. However, recently the kwacha has been picking up so, after directing funding to certain students, remaining monies will be moved to the kwacha account.

Jenny intends to keep a certain amount back as they will have 3 courses where potential students will need sponsoring in 2017 and the other Trade College has its 'free' courses paid for by the Government up until 2019. She has to spread the butter thinly! We, in Bennochty Church, will be getting shortly a profile of a sponsored student.

The recent elections have been a little tense and, technically speaking, are not over yet as the result has been contested by the main rival party.

Chodart College is in the region of this rival party.

The Government has been ready to crack down on rioters.

Jenny sends good wishes - "remember me to all".

***Margaret Simpson,
Correspondent.***

Christian Aid



Angela Stewart, Christine Low and myself have decided to step down from the role of organisers of the door to door collection for Christian Aid, with immediate effect.

We take this opportunity to express our most sincere gratitude for and appreciation of the support given by our members, both past and present, whether through involvement in delivering and collecting envelopes or assisting in the counting of the collection.

Fund raising for Christian Aid will still be a feature in future at Bennochry Church.

Charlie Low

The Guild

Five of us attended the annual Guild conference on Saturday 3rd September in the Caird Hall, Dundee. The speakers were Dr Russell Barr, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who spoke on Personal Reflections, and Sally Magnusson who founded Playlist for Life after being impressed by the effect of personally meaningful music on her late mother's dementia. We were entertained by the Heart & Soul Swing Band and we all had a very uplifting and enjoyable day.

The total for the Project Partnership Scheme up to 27th July 2016 is as follows.

Ascension Trust, Street Pastors	£ 55,531.03
Care for the Family, Lets stick Together	39,788.49
Christian Aid, Caring for mother earth in Bolivia	29,109.94
Feed the Minds, Breaking the Cycle of FGM	55,151.87
Mission International, Haiti Project	31,267.40
Prospects, All Friends Together	<u>30,650.37</u>
Total raised nationally	<u>£241,499.10</u>

Property Report

The Fabric Team have been busy over the summer months, and the following is a summary of their recent report, itemising much of the work carried out over the past few months –

- Under pinning of the kitchen and ladies toilet
- Gas safety check of kitchen cooker
- Methven Hall - floor sanded and varnished
front doors painted
- Prayer Room painted
- Gents toilet - dampness sealed, painted, vent fitted
- Exterior notice board refurbished and painted
- Fluorescent tubes replaced in corridor and kitchen

A report was received from DM Hall for the survey of the Church, Hall and Manse, with recommendations for action. A roof light is leaking in the Elgin Hall. It was recommended that the roof be checked for damage and repaired as necessary.

A quote has since been received to fix the missing, damaged slates, paint louvers and fix the gully above the kitchen corridor at a cost of £1,908 inc VAT. The repairs to the roof are essential for the upkeep of the buildings and will be funded, in part at least, from the proceeds of our upcoming Gift Day. Please keep this in mind.

The Fabric Team

I would like to thank Roddy Sellars, and also Lorraine and Brian Fairful for the proprietary work they did on the on the floor of the main hall prior to it being sanded and varnished. I would also thank Brian and Lorraine for the repainting of the Vestibule ceiling and walls.

My thanks also go out to anyone who helped during the shutdown.

Jim Neilson
Property Convener

BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, KIRKCALDY
Meldrum Road/Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR
Tel: 01592 201723
Charity Registration Number SC 005628
(Registered Scottish Charity)

TO ALL MEMBERS
BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH
KIRKCALDY
October 2016

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 23 October 2016

As has been stated in previous years an important part of the Church's income is generated by our now traditional Gift Days. The Congregational Board has agreed that these days continue due to their importance and ask that you remember your Church Family as you would your own at Christmas and Birthdays.

Our next Gift Day this year will be held on Sunday 23rd October. A special envelope will be delivered to you by your District Elder before this date. These envelopes are printed with a Gift Aid Declaration on the back and so if you are a tax payer and want your donation to be Gift Aided, please make sure you fill in your details, even if you have already signed a Gift Aid Declaration Form. If you are unable to come on this Sunday but still wish to contribute to the Gift Day Appeal, please put your donation in the special envelope and put it 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 we would ask you to consider the value of gift that you would give any of your family members as a guide, or as 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 Bennochty

If you are a taxpayer, please also 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 any donation you make to the Church. 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 Bennochty 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

Diary of Louisa Turner, Bennoch Development Worker....

The summer months went in a flash this year, as I prepared for our Messy Picnic in the Park in August. The sun shone whilst we had fun competing in a mini Olympic style afternoon finished off with a medal ceremony and picnic in Beveridge Park. Activities ranged from jumping hurdles and javelin throwing to a scavenger hunt and a water fight! Fun and high spirits was had by all who came.

Please see the website for Messy Church dates and themes. Every one, of all ages, is welcome to come along for some fun activities and games and stay for some tea too. The team would welcome more volunteers for the days which coincide with holidays.

Late August saw the opening of the Olive Branch café after its summer break and I was back to my regular routine on a Thursday. During the break I was busy networking with organisations relating to the Community Garden. This included the Federation of City Farmers and Community Gardens. The computer was set up during the café and I had an online tutorial on how to plant herbs. After my instruction, I then held an in pronto workshop with café customers illustrating how to make full use of basil. We separated the basil out and had extra plants left over which were donated to the café, and later used in a tasty tomato and basil soup for café customers. We hope to do more hands on gardening workshops at the café in the coming months.

The community garden continues to be a focus of my work. We hope to begin our working in partnership with Dunnikier School in the very near future. As always we welcome volunteers. If you have an hour to spare on a Wednesday afternoon or a Thursday morning do come along to work with the children in our community. We hope to have a rota of volunteers for those who cannot commit to every week. Please speak to me for more information.

Next on the agenda was planning the Fun & Find Out Day, which took place on 24th September in the church hall and gardens, and which the church community worked together to deliver.

There was an opportunity to sample some hot dogs, rejoice in the Community Choir singing, enjoy a blether over a cup of tea and view a screening in the 'cinema'.

Inside the Methven Hall, we had community and church groups represented.

The Women's Group and the Guild got together to share their skills of home baking and the Boys Brigade were enthusiastically displaying some of their activities which they get up to on a weekly basis. At the Messy Church table there was an opportunity to get messy with icing sugar. 'Jack the Jester' - children's entertainer - did some amazing tricks and taught some circus skills too.

Outside in the garden, traditional games were set up, along with some welly planting. A quiet walk of reflection was available in the labyrinth. All those who came reported that they found the community stalls interesting and learnt about the existence of some new groups in the community.

My 10.5 hours of work is easily spent, as I engage in working to create Bennochry Church as a Community Hub. This week's diary consists of networking meetings within the community to encourage partnership working, attending North Primary School assemblies and preparing for our next Messy Church, when Abbotshall Church members join our Messy Church family.

You can find me at the Olive Branch café on a Thursday. I love to chat - come along and say hi! We will be welcoming Christians Against Poverty (CAP) to the café, who will be hosting an information stall and Job Centre Plus in the next few months. If there are any organisations whom you would like to see represented, please let me know.

Congratulations to Mrs Mary Killorans of Elizabeth House - 100 years old on 24th September. A party was held on 22nd September at the Care Home, which was attended by 2 members of our Pastoral Care Team.



Deaths

22.05.16	Mrs Grace Carpenter, Ostlers House, 9 Wellington Crescent
16.06.16	Mrs Margaret Anderson, 10 Almond Place
23.06.16	Mrs Bess Christie, Marchmont Home, 24 Bennochry Road
28.06.16	Mrs Christine Morrison, 14 Arran Crescent
08.08.16	Mrs Agnes Earlie, Bennochry Lodge Nursing Home
30.08.16	Mrs May Paterson, 93 Oswald Road



Does God Exist?

One day a university professor, challenging his students, asked the question: “Did God create everything that exists?”

A student, taking a chance, answered: “Yes, He did.”

“Everything?” asked the professor.

“Yes, everything”

“Then God also created evil, because evil exists” replied the professor.

There was no answer. The professor, satisfied, continued: “Therefore, faith in God is only faith in a myth.”

But another student put up his hand and asked “May I ask a question, professor?”

“Yes” replied the professor.

“Does cold exist?”



“Of course.” answered the professor. “Did you never feel cold?”

“Actually, sir, cold does not exist.” the student responded. “Cold is the total and complete absence of heat. Cold is the term we created to explain the absence of heat. Without heat, objects are inert and do not exist”

“And darkness?” continued the student. “Is there darkness?”



“Yes” replied the professor.

“No” the student replied. “Darkness is the term we use to explain the total absence of light. You can study light and brightness, but not darkness. Technically, darkness does not exist”

“And evil, sir? Does evil exist?”

No reply.

“God did not create evil. Evil is the absence of God in people’s hearts. It is the absence of love, virtue, and faith in goodness.”

Now it was the professor’s turn to remain silent.

The student’s name was Albert Einstein.

The Get Together

During the break from the church hall in July the Get Together met up for a couple of bar lunches. We also met in two members' houses for a good blether, which kept us all in contact with each other.

We meet on a Thursday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. in the Elgin Hall and we are always looking for new members. If you have a spare couple of hours you would be most welcome.

EMMS 175th Anniversary Bike and Hike - Saturday 17th September

I would like to thank all church members and friends who sponsored me on the recent Bike and Hike. £347.00 was raised, thanks to your very generous support. My route officially started at Thornton Church and covered 48 miles, finishing at Kinghorn Church. On the way I visited Templehall Church and also Abbotshall Church, where there was a photographic exhibition to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of EMMS.

EMMS is a Christian international healthcare charity, based in Edinburgh and working with partners in India, Malawi and Nepal to improve health and healthcare. It also facilitates respite for people in Scotland with serious illnesses. *R Steedman*

Tools with a Mission (TWAM)

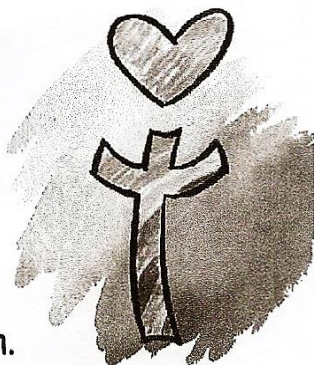
Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity dedicated to collecting, refurbishing and delivering old tools to where they are badly needed.

Additional information on old tools for refurbishment and delivery to the people of various countries of the world - these tools allow them to better their lives. In their last news letter (available to read on request) this Christian organisation has delivered hand/mechanised sowing machines, old gardening tools, joinery tools, etc. etc. These items have gone to Uganda, Zambia, Sierra Leone, to name but a few of the countries, and have enabled individuals to manufacture and repair objects to improve their lives. Again, there are leaflets (available to view in the vestibule) which give an idea of the nature of the appeal.

If anyone is interested in donating any tools, please speak to Jim Marshall (tel. 262085)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY REPORT



The summer holidays are over once again.
On our first Sunday back we discussed the holidays.
This is the result.

Anna was in Florida and enjoyed the sights and activities.

Callum was in Scotland (a good place to be)
caravanning at Faskally.

Reece was in Salou in Spain with his family.

Ruby was not in Sunday School that day. She enjoys
caravanning every weekend during the summer
months.

Mollie went to Portugal and almost melted in the heat but managed to enjoy a trip to the museum.

Rebecca started her first drama roll in Bugsy Malone. She went to Turkey and almost died in the heat. She went to Ryze and landed a backflip.

Morgan enjoyed her 13th Birthday. Performed Oliver and Little House of Horrors at the Adam Smith Theatre and then at the Fringe. Enjoyed a visit to the Time Capsule in Glasgow. Went to Ryze. She also had her hair cut.

Brodie had a 9 hour flight to Florida where it was a very hot 35 degrees. She visited the Disney parks Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Universal Studios, and Blizzard Beach. After 14 days of Disney fun she had an 8 hour flight back home.

Our next Holiday.

There will be no Sunday School during the School holidays October 16 and 23.

Autumn Calendar

Sunday 9 October	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 23 October	Communion Service & Gift Day
Saturday 22 October	Family Quiz Night, 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 30 October	Filled shoeboxes required
Monday 14 November	Trustees' Meeting
Saturday 26 November	Christmas Teas
Saturday 3 December	Open Door Concert



- Trustees Conference – date still to be arranged

Vacancy

Part time Community Café Manager

The Open Door Project, which operates a community café every Thursday based at Bennoch Church Kirkcaldy, has a vacancy for a café manager.

For further information and how to apply please visit the Bennoch Church website or speak to Dianne Waddell, Phil Reeves or George Drummond.

Closing Date: 10th October 2016



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 11.00 am – 2.00 pm for teas, coffees & home baking. Soup and sandwiches served from 12 noon.

Our internet café is also open from 11.00–2.00. If you feel you would like to learn how to send an email, look up something on Google or just watch as one of our volunteers helps you to access what you want to find out, then please come along on a Thursday morning.



Free Wi Fi.