

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

October 2017



As we move forward into autumn, this is a good time to reflect on our situation at Bennochty Church. The Kirk Session is adapting to a new constitution, and is also considering the matter of Stewardship. We achieve a considerable amount at Bennochty, both spiritually and as part of the local community. Look again at all the organisations listed on the back page, and think of all the participants who benefit from this. Much of this is happening only because Bennochty Church is here.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

October 2017

'From the 'Manse',

The middle of September was 'Stewardship' season - I hope you noticed! Each year, every congregation in the Church of Scotland is asked to consider our response to God, by the giving of our time, talents and money. It is easy to confuse this with fundraising, or the complaint, "the church is always asking for money", but Stewardship is totally different. It is not just about money. Money to maintain the work of Bennoch Church is important - we need to maintain our weekly offerings, but so is our response to God, by the giving of our time and talents.

We have just moved to a new constitution, called the 'unitary' constitution. In simple terms, there is no longer a Congregational Board, just a Kirk Session who are now the sole Trustees of the work of the congregation. This does not, however, mean that they alone do all the work! Moving to this new constitution gives us the opportunity to tap into the time and talents of all members of the congregation, and beyond.

We are looking at a new committee structure to support the constitution of the congregation and that is where you come in! We need your Stewardship response. At present we have the following teams: Open Door, Worship, Communications, Pastoral Care, Fabric and Finance. We are thinking that World Church might be a joint team with other congregations who also support the work of Jenny Featherstone in Zambia. We have also identified the following 'gaps' - Stewardship team (that ironic!) and a team of people to support our fundraising and social life.

We hope you will be approached by our team leaders to be part of one of these teams but, if not, and you are willing to get involved, please speak to either myself or our Session Clerk, George Drummond.

There is a lot going on in Bennoch Church, but to maintain our active congregation we do need your support. Part of your Stewardship response to God, of your time, talents, as well as money.

With all God's Blessings

Robin

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Our Harvest service was on Sunday 24th September. The Church was beautifully decorated and our gifts of groceries, etc were later uplifted by the Salvation Army for distribution to the needy in the district.



The service had a 'Zambia' theme and we were able to hear directly from Jenny Featherstone via Skype and learn some interesting facts about Chodart and Zambia in general. Our special collection raised the sum of £745.30, a considerable contribution towards the project detailed below, so many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Mission Partner - Jenny Featherstone, Chodort College, Choma, Zambia

At present, Zambia is a country in recession. Small private colleges are badly affected if not in receipt of government grants, as is the case with Chodort College.

Jenny has been using some of last year's monies to supplement vulnerable students paying their course fees. This academic year she is working on "a variety of projects for income generation to try and get to a place where they can support students themselves". The best way is through Housing as income from rent from incomers to Choma. However, given the economic downturn, the college carpentry business is "losing money hand over fist" despite having laid off 3 workers.

At the Special Collection on Harvest Sunday, our monies raised will be joined with funds from other churches supporting Jenny: Abbotshall, Burntisland, Auchterderran/Kinglassie - all towards a big project in the housing sector, namely a small kitchen in one of the semi-detached bungalows. Costing , 3 years ago @ £1000.00, in today's terms @ £2000.00. (Roofing - twice that amount)

Failing which, a contingency fund makes sense; an ageing industrial planer needs to be replaced; also a 3 ton truck, with some urgency. The truck can be sold and a second hand one bought from Japan - cheap enough but has to include shipping fees and Zambian border duty, which is prohibitive.

All in all, trying times. Some day, when all houses are built (now at no. 6) total of 9-10, the College hopefully can look to become self-sufficient.

We keep our mission and their future in our prayers.

Margaret Simpson.

Goods for Refugees:

The monthly collection days have now resumed at the Mormon Church in Winifred Crescent. The following notice was received from volunteer Sylvia Brown. Next collection date – 28th October.



Monthly donations days are re-commencing on the last Saturday of the month at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Winifred Crescent, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5SX from 10 am to 2 pm.

Re-Act Refugee Action Scotland are focusing on collecting desperately needed items for the Greek Island of Samos. In a camp to accommodate 780 people, more than that number alone arrived in the first week of September. Last month 1227 arrived. Needs are overwhelming, and very few can leave. Those who make it that far, are often literally fished out of the water, wet and cold. There is a pressing need for “new arrival kits” of dry clothing to be distributed by volunteers. Some items are stocked, but the following specific needs are urgent.

For both men and women: Underwear and warm socks – please only new underwear and socks if possible. Preferably boxers for men; T shirts; joggers and sweatpants; long-sleeve T shirts; men’s jumpers;

For children age 1 to 13, joggers & leggings (not jeans); Age 4 to 13, T shirts and jumpers. Disposable nappies, sanitary pads for women.





Other Samos needs are for their language classes for adults and children: laptops/tablets; A5 ruled notebooks; whiteboard markers and erasers; glue sticks; scissors; pens.

For recreational purposes: novels in French, German, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Pashto and Kurdish; small paint-brushes; acrylic paints, canvas that can be rolled up; plain canvas bags and T shirts to decorate; fabrics to make clothing; children’s swimming aids such as armbands, goggles, floats; guitars, picks, strings.

It is becoming difficult to source supplies on the island. Monetary donations can be made on the day towards buying items here, to be taken to the camp, or online at <https://samovolunteers.org/>. Every suitable donation goes direct to the refugees. No person at Re-Act receives any remuneration for their efforts.

Sylvia Brown
Volunteer

Quiz

	<p>How much does it cost to heat and light our church annually?</p> <p>a) £5,631 b) £4,334 c) £7,041</p>
	<p>What does it cost us to maintain the WHOLE work of our church per month?</p> <p>a) £8,740 b) £12,330 c) £10,870</p>
	<p>How much does it cost to provide music in the church per month?</p> <p>a) £491 b) £284 c) £593</p>
<p>Gift Aid Declaration</p> 	<p>If a tax payer gives £300 per year to the church and signs a Gift Aid Declaration, how much is their offering worth?</p> <p>a) £300 b) £375 c) £325</p> <p>How much did we reclaim last year through Gift Aid</p> <p>a) £7,439 b) £9,588 c) £11,321</p>

Tie-breaker: How much does it cost annually to advertise our church services in the local weekly newspaper £.....

The above quiz was given out at the service on Sunday 10th September as part of our Stewardship Season. Answers on page 7.

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 2017

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 22nd October 2017

Our next Gift Day, which will coincide with the October Communion Service, is on October 22nd 2017. A special envelope will be delivered to you along with the latest Newsletter 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. In the line marked 'Name of Charity' please remember to mark this as Bennochty Parish Church so that we can claim back the tax on your donation.

An important part of our income is generated by our two Gift Days each year. The rationale is that as a family we gift twice yearly, Christmas and Birthdays so we consider that our Church family is the same. The total amount raised at the March Gift Day this year was just over £2,480. A tremendous amount.

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.

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 are available at any time from Diane White or Margaret Kinnear, or ask any Sunday Welcome Team member who will assist.

The Finance Team wish to thank you once again for your continued support for God's work here at Bennochty and in the wider community and pray that you continue to have a Church home where your life is enriched by worship and Christian fellowship.

Bennochty Women's Group

We began our 2017/18 session on 29th August with a walk in Ravenscraig Park and enjoyed supper at the Strathearn Hotel. On 12th September we visited Crosbie Matthew, Funeral Directors. 700 years of the Links Market was the topic of our guest speaker on 26th September and our members' pamper night/silent auction will be on 10th October.

The Group's main fundraising evening, our Family Quiz Night, is on Saturday 21st October at 6.30 p.m. Tickets will be adults £5 and children £2. This is a fun night for all the family, with refreshments and prizes.



We hope to visit the King's Theatre on 7th November and are going to the Adam Smith Theatre to see the KAOS production of Top Hat on 14th November. The Christmas Afternoon Teas event will be on Saturday 25th November from 2pm until 4 pm. Tickets will be available from members of the Group. Our members' craft night is on 5th December and we look forward to our Christmas dinner on 19th December.

We meet usually every fortnight at 7.30 p.m. in the Elgin Room. At the beginning of this session we had new members joining. Our membership is at present 22 ladies.

Ladies, want to find out more? Please speak to any Group member or phone Irene Wood, tel. Kdy 267995.

Bennochty Church Carpet Bowlers

An update since Roddy Sellar's illness: Roddy was organising an annual match with Leven Church Men's Association when he took ill and it was cancelled. We miss Roddy and Celia in our afternoon carpet bowls at the Gunner Club between 2-4pm on a Monday. The men start promptly but the ladies like to catch up on the news.

Our numbers have been down over the summer (such as it was) due to holidays and other commitments but we have a regular group of bowlers and we hope our numbers increase once the outdoor bowling season is finished. If you would like to know more about the group, Ken Campbell, Alex Stevenson, Ian McGrow, Bill Slater, Sybil McGrow, Isobel Leitch, Irene Wood or Helen Wishart are the ones to ask.

Community Bunting

There is still time to add your flag to the community bunting. But hurry - the project will end mid October and then the bunting will be displayed in the Methven Hall.

ANYONE connected with Bennoch Church in any way can take part. Individual creations, a flag representing a group, a flag made in memory of someone, or with grandchildren's initials sewn on. People have been very imaginative so far.

Just collect a template from the church office or at the Olive Branch Café on Thursdays and return your flag with £5 to be included in the bunting. Monies raised will help to replace the sanctuary lighting in the future.

Participants' names will be recorded for posterity along with some photographs of the bunting being created at the Quilters' group.

It is hoped that the wider community might enjoy the end product when it is strung outdoors in summer indicating that a happy event is taking place in the church. Also the bunting will be available for hire to the community for indoor use., weddings etc.

Contact Dianne 07980 367632 for more info





Deaths

01.06.17	Mrs June Robb, 8 Cairngorm Crescent. KY2 5RF
08.06.17	Mrs Ruby Campbell, 17 Turnberry Drive, KY2 6ST
23.06.17	William Thomson, 69 Craigmount, KY2 6NZ
20.07.17	Scott Gibson, 18 Kilspindie Crescent, KY2 6TB
09.09.17	Mrs Mary Sellars, Marchmont Home, KY2 5QY

Quiz Answers: a), b*), a°), b), c), £760

*salaries, heat/light, upkeep & repairs. °organ maintenance/licence fees, etc

Autumn Calendar

October 21	Family Quiz Night	
October 22	Communion Service & Gift Day	
October 29	Songs of Praise service & baptism Shoeboxes to Church	
November 12	Messy Church	
25	Christmas Teas	
December 10	Messy Church	

Jigsaw Swap Group

Bill Souter will soon be co-ordinating a Jigsaw Swap group from the Olive Branch Café. The idea is that people can donate a jigsaw, (any amount of pieces welcome and for any age group) and swap it with another jigsaw. The time limit of how long you take to do the jigsaw can be negotiated. There will be an annual charge of £2 and the monies raised will go towards purchasing new jigsaws.

If you have some jigsaws taking up cupboard space or gathering dust on a shelf, the group would be happy to have them.



If you are unable to attend the Olive Branch Café on a Thursday, but would like to join this group or would like more information, please speak direct to either Bill Souter or Louisa Turner, Development Worker.



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 1100 am – 2.00 pm for teas, coffees & home baking. Lunches served from 12 noon.

Our internet café is also open from 11.00–2.00.



Free Wi Fi.

- Next Newsletter: End of November 2017