

Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland

# Newsletter

March 2018



We wish all our readers a very happy Easter and we hope this celebration of the resurrection of Jesus will bring you new aspirations and hope

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

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

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

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

The Christian year has entered Lent. In the Church of Scotland we are not 'big' on Lent, so I thought I would do a bit of research, and first of all discovered that today, as I write this short article, is Shrove or Pancake Tuesday. So what is that all about?

Shrove Tuesday is the day that precedes Ash Wednesday and always falls 47 days before Easter. The name Shrove Tuesday comes from the word 'shrive', meaning absolution for sins by doing penance. In other words, Christians would go to confession, where they admit their sins to a priest, and ask for forgiveness. A bell was rung to call them to confession, and this was called the 'pancake bell'.

Pancake Day itself came much later, as a way of using up rich foods, like eggs, milk and sugar before Lent. So if you made pancakes today, I hope your "tossing" went well!

Ash Wednesday is actually the first day of Lent and is traditionally a day of fasting. It occurs 46 days before Easter, that is 40 fasting days, because the Sundays don't count. It derives its name from the practice of blessing ashes made from palm branches, blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and placing them on the heads of participants, to the accompaniment of the words like "Repent, and believe in the Gospel"

Lent itself, mirrors Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert, where he was tempted, and traditionally people have given up things for Lent. I am not sure that still happens? Let me know if you still give up something for Lent.

So let us not forget what Lent means as we look to Easter. The journey of the desert and its temptations, before the journey to the cross and resurrection.

With all God's blessing,

***Robin***



## **Zambia and Drought**

Margaret Simpson continues to correspond with Jenny Featherstone, our Mission partner in Zambia. The following email is in reply to one from Margaret enquiring about the drought situation in South Africa, and how Zambia is affected.

Hi Margaret,

Yes, Cape town is dire - they are down to 20 liters per person per day - that is for everything! We however have many great rivers and lakes in Zambia (Mweru / Tanzania / Kariba, Kafue & Zambezi) so we are not so badly off - even though for 5 months of the year we do not see a drop of rain.

We had a bad drought for 3 - 4 years till 2016 rains but that was more about crop failures than restrictions. Our biggest worry this year has been a serious cholera outbreak which has killed 70+ (diagnosed) people mostly in the Lusaka area. This has shut down all schools for the first 2 weeks of term and caused inspections in all schools and projects like play4all.

We started a few weeks late too, and things here just seem to get busier and busier, but hopefully will calm down in a month or two.


Thanks for your continued concern and prayers, I believe they really do make a difference, and the Lord has been very gracious, particularly in funding students at the training centre,

Remember me to all please,

Every good wish,

**Jenny**

## **Deaths**

- |          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| 05.12.17 | Leslie Manson, 10 King Street, KY2 5JR                               |  |
| 05.12.17 | Mrs Margaret Smith, Marchmont Home, 24 Bennoch Road<br>KY2 5QY       |  |
| 03.01.18 | Mrs Chrissie Caldwell, Abbeyfield House, 55 Meldrum<br>Road, KY2 5HY |  |
| 07.01.18 | James Doig, 29 Randolph Crescent, Dysart, KY1 2YN                    |  |

## **Bennochty Parish Church Window Replacement and Methven Hall Refurbishment**

- All pocketed stained glass windows in Sanctuary have been secondary glazed.
- Large stained glass windows in the Sanctuary have been secondary glazed.
- The non-stained large window has had the structural work completed and new double glazed units fitted.
- Front vestibule of Sanctuary - the 2 windows have been replaced with double glazed units.
- Both the Prayer Room and Office have had their windows replaced with new double glazed units.
- The Methven Hall refurbishment should start week commencing 26<sup>th</sup> February.

*(Update as at 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018)*

## **Fabric Improvement Fund**

The Finance Team are delighted to report that the Fabric Improvement fund, which was set up to meet the difference between the cost of the windows and lighting replacement work and the Grant awarded by Fife Environmental Trust, has already reached £7, 695.

A number of members have given donations of various amounts, some giving a one off donation, others giving on a monthly basis, either in the 'Fabric Improvement' special envelopes, which are available at the Church Door, or by Standing Order using the forms for the special bank account which was set up. These forms are also available at the Church door, or please use the following details if you wish to set up a Standing Order.

Bank of Scotland    Sort Code 80-16-84    Account No 10394168

This is an amazing start to meet the difference required to get this work in the church completed soon and make us a much more environmentally friendly church.

## **Developments in the Community**

I was delighted to be informed that the post of Development Worker has been part funded by the Church of Scotland 'Go For It' Fund and Bennochry Parish Church for the next 3 years, with the hours extended to 15 hours per week.

For the past two years in post, I have been building networks and laying foundations for the work ahead.

This year – 2018, amongst other things, I will be focussing on the Year of the Young People. We will be encouraging Bennochry Church young people and the wider community of young people, to take more responsibility. We will be giving them opportunities to broaden their horizons and will be celebrating their achievements.

Bennochry Church involvement with young people will be expanding as we engage with different organisations over the coming year.

The church is now actively linked with Balwearie High School, Dunnikier Primary and Kirkcaldy North Primary. The church is also developing links with Elmwood College.

The Bennochry Community Garden Project has enabled the church to welcome conversations and involvement within the garden, with Balwearie and Dunnikier schools along with Elmwood College.

Activity will soon begin in the garden as we enter into the milder weather. Following a community garden meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, plans are now being set in motion to spend money from our generous funder – The Murray J. Napier Fund.

Changes will be seen around the garden as our various partners help to transform the church garden. Signage will soon be in place promoting the garden as a community garden, welcoming the community in.

Bennochry Community Garden team are holding a competition. The competition is to design A4 picture, using any medium which reflects part of Kirkcaldy's heritage and God's creation. The competition is open to all ages in the community. The winning design will be enlarged and displayed for everyone to see, in the form of a mural, on the side of the kitchen wall. Should the judges feel it is too difficult to choose one particular design then elements from the short list of winners will be chosen. The closing date for designs is Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018. A decision for the final design will be

made in early April. Your design should be forwarded to myself, with your name and contact details on the reverse. A Community Artist will then work with young people from the community, using spray paint, to illustrate the winning design.

One of our Bennoch Community Garden partners is Greener Kirkcaldy. If you are ever in Kirkcaldy High Street, pop along to their shop for lots of hints and tips, not just about gardening but how to live a more eco-friendly way.

Bennoch Church's links with Kirkcaldy North continue to expand. Some members of the congregation have been faithful in their weekly support of the intergenerational Board Game Club. This club has proved successful as the number of children attending has grown to 30, with more on the waiting list! If you like to play board games and would like to join us on a Thursday afternoon 3 - 4pm, please contact myself in the first instance.

Children from Kirkcaldy North have been attending the Get Together Group and plans are in place to continue this link once a month, on a Thursday afternoon, from 2 - 3pm. You are welcome to come along and join in the fun when the children come. Mixing with the younger generation certainly brings smiles to everyone at the Get Together Group. Please speak with either myself or Helen Lundie for more information.

Kirkcaldy North would like to invite you along to the school on a Friday morning from 11 - 11.45am, to join them in their intergenerational Community Choir. This is a new initiative which the school are hosting and is open to anyone in the community who likes a sing song – you don't need to be good singer!

In April, there will be another opportunity to join the children of Kirkcaldy North as we embark on another intergenerational project which will be linked with the libraries. More information to follow.

Messy Church is back for this year, with various sessions based around Biblical journeys, planned on a Sunday afternoon with a new time of 2-4pm.

The Messy Church team have been invited into Kirkcaldy North to deliver Messy@School with the first session taking place later on in March. If you would like to be part of this team, please let me know.

Following last year's success (minus the rain), 'Messy Sunday' is back on the calendar for Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. This year we hope to encourage

the young people in the planning of the day in conjunction with the Year of Young People. Please put the date in your diary and celebrate this church/community event which is open to all.

And finally...the popular Jigsaw Swap group will be resuming in the near future when the Olive Branch café opens its doors again. There have been lots of almost new jigsaws donated of late. Thank you to everyone for their donations and for supporting this new venture.

***Louisa Turner, Bennochty Parish Church Development Worker***

## **Olive Branch Café**



Our popular Olive Branch Cafe has been unable to open recently, while renovations to the halls are carried out. We anticipate that these works will be complete by the end of February and hope to start the Cafe back up again in early March - please look out for further notices. We look forward to welcoming our customers back very soon.

## **Bennochty Community Choir**

The choir gave their first performance to the general public at the Fife Festival of Music. Taking part in one of the two non-competitive evenings of community music making, they sang five songs. The choir was the biggest of the 7 choirs taking part with around 60 members and it was a thoroughly enjoyable and varied evening.

The adjudicator was extremely complimentary at the end, both of the quality of the singing and how much the choir members were obviously enjoying the experience. This reflects the fun the choir has when they meet every Monday evening from 6.30 until about 7.45 p.m. at Bennochty Church. It was also a tribute to the leadership of Ella Wilson and to the choir's hard working pianist Graeme Wilson.

New members are always welcome, especially men. No experience necessary - no auditions! no solo singing!



## The Green & Quirky Upcycling Project

The G & Q aims to save tired, old castoffs from end of life in landfill, transforming them into useful, pleasing items which can be sold via social media. Bennochty Church will benefit from any profits from sales.

The sort of things we shall upcycle are –

- Small pieces of furniture (bedside tables, small bookcase, chest of drawers)
- Fabric, yarn and sewing basket oddments
- Lampshades

and many, many more ideas too numerous to mention.. So,

- \* If Upcycling appeals to you
- \* If you are skilled in woodwork/sewing/electric work/or keen to learn skills
- \* If you can attend fortnightly workshops at church
- \* If you have space in your shed to safely store the project you're working on
- \* If your creative hands are itching at the prospect of a fresh, new venture at Bennochty Church, then speak to Dianne on 07980 367632.



You may think you are not creative. Come along to the next G & Q meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in the church hall, and let us prove you wrong.

Facebook. The Green & Quirky Upcycling Project




## Teabag tips

- \* Smelly fridge? - put a used teabag in a cup and leave it in the fridge for a few days - it will absorb the odours and freshen the fridge.
- \* A dried teabag at the bottom of the rubbish bin will have the same effect.
- \* Cold tea can be used to wipe down surfaces - peppermint is ideal. Dry and buff the area afterwards with a dry cloth.
- \* When you are soaking dishes, add a teabag - this will help to break down grime and grease, making it easier to scrub them afterwards.
- \* A wet teabag can be used to soothe sunburnt skin and for stings and razor burn.





## Spring/Easter Calendar

March 2	World Day of Prayer	
March 18	Communion	
March 25	Palm Sunday celebrations Messy Church, 2-4 p.m.	
March 26	Joint Holy Week Service at Congregational Church (formerly West End Church), 7 p.m.	
March 27	Joint Service at Bennochry Church, 7 p.m.	
March 28	Joint Service at St Bryce Kirk, 7 p.m.	
March 29	Joint Service at Abbotshall Church, 7 p.m.	
March 30	Joint Service at Linktown Church, 7 p.m.	
April 1	‘Christ is risen!’ Easter morning Worship at 11 am, with communion.	
April 3	Bunny Drive	
May 13	Messy Church	
May 13-19	Christian Aid Week	



## 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.**

\*Open for business again very soon. Please check website, press & intimations

- Next Newsletter: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2018