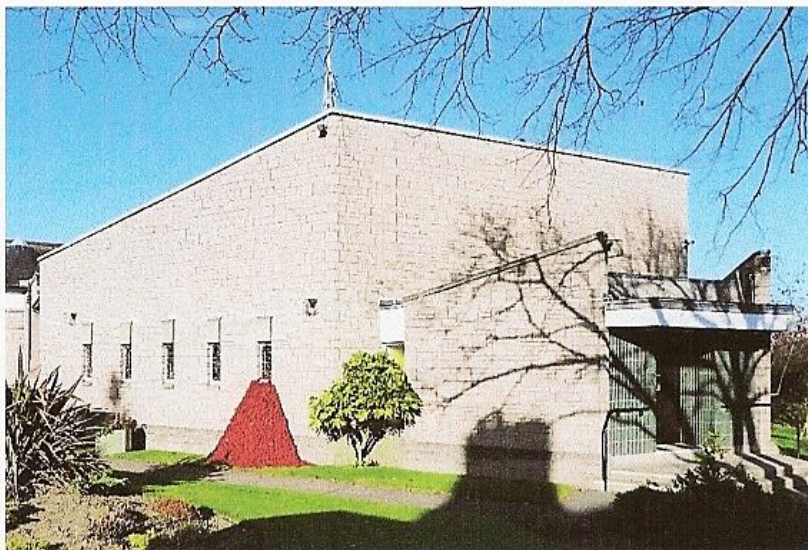


Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

December 2018



We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

The celebration of the birth of Jesus brings hope
and the promise of new opportunities for us all.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

'From the 'Manse',

The guns have fallen silent. Our time of remembrance is over.

The 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 was a great example of what I call *'collective memory'*. What I mean by that is this; our participation was based, not on our own experience; we were not there, but through the experience of another. Most often family members, who fought, many who died, and even if they survived, were scarred by the events that they witnessed.

The collective memory of our nation was witnessed at cenotaphs, memorials and cemeteries the length and breath of Europe and beyond. The memories of family and friends were represented by the people who wore poppies with pride and sadness. People held pictures, and medals, that linked the memories of war, to our time of peace. Memories were recalled in moments of silence. Memories that linked the past to the present.

They said it would never happen again. History has proved that to be a false hope. Yet in our memories are also our hopes, of a new future, where words of peace and reconciliation, replace the violence of war and conflict, still so prevalent in the world today.

Into this world, God came. An incarnation offering hope, compassion and Shalom, for today, for tomorrow and for God's eternity. As we enter Advent, let us we hold onto the promises of God peace, and use the collective memory of the church, to share what Christmas is all about.

"Nothing is ever really lost to us as long as we remember it."
— **Lucy Maud Montgomery, The Story Girl**

With every blessing



Robin

"We will remember them"

Poppies at Bennoch

Last year I was clearing out some of my Mum's furniture and hidden under the lining paper in a set of drawers was a small flat box. On opening it, I discovered that it was my grandfather's WW1 medals. I then spent some time looking further into my family history to look for a Great Uncle that I knew had died in WW1. He was Robert Inglis, born in Banff and he worked on the family farm. I discovered that my Great Uncle and my Grandfather were both enlisted with the Gordon Highlanders in the 6th and 9th Battalions. Sadly, my Great Uncle died at Beaumont Hamel, at the end of the Battle of the Somme, on the 13th November 1916, aged just 20. In May this year I had the privilege to visit my Great Uncle Bob's grave at Mailly Wood Cemetery in France, with Robin and my brother David.

This motivated me to see if we could have something special this year at Bennoch Church to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WW1. After some thought I began to plan our Poppy installation and "Weeping Window" inspired by the original one at the Tower of London in 2014.

Gathering plastic bottles several of us trimmed, painted, heated and drilled 1200 of them to make the poppies themselves. Then George Grant and Barry Winn got together to make a sturdy frame. On 21st October nine of us gathered at the church to put it all together and cable tie each of them to the frame. To finish it off my daughter Fiona painted the 100 for the top of the installation. It has been a privilege to do something this year for the commemoration of the 1918 - 2018 remembrances and I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who gave us bottles, and more especially to those of you who helped with its creation.

Anne McAlpine



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal - Love in a box

During the months of September and October the congregation has been busy filling shoeboxes for people living in poverty. Shoeboxes are being distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. The boxes from the church are going to Romania.

Things we take for granted will seem like luxuries to adults and children in those countries – socks, gloves, hats and scarves, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes are just some of the items that are packed into shoeboxes. Of course sweets and a toy for children are never forgotten about and also pencils and a pencil case. By filling a shoebox with simple things you can bring happiness to someone in need this Christmas. Bennoch Church filled 92 boxes and Dunnikier School filled 58 boxes.



Two excellent results! I am sure everyone will enjoy opening their shoebox as much as we enjoyed filling them. Thank you very much to those who gave a donation as transport is expensive. The boxes are now being checked and then on their way by lorry to Romania.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped with this Appeal in any way and helped make things run smoothly. Thank you all for bringing a smile and happiness to someone in need and for being part of this Appeal.

Church Halls

Regular visitors to Bennoch will be aware that some changes have been made regarding entry to the halls in order to improve security and lighting. Entry is now by the ramp door only and the kitchen door is a fire door/exit only, which should remain closed at all times when not in use (e.g. for access to bins). The corridor lights are operated by a master switch at the entrance and night lights come on when required so you are not ‘left in the dark’.

- As from the end of November our new Hall Convenor will be Lorraine Fairful. Please contact her with any enquiries about hall use.

Deaths

25.09.18 Mrs Johnetta Robertson, Ross Gardens.
14.11.18 Leslie Simpson, Abbots Walk.



Development Worker – Louisa Turner

The role of the development worker is forever evolving, as new opportunities are taken by myself, and network connections are being made.

Recently I attended a Church of Scotland conference on ‘Faith Formation in a Secular Society’. A bit of a mouthful to say, but an insight into how many people today are seeking a sense of identity and belonging. We are all aware of the empty pews, and I’m sure many of us can remember the days when the church was full every week. The speaker at the conference was Andy Root – a well-known American Christian author and lecturer. If you have access to the internet, you can view Andy Root’s thoughts from the conference on the Church of Scotland website - follow the links to the Learn Pages and the conference title. Sit down with a cuppa and contemplate what he has to say on why the pews are less full on a Sunday. If you don’t have access to the internet at home, come along to the Olive Branch Café on a Thursday and you can use earphones in the internet area to have a listen.

I also attended the Scottish Women’s Interfaith Dialogue event recently. The event was for all who had a faith and for those who had none. Many faiths were represented. Following some directed tasks, we sat with a cuppa and cake, discussing commonalities of our faiths. I heard about some faiths for the first time. It was an educational event! Everyone was friendly and open. We were given a presentation on the many oils used in the Bible and had the opportunity to have a sniff of them too. I learnt that the Bible is like a medical encyclopaedia, with tips and advice for many medical conditions which still prevail today. It was confirmed around the audience that many had tried the remedies successfully, which are given in the Bible. I have a copy of the presentation - if anyone would like a copy, please get in touch.

If you are interested in extending your horizons about other faiths, contact me for more information about the Fife Interfaith group. If you are interested in attending conferences/trainings to extend your knowledge, contact me and I will keep you up to date with the many and varied opportunities available.

Part of my role which I really enjoy is the developing of intergenerational links in the community. The links with the schools project aim to promote engagement between the generations through the social interaction with individuals of another generation with whom they would not normally interact. Through participation in joint activities and shared learning, relationships are being built between the children and older adults. It has been a privilege to witness the mutual respect between the generations developing through meeting regularly.

Recently, some members of our community were on the stage with children from Kirkcaldy North Primary School and professional dancers from Ballet Lorent performing Rumpelstiltskin. If you were unable to attend the performances in Adam Smith Theatre, you really missed an excellent production. Following on from October's show, I asked some older members of the cast how they felt about their experience. Their words say it all.

"I enjoyed the experience, and still reflect on it with a big smile, I can't quite express how marvellous the whole experience was. I was quite nervous at first and was adamant that I was only going to the audition to make up the numbers but not take it any further. But the girls' (ballet dancers) encouragement really helped to make me think that perhaps I could do something really out-with my comfort zone." "I thought it was an excellent idea to bring the kids into the project. The children were so good and so well behaved. They were a real credit to Kirkcaldy. Their parents must have been so proud of them."

"It was a wonderful experience, it was exciting, and the ballet company was so inclusive, I thoroughly enjoyed myself. I got to know the other adults taking part - I didn't really know them before; we were like four strangers at the start but ended up as four friends."

"I would join in another project and would definitely recommend to others the benefits of doing an intergenerational project." "You saw the children blossom with the careful attention from the company. The company couldn't do enough for us, and they were all lovely." "The children got to see backstage how the dancers prepared for a show, they saw them limbering up and the children also saw all the lights and things backstage, seeing first-hand how a theatre works. And the children were so good in their roles!"

If you would like to take part in a future intergenerational project (a new one beginning in 2019), please contact myself. Research has shown that an individual participating in an intergenerational project will see benefits to their health and well-being, feel less socially isolated, and participants have a sense of purpose, making the community in which they live, a better place.

With Christmas just around the corner, we have a few dates for your diary, to let you mix with different generations.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, Kirkcaldy North Primary school choir are to sing at the Olive Branch café on 6th December. Buy your special Christmas Meal ticket and support the children.

If you like a party, then contact myself for a ticket to our inaugural Community Christmas Party, which will be held on 12th December from 4pm – 6pm. The tickets are free and we are hoping that each person who comes along will receive a gift from Santa. The party is being funded by Asda's Local Impact Grant and will be held in Bennochty Church halls. There will be traditional games, a visit to Santa's Grotto and lots of nice things to eat. This is an intergenerational event, so everyone is welcome, however children must be accompanied by an adult. The party will be delivered in partnership with the Methodist Church and the Salvation Army. Due to catering and hall capacity, tickets are limited and must be booked in advance.

Messy Church in the Mercat is to be held from 11am – 3pm on Saturday, 1st December.

A Messy Christmas Event will take place at Bennochty on Sunday 16th December, 2pm – 4.30pm. As at all Messy Church events, children must be accompanied by an adult.

I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy Christmas, with many blessings from above.

Louisa Turner

Bennochty Bowling Group

We continue to meet Mondays from 2-4pm at the Gunner Club. Thanks to the Gunner Club who have two carpets out for us so the men can get started promptly while the ladies catch up on the news before starting. We have two new lady members, bringing our complement up to seven so there is still room for one more lady if any anyone wishes to join us. The men have six regular players.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Lunch on 10th December at 12 noon and will play bowls as usual at 2pm. The Christmas Season is a busy one so we will have a break on 17th, 24th and 31st December and resume bowls on 7th January 2019 at the usual time and venue.

Wishing all our readers the Compliments of the Season.



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
November 2018

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER 2018

As we can see from the decorations in the shops, the adverts on television and all the other reminders, Christmas is coming. Perhaps you have finished your Christmas shopping, and everything is wrapped. Maybe you haven't started yet.

As in previous years we are asking you to please remember your Church family as you do your own and give a Christmas present to the church at our second Gift Day of 2018. This will take place on Sunday, 9th December.

A Gift Day envelope will be delivered to you, along with this 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.

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.

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.

The Finance Team

Freewill Offering Envelopes

Anyone who uses freewill offering envelopes will have received them with this magazine. If you no longer require the envelopes please return them to your elder or myself.

The price of the sets of envelopes keeps increasing. Therefore we would like to encourage anyone who could sign up to standing order (a no cost method of contributing) to please do so. If any of the envelopes in your household can be combined, again please let your elder or myself know.

Ena Thomson, FWO Convener.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE RECIPE

Ingredients	1 cup water	1 tsp baking soda
	1 cup sugar	1 cup brown sugar
	4 large eggs	8 ozs nuts
	2 cups dried fruit	juice of 1 lemon
	1 tsp salt	1 bottle whisky

Method

1. Sample the whisky to check for quality.
2. Take a large bowl. Check the whisky again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat.
3. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat 1 cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl. Add 1 tsp of sugar and beat again.
4. Make sure the whisky is still ok. Cry another cup.
5. Turn off the mixer. Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the dried fruit. Mix on the turner.
6. If the dried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a screwdriver.
7. Sample the whisky to check its consistency.
8. Next sift 2 cups of salt. Or something. Who cares?
9. Check the whisky.
10. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add on table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven.
11. Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.
12. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window, check the whisky again and go to bed.



"Full of festive cheer"

Mary's Dream

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't really understand it. I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks. They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They had bought many elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the gifts were not for our son.

They had wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows. They decorated a tree in the house. The branches were full of glowing bells and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel.

Everyone was excited about the presents. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, but not to our son. I don't think they even knew him, they never even mentioned his name.

Doesn't it seem odd that people would celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know him?

I had the strangest feeling, that if our son had gone to this celebration, they wouldn't even know him. He would have been intruding. Everything was so lovely, Joseph, everyone so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at his own birthday party.

I am glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

Read in a Bible Book Shop window in County Kerry –



I'm Dreaming of a Quiet Christmas

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Where? | Bennochy Parish Church |
| When? | 10.30am - 2pm December 13 th |
| What? | Take time out to explore Christmas in a different way.
Come and go, stay as long or as short a time as you want. |
| Why? | Enjoy a breathing space in the frenzy of Christmas. |
| Who? | Anyone, everyone! |

'The Flint Street Nativity'

Leslie Amateur Drama Club presents "The Flint Street Nativity" by Tim Firth (with the kind permission of Samuel French)

Join Miss Horrocks' Class of seven year olds as they prepare to present their Nativity Play to their proud parents.... and the odd social worker. Will Mary make it through the performance without being usurped by the Angel Gabriel? Why is Ryan having to play both Joseph and Herod, and will Peter Crouch (The class stick insect) ever be the same again?

Leslie Amateur Drama Club are bringing some festive cheer to Bennochry Church on Friday 7th December at 7.00 pm with a comedy from the writer of Calendar Girls. Tickets are £8, including a glass of wine or soft drink at the interval. Any profits will be shared between the Church and the British Heart Foundation. Tickets from Margaret Kinnear or Diane White.

Advent Hymn from Christian Aid. (Tune: As with gladness...)

As with madness we prepare
For this festive time of year
As we rush and count the days
Advent passes in a haze.
May our feet still take us to
Places where we will meet You.

As with madness we collapse
In our armchairs to have naps
As we eat too much and then
Fill our plates right up again.
May we still enjoy this feast
If we care for those with least.

As with madness we sing on
"Merry Christmas Everyone!"
God sends us a sign of love
A child is sent from Heaven above
May each one of us now see
Christ the Lord is born for me.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS SERVICE



We are currently practising for the Christmas Service on Sunday 16th December.

Our Christmas Party will be on the same day, immediately after our performance; food, games and fun to be enjoyed by all. We are also trying to arrange a visit from a very special person to come about 12.15pm.

HOLIDAYS

We will be on holiday on the following Sunday's 23rd December, 30th December and 6th January, starting again on Sunday 13th January. We are looking forward to seeing everyone then.

OUR CHRISTMAS WISHES

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Christmas Calendar

December 2 nd	Family 'gift' service (donation of new toys for the work of the Salvation Army)
December 6 th	Olive Branch Christmas Lunch
December 7 th	Flint Street Nativity
December 9 th	Second in Advent, Gift Day
December 13 th	'Quiet Christmas'
December 16 th	Contribution by our Young Church Messy Christmas
December 23 rd	"it is almost the night before Christmas"
December 24 th	Watchnight service @ 11.30 pm
December 30 th	Joint service at St Bryce Kirk



The Olive Branch Cafe

Tickets, price £9.50, are available at the cafe for a Christmas Lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 6th December. This is a ticket only event and the normal menu will not be available that day. The North School Choir will entertain.

Menu

Red Lentil Soup
Duo of Melon & Raspberry Coulis



Norfolk Turkey & all the trimmings
Roasted Vegetable Lasagne
with

Roast potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Julienne Carrots

Christmas Pudding & Brandy Sauce
Fresh Cream Trifle



Tea, Coffee & Mince Pie

* The Café will be closed on Thursdays 20th & 27th December & 3rd January

Jigsaw Corner - Don't forget our jigsaw corner at the café. If you enjoy doing jigsaws, come and have a look – we have a range of jigsaws you can borrow



- Next Newsletter: March 2019