

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

March 2019



As we approach Easter, once again we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of his message of salvation to us. The first flowers of Spring remind us of this message of rebirth and hope, despite the political gloom that presently swamps our media.

Minister: 643518

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 201723

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

'From the 'Manse',

We certainly live in times of great uncertainty... who mentioned Brexit! Whatever happens, it will affect our lives one way or the other. However, the church is not immune from uncertainty. No matter how we might wish the church to be an 'island' where the winds of change never blow, that scenario is unrealistic. Outside the doors of the Kirk the world is changing, and it is changing fast.

This year's General Assembly will receive a report on a new radical action plan for the church. Last year's was thrown out - it was not radical enough. Yes, this is the Church of Scotland we are talking about!

At the moment, Kirkcaldy Presbytery is drawing up its own new Presbytery plan for the next ten years. This plan determines the parishes, ministries and buildings of the Presbytery. The church has its own uncertainties. How does it reconnect with its communities; the declining number of ordained ministers and too many buildings not 'fit for purpose'. However, there is one thing people do agree on - the status quo is not an option.

So we need to face this ever changing and uncertain future with a new sense of vision. It will not be easy, and Bennochry church will not be immune to the changes that will inevitably take place. In the world of faith, it has ever been so. The future obscures our vision. Questions remain unanswered, yet, ancient words speak of faith and hope.

"To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." (Hebrews 11: 1)

Blessings,

Robin



Mission Partner up-date

Margaret was in touch with Jenny Featherstone once again in the New Year asking for news. Her reply follows -

Dear Jenny,

Here's wishing you a good New Year!

We hope you are now "in" the house - now completed - and all working well.

Also, this means a new position in the College? Good wishes for the readjustment!

Any news on the college front and of holidays to come?

All the best,

Margaret

Hi Margaret,

Yes I have been lumping boxes from one place to another and have been in the new house for around a week now - still a work in progress but just the car port and solar heater larder and airing cupboard to go - and a huge garden to do something with.

Rev Frank Bwalya (served 8 years as Bishop of Muchinga and a former accountant) takes over from me on Monday and I shall then drop down to vice principal until I come on Furlough in late March (just in time for the dreaded Brexit - if it isn't postponed). All this rush is because of the sad death of Mr Mwango, our former vice principal, in September last year.

After that I hope to go part time setting up a citizens advice bureau style organisation within the local churches with a strong element of AA / A anon to help the large population of over drinkers in the community. I will very much be behind the scenes in this with deaconess Mabel in the lead. It is something I have wanted to do for a long time but been too busy, and quite an exciting prospect if it gets off the ground.

All the best, and I hope to see you again in late April,

Jenny

New organist.

Following the recent retirement of our organist Brian Booth we have been fortunate to obtain the services of Wesley Wood. Wesley is a recent music graduate from the University of Glasgow, who lives in the north side of Kirkcaldy. He is skilled in playing the organ, piano, guitar and bass guitar; and in fact teaches piano and guitar to private students. We welcome him to our congregation and hope he will enjoy his time with us.



- * We hope to make a presentation to Brian in the near future in recognition of his many years' service as organist and choirmaster.

Joint Services for Holy Week and Easter

Monday April 15th Linktown Church, 7 p.m.
Tuesday April 16th Congregational Church (West end), 7 p.m.
Wednesday April 17th Bennoch Church, 7 p.m.
Thursday April 18th St Bryce Kirk, 7 p.m.
Friday April 19th Abbotshall Church, 7 p.m.



- Linktown Church will be open from 10am-4pm with a service at the garden cross at 4 p.m.
- The Congregational Church will have a Good Friday reflection from 2.30–3 p.m.

Easter Sunday April 21st Garden sunrise service at Auchtertool, 5.45 a.m.
Beveridge Park, 8.30 a.m.

Lent Studies Course

The 2019 joint Lent Studies course, along with Linktown, Abbotshall. St Bryce Kirk and the Congregational Church, begins on Sunday evening, 3rd March and will run for 6 weeks. The first meeting will take place in Abbotshall Church hall at 7 p.m. The second is in Bennoch Church. The theme is 'Manna and Mercy for Lent' More details will be available soon.

Bennochty Bells

3 Big Bass Bells, G A B,

all in good repair and resonant to play are looking for a strong arm ringer - Could this be you?

Contact: Margaret Simpson



Lent Prayer

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.

Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.

Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.

Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.

Give up worrying: take up trust in God.

Give up complaining: value what you have.

Give up stress: take up prayer.

Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.

Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.

Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.

Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.

Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

Christian Aid Anonymous, Latin America

Deaths

19.12.18

Mrs Mabel Davidson, Elizabeth House, Boreland Road.

24.01.19

Mrs Jean Harris, 24 Longbraes Gardens

02.02.19

Mrs Barbara Young, Marchmont Care Home

09.02.19

John Page, 31 Oriel Crescent, Kirkcaldy





The Open Door Project are pleased to be delivering their first 'Bookbug' session in the Prayer room at Bennoch, on Thursday 21st February from 9.30 – 10.00am. There is no charge for the session.

We will be sharing a book, singing familiar songs and rhymes, and having fun with Lycra! The session is open to parents/carers and under-fives. However, if you were part of the intergenerational 'adopt a grandparent' Bookbug sessions in 2018, you are welcome to join us.

The Olive Branch café will open early that day to offer attendees refreshments after the session.

What is Bookbug?

Under the banner of the 'Scottish Book Trust' Bookbug gifts book bags to every child in Scotland, as well as running free song & rhymes sessions across the country.

Sharing stories, songs and rhymes with children has many wonderful benefits. The reader and child have lots of fun and just a few minutes a day regularly, will

- Develop a child's language skills
- Give time to cuddle and help with bonding with the child
- Help you and the child feel more relaxed
- Boost the child's confidence
- Encourage the child to draw and write
- Give the child a head start in life

It is planned to run the sessions on a monthly basis initially. For more information and to sign up for a place at the Bookbug session, please contact Louisa Turner, Development Worker.

Spring Coffee Morning

There will be a Coffee Morning in aid of church funds in the Methven Hall on Saturday 30th March at 10.30 a.m. Tickets, price £3, will be available soon. Come along and bring your friends for a chat and a cuppa.



Found pinned to the door of a Yorkshire Dales Church.

(I read it in a book by Gervase Phinn.)

He was born in an obscure village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. He then became an itinerant preacher. He never taught a lesson in a classroom. He had no tools to work with, such as blackboards, maps or charts. He used no subject guidelines, kept no records, gave no grades and his only text was ancient and well-worn. His students were the poor, the lame, the outcast, the deaf and the blind. The content of his method was the same for all who came to hear him and to learn from him. He opened eyes with his faith, he opened hearts with love, a love born of forgiveness. A gentle man, a humble man, he asked for and he won no honours, no gold awards of merit to his expertise and wisdom. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty three when the public turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executioners gambled over his clothing, the only property he had on earth.

All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that have ever sat and all the monarchs that have ever reigned have not affected the life of man as much as he. For this quiet teacher from the hills of Galilee has fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes and changed the lives of many millions. For what he taught brought heaven to earth and revealed God's heart to mankind.

Forthcoming Courses & Events



Christian Aid Gathering, Tuesday 26th February

All are invited to a Christian Aid Gathering on Tuesday 26th February, from 10.00am – 1.00pm in St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh. The keynote speaker will be Jeanne Kamara, Head of Sierra Leone, who will talk about Sierra Leone, a country rich in diamonds yet one of the world's poorest, and scarred by Ebola.

To register RSVP to glasgow@christian-aid.org

KART Workshop



KART, in conjunction with **Walk through the Bible**, are presenting an interactive - memorable - fun – engaging - encouraging - inspiring – helpful workshop.



Bible in a Nutshell

at Newcraigs Church, Forres Drive, Kirkcaldy, on 2nd March 2019, from 10am - 4.30pm. Cost £14 – including workbook. Please bring a packed lunch. Children welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Book your place on-line at [www. Kart.me.uk](http://www.Kart.me.uk). Or speak to Louisa Turner, Development Worker.

Dementia Friendly Awareness Course - Wednesday 13th March,

This is open to anyone would like to become a Dementia Friend. The course, on 13th March from 11.15 a.m. – 12.30 p.m., is being delivered by Ruth McCabe, Project Manager, Dementia Friendly Fife. By attending the course, you would be helping Bennochty Parish Church gain their Dementia Friendly Space Award – we would then be the first church in Kirkcaldy to gain such an award. To book your place please contact Louisa Turner, Development Worker

Spring Calendar

February 21	'Bookbug' (1 st session)	
March 1	World Day of Prayer	
March 2	KART Workshop – 'Bible in a Nutshell'	
March 3	Joint Lent Studies course - 1 st meeting	
March 10	Communion	
March 13	Dementia Friendly Awareness Course	
March 17	Town Centre Churches Pulpit Exchange	
March 24	Messy Church	
March 30	Spring Coffee Morning	
April 9	Bunny Drive	
April 14	Palm Sunday celebrations	
April 17	Joint Holy Week Service, 7 p.m.	
April 21	Easter morning worship with Communion	
May 12-18	Christian Aid Week	

❖ Stated Annual Meeting – date to be confirmed



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: 26th May 2019