

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

October 2019



We hope all our readers had a most enjoyable summer.
Now changes are afoot! We welcome the familiar colours of autumn in the
gardens and countryside. Less welcome are the uncertain
changes in the political world. Let us pray that all is
resolved soon.



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Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

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'From the 'Manse',

Having just returned from a very windy isle of Tiree, I now understand why the island is described as 'thin'. Being flat, the wind just blows straight over it! But it is not just about geography. There is the idea of a 'thin' separation between the earthly and the divine. In other words, God is close.

I suppose we all have places where we feel close to God. A favourite walk. Even a favourite chair. Spaces that are 'thin'. Where we can almost reach out and touch the world of the divine. It may not last long, but these are 'eternal' moments that offer us hope in times of despair, peace in strife and direction when the way seems unclear.

As we live in uncertain times for nation and church; an existence on the edge of new possibilities, a new horizon yet to be known and discovered. May the breath of the spirit of God blow, creating a 'thin' separation between our anxiety and God's hope, inspiring steps of faith into the unknown.

The poet, pastor, lawyer and activist Pauli Murray writes in her poem "Dark Testament": *"Hope is a song in a weary throat."* May we have places to go when tired and weary, where the 'thin' veil parts, just a little, offering God's hope, and where our voice for the justice of the spirit and the peace of Christ, is resurrected.

Yours in Christ

Robin



Harvest Thanksgiving

Our Harvest service this year takes place on Sunday, 6th October, when we hope to have Jenny Featherstone joining us once again on Skype from Zambia. Margaret is currently waiting for news from Jennie Chinembiri, Church of Scotland Africa Secretary, regarding Jenny's job role and there will be an offering taken for her work in Zambia. We will also be taking donations for Kirkcaldy foodbank. There is a high demand for food at this time and suggested food items are –

- Canned Fish
- Canned Meat
- Canned or Dried Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Canned Beans or Spaghetti
- Long Life Milk (UHT)
- Long Life Fruit Juice(UHT)
- Rice
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Tea and Coffee



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

It is time again to think about those less fortunate than we are - by filling a shoebox with gifts for people that have so little we can make a difference. Shampoo, socks, a notepad, a small toy, a bag of sweets, toothpaste and toothbrush, scarf and hat - these are just some of the things we take for granted but will seem like luxuries to people living in poverty.



Please support this appeal and bring some happiness to someone in need this Christmas. Covered shoeboxes are now available and the filled boxes will be uplifted at the beginning of November. Date to be confirmed. Thank you.

Treasurer

Our Treasurer has indicated that she wishes to retire at the earliest possible opportunity. With this in mind we are now urgently seeking her replacement and would ask if any of our members or friends of our members would be interested. The successful applicant will work with other members of the Finance Team and a list of duties is available. Anyone interested or requiring further information should contact George Drummond, Session Clerk.

Prayer Contact

A request has been received from George Luke, Presbytery Prayer Coordinator, for each congregation to provide a Prayer contact or contacts who, as part of a network, could receive and distribute information and material amongst their own congregation. Could suit past Prayer promoters. If this is something that might be of interest to you, please speak to Robin.

Bennochy Women's Group

Our 2019/20 session began on Tuesday 27th August. We have a very varied programme planned. The group meets in the Elgin Room on Tuesday evenings, normally every fortnight, at 7.30 p.m. New members will be made most welcome. At our meeting on 5th November our guest speaker, Mr John Johnstone, will talk about Scotland's Air Ambulance Service.

Our first special event is our Family Quiz Night on Saturday 19th October at 6.30 p.m. in the Methven Hall. Questions for the young and not so young with prizes, raffle and delicious dessert supper, perfect for all the family to enjoy. Tickets, adults £5 and children £2, are available from Group members with all monies going to church funds. Teams of four please.



The second important fundraising event is Bennochy Christmas Afternoon Teas on Saturday 30th November from 2-4 p.m. Tickets available soon. Ladies of the Group will be organising the teas, but we welcome other groups and individuals to arrange other stalls, cake and candy, etc to make the most of the afternoon.

Please speak to a Group member or contact Irene Wood (tel Kdy 267995) for more information.

Louisa Turner – Development Worker

Messy Sunday was celebrated on Sunday 22nd September. We enjoyed an afternoon in the Church community garden sharing a BBQ lunch. A treasure hunt and quiz were very popular as well as having the opportunity to chat with neighbours and friends. The children and adults engaged with the many activities and all had fun with the various races, despite a few showers of rain.

Community Garden – The Community Garden team have been tidying and cutting back the borders as well as preparing the ground for planting wild seeds, which have been donated by Grow Wild. In the next couple of weeks more planters will be planted up with bulbs in preparation for flowering next spring. We have to thank the member of the congregation who donated the bulbs. The team are grateful for any cuttings or gardening donations. If you have any, please speak to Louisa Turner in the first instance.



Kirkcaldy North Primary School (KNPS) are keen to develop their link with Bennoch Church. A ‘Friends of KNPS’ group is to be set up. The group will extend to a list of people from the congregation and community who would be willing on a rota basis to go into the school and listen to the children read one afternoon a week for an hour. The group will also include a group of people who would be interested to share their talents with the children – talents of woodwork, sewing, knitting, baking and any other specific talents. If you feel you would like to join this intergenerational group, please speak to Louisa Turner. There is an existing group of five volunteers who deliver a **Board Game Club** at the school on a Thursday afternoon for an hour. If you fancy playing traditional board games or are a keen domino or chess player, please speak to Louisa. The school report that the club is the most popular in the school – perhaps it is to do with the afternoon tea which the Olive Branch Café provide!

Book Bug Sessions have been small in attendance but will continue until the New Year. On the last Thursday of the month, from 1.30 – 2.15pm, we sing familiar nursery rhymes and have fun interacting with activities which are linked to a story. Families with children under five years are welcome. This is a free session. Why not come along for lunch in the café first and then join us.



Open Door Project are thanking their volunteers with a glass workshop and a meal at the Weavers Pub at the beginning of October. The Project appreciates that we would not be able to do any community outreach without our volunteers - each and every one of them bring a uniqueness to their role. New friendships have formed amongst the volunteers and old friendships have been re discovered. The volunteers come from across Kirkcaldy and from within the congregation of Bennoch.

Louisa Turner Email: developmentworker@bennochparishchurch.org.uk.

Just thinking ...

Many church premises are now used by groups which encourage people to lose weight and live a healthier lifestyle.

I wondered if there was a gap in this market for a new Church group ... Scottish Sinners? After all, if you think about it, there are many points of similarity between Slimmers and Sinners

Weekly meetings to encourage each other, get to know each other better, share ups and downs ...

A fee or subscription - because if you invest money in a project there's a greater likelihood of persevering ...

A Leader who gives a presentation of a thought provoking message designed to stir you on to achieving your goals AND come back to hear more the following week...

A book that tells you the value of everything, gives you recipes for success and how to keep trying even after failure ...

A place where everyone is welcome and where the victories over temptation, no matter how small are celebrated ...

A group where it's safe to fail and start again ...

A reward in a different you, better equipped to live a happier more fulfilled life ...

Just thinking...

Nancy Gilmartin.

Remember Srebrenica

We need to be reminded to remember, because we are prone to forget. In a world where the immediate is deemed the important, we too quickly lose sight of what really matters.

The events in Srebrenica twenty-four years ago in July deserve to be remembered, both for what happened and where it happened. Only a generation after the Holocaust, under the banner of "ethnic cleansing", on 11 July 1995, 8000 Muslim men and boys were executed by Bosnian Serb forces on account of their faith. In that conflict in the Balkans, tens of thousands of men, women and children were tortured, killed or detained in concentration camps. Mass graves are still being discovered. What had been previously integrated communities turned against one another

Today the slow process of rebuilding lives, communities and trust continues. A powerful visual aid of reconstruction is found in the rebuilt 16th century stone bridge at Mostar. Destroyed by Bosnian Croat forces in November 1993 it was rebuilt in July 2004. Today, in all sorts of practical ways, people are tentatively trying to bridge the divide between communities and conquer hate.

To do so the past must not be covered up but faced by all in its starkness and horror. The response that is needed is found in a call for reconciliation and healing. Today there is great need for tolerance. We welcome some of the innovative steps that are being taken. The Pontamina Choir uses music to bring together Jews, Catholics, Orthodox and Muslims. A café has been opened for all races to meet and mingle over a cup of tea. The policy of having "two schools under one roof" is being challenged as institutionalising the divide not overcoming it.

The bible calls on us to "weep with those who weep." It calls on us to pray for those in authority. It calls a blessing on all those who are willing to be peace-makers. Let us play our part in this torn and troubled part of our world and remember Srebrenica.

Rt Revd Colin A M Sinclair

Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

A Prayer for Srebrenica

Living God

We confess we are fascinated when we hear
of a part of our world in pain.

We drink in the details,
and while, at the time, our hearts go out to its victims
to our shame we, as quickly, forget.

However you never forget
nor do you distant yourself
from anywhere there is need
In Jesus you have shared our humanity
and tasted its pain.

Bless Srebenica
and all parts of the Balkans
that saw too much and suffered too much.

Bring healing where there is hurt
trust where there is suspicion
and strengthen those who would build bridges
to overcome hate.

May your light shine in that darkness
and your love overcome all hate
that one day life and joy might return
and peace be a deep reality.



For Jesus' sake
Amen

Deaths

28.06.19	Mrs Evelyn McLeod, 5 Pitfour Place
.08.19	Mrs Christina Hay, Methven House, 12 Bennoch Road
6.09.19	John Campbell, 6 Bennoch View



Autumn Calendar

October 6	Harvest Thanksgiving	
October 19	Family Quiz Night	
October 20	Communion service	
October 13/20	2019 Stewardship Season (details soon)	
November 30	Christmas Afternoon Teas	
December 12	Christmas Lunch at the Olive Branch	



The Olive Branch Café

Open every Thursday in the Methven Hall from 11.00 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 with free Wi-Fi



Date for your diary

This year's Christmas Lunch at the Olive Branch Cafe will be held on Thursday 12th December. Menu and tickets will be available from late October.

Easyfundraising

If you EVER go on holiday and book through a website...

If you EVER buy your car or house insurance through a website....

If you EVER buy your Christmas presents through a website...

If you EVER purchase anything through Amazon...

In fact, if you EVER spend ANY money online, please go through the EASYFUNDRAISING website first. There are over 3000 retailers ready to return a percentage of your spend to Bennochty Church..

Money for nothing, so easy to use, and yes, safe.

Ask Dianne or Rona for more info if you are interested in raising funds for our church with absolutely no effort.

- Next Newsletter: 24 November 2019