

Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

# Newsletter

March 2023



We hope all our readers are well and enjoying the first signs of Spring. Our discussions with the other town centre churches are underway, including the first meeting of all the Kirk Sessions. Joint services continue to take place every month at each Church in turn.

Interim Moderator: 07449 278378

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 07483 162346

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

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

**MARCH 2023**

*From our Interim Moderator*

Here is my Easter message

At this Easter 2023 it is hard to believe that I have been your Interim Moderator for almost 4 months.

During this time I have been privileged to have help from George (Session Clerk), Kirk Session, Worship Team and friends who have conducted Sunday Worship.

Yet, I am aware of the words of a song from a musical/film

"Getting to know you  
Getting to know all about you"

So, let's do that soon.

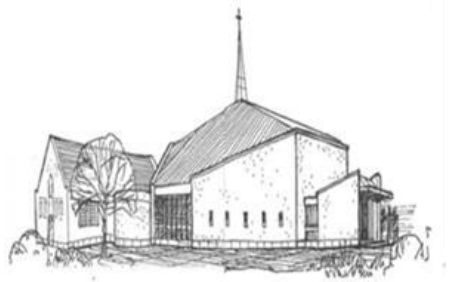
I can always be contacted by email or telephone for help, advice, support or a chat.

In the meantime I send you all blessings of Easter.

Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia (CH4 410)

**Allan**

Allan T Grant,  
LTh RMN  
Reader  
IM Bennoch Church



**Questionnaire** - The December Newsletter included a questionnaire from the Kirk Session, which you were invited to complete to enable us to update our church records, in particular with regard to communication, visits, etc. Many of these forms have now been returned or collected and we thank you for your co-operation. If anyone has a form still to be collected, or would like a fresh one please let your elder or the Session Clerk know. Thank you.

## Deaths

02.12.22	Brian Booth
04.01.23	Miss Jessie Bease
05.02.23	Mrs Lena Wemyss
02.23	Miss Ellen Gerrard
12.02.23	John Adie
11.03.23	Alex Stevenson



Brian Booth our Church Organist, for 32 years until 2018, passed away at Queen Margaret Hospice, Dunfermline on the 2nd of December, 2022.

Brian came to St. John's from Linktown Church in Kirkcaldy 1986 to the position of Organist and Choirmaster. His talent for love of music, which he loved to share with his church choir members, had enriched our congregational services throughout his time with us. Brian had been a Church organist for 62 years, starting at 16 years of age, and serving at two Churches in Aberdeenshire before coming to Fife. He also had been Organist at St Serf's, Dysart and Bethelfield Churches.

Brian became an Elder in 1989 and two years later was appointed to the position of Treasurer, a role he performed most conscientiously for 24 years.

On behalf of the members of Bennoch Church we appreciate how very fortunate we were to have the dedicated service of Brian Booth for more than 30 years.

The collection from Brian's funeral service in the Church raised the sum of £1000. Donations were made to both the Hospice essential Palliative Care Team Fife and Marie Curie.

## Easter Holy Week Services.

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April.	Congregational Church
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Bennochty Church
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Bryce Kirk
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	Abbotshall Church
Good Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Linktown Church



The Congregational Church has a reflection on Good Friday at 2.30

Linktown is open for private prayer and reflection on Good Friday (times to be decided)

Linktown has a Coffee morning on Easter Saturday morning, 10-12

Easter Day worship is in each individual Church, with a Communion in Linktown.

The Kirk Session met recently to discuss the appointment of an Interim Minister who is to be shared with St.Bryce, Abbotshall and Linktown as part of the process for a basis of union to be agreed.

There will be a brief presentation after the Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when all congregation members are invited to share the findings of the Session and the next steps. Please attend this meeting if you are able.

*George Drummond*  
*Session Clerk*

## Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal

The earthquake may have dropped out of the news for now but recovery and rehabilitation work will continue for a very long time.

Over the past few weeks we have had a special collection plate in the church, and a generous amount has been raised which will be forwarded to the appeal. Anyone still wishing to donate can do so online via the **Christian Aid Earthquake Appeal**. This will allow your donation to be gift aided where appropriate. Thanks to all who have contributed.

## **Bennoch Community Choir triumphs!**

The Bennoch Community Choir was one of eleven choirs and choral groups from across and outwith Fife to take part in the Community Choirs class at the Fife Festival of Music held recently in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy.

With the current closure of the Adam Smith Theatre, St Bryce became the Festival's hub and performing venue. The main church gave a wonderful acoustic and visual opportunity to singers and listeners and Bennoch's appearance and performance on stage was given a rapturous reception by audience and other choirs alike.

The adjudicator Stephen Cowan praised the choir for their smiles, their singing – and for working without music in front of them. All members of the choir were delighted to be part of the event and to be able to hear so many other choirs of varying size and style, and many members have commented on the positive and enjoyable experience of taking part in the Festival and being part of the family of Bennoch Community Choir.



Bennoch Community Choir is part of Bennoch Church's outreach programme and meets at the Church on Mondays from 6.30 – 8pm. The Choir is led by Ella Wilson with accompanist Graeme Wilson.



## **The Olive Branch Café**

The Olive Branch café is looking for one or two additional volunteers to help on a Thursday. We would welcome assistance in the kitchen, serving and tidying up. For more information, please contact Alison Hamilton (260834).

The Olive Branch Café is open every Thursday from 11am to 2 pm in the Methven Hall, serving tea, coffee and home baking from 11am and light lunches from 12 noon. Why not drop in for a bite to eat and a chat. The Café will remain open over the Easter break.

We also have a 'Knit & Natter Group' who meet in the café at 11am.

## **The Women's Group**

The Women's Group have enjoyed a varied programme since August 2022 - guest speakers, demonstrations, visits, craft night, quiz night, Burns supper, movie night etc.

We look forward to having the Bennoch Bell Ringers, and to our main fundraiser evening.

Our annual Bunny Drive is on Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm, and tickets will be available soon.



We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Elgin Hall. For more information please speak to a Group member or contact Irene tel. 267995.

***Irene Wood***

## **Bennoch Bells**

Church bells will be ringing out all over the country, early May, in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles.

These will be mainly steeple bells - a long pull on the ropes.

Bennoch Bells, however, are content to ring on handbells ... and sitting comfortably! We have our own version of Westminster chimes and a peal of bells to suit.

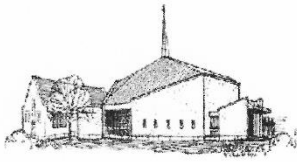
Over the years we have enjoyed a wide repertoire of music - classical, folk and swing, hymns and all.

Some of these we will be presenting at the Women's Group this month, and at the end of March we will hold an OPEN DAY - Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm

Come and see. Come and try. Come and humalong.

It's always an entertaining and challenging experience!





## Bennoch Parish Church of Scotland

Meldrum Road  
Kirkcaldy,  
Fife,  
KY2 5HR

Session Clerk (01592) 200179

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**TO ALL MEMBERS  
BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH  
KIRKCALDY**

March 2023

### **GIFT DAY - SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

The first of our two Gift Days this year is on Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

Most of our income comes from your weekly/monthly donations to the church, whether through the Free Will Offering scheme, by Standing Order or in the Open Plate. These two Gift days add a significant amount to our annual income each year along with us reclaiming Gift Aid on behalf of those members who have signed a declaration form. Like yourselves, the church is having to deal with rising costs, and your donations help us meet the many obligations that we have.

The usual Gift Day envelope will be delivered to you along with the Church Newsletter. 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 Easter 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 **Bennoch Parish Church** so that we can claim back the tax on your donation.

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 Bennoch 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.

## **The DUPLO Club**

Have you heard?

A new group for little people 1½ - 4yrs old and their adults is in the pipeline ....



Subject to approval by the Kirk Session at Bennoch Church, the DUPLO club would run on Mondays 3pm-4.30pm in the St Andrews Hall starting in May.

The hope is that volunteers from all 4 Town Centre churches would come together to provide a low cost facility for play, snacks, song and prayer for children, and a social time for their parents/grandparents and carers. The intention is to run throughout most school holidays to help adults depend on a group that stays open.

### **You can help.**

Do you or your families have any DUPLO at home that the children have grown out of? We are going to need an awful lot of DUPLO, so would appreciate donations no matter how few pieces. (must be genuine DUPLO, not smaller LEGO pieces – choke risk)

For more info or to donate, please contact Dianne Waddell [tickiewife@hotmail.com](mailto:tickiewife@hotmail.com) or text 07980 367632

Thank you.

*This is a locally organised club, not sponsored by the LEGO® Group*



## Spring Calendar

March 26	Joint service in Abbotshall Church
March 28	Bennochty Bells Open Day, 2.30pm
April 2	Palm Sunday Service Presentation about Interim Minister
April 9	Easter Sunday service Bennochty Gift Day
April 16	Communion
April 18	Women's Group Bunny Drive, 6.30pm
April 30	Joint service in St Bryce Kirk



- There will be no Sunday School on April 9 & 16.



## Sunday Service Viewers

Date	Facebook	Website	Total
01/01/2023	0	0	0
08/01/2023	66	27	93
15/01/2023	62	33	95
22/01/2023	61	18	79
29/01/2023	47	23	70

Notes:

1. Website totals do not include those who viewed the video live on Sunday morning, only catch-up viewers. Live viewers via the website are included in the Facebook figures.
2. For the website, a viewer is counted if they have watched at least 50% of the service.