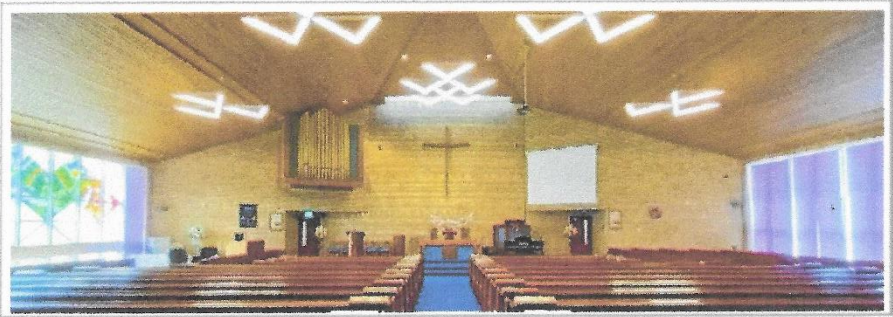


Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

October 2024



We hope all our members and families are well and have had an enjoyable summer.

The merging of the four town centre congregations is now moving on to the next stage following the Presbytery's approval of the union at their September meeting. An update from our Interim Moderator is enclosed.

Joint services continue to be held at the end of every month, using the four churches in turn, with normal services on the other Sundays.

Interim Moderator: Morag Wilkinson 07824 954215

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 07483 162346

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

OCTOBER 2024

A message from our Interim Moderator

Union update

In the congregational votes of 18th August, only two of the four Kirkcaldy Town Centre churches voted in favour of the Basis of Union. However, since all four Kirk Sessions had approved the Basis of Union, the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan Implementation Group decided to use Presbytery's power under the Presbytery Mission Plan Act to overrule the congregational votes and go ahead with the union.

After hearing from all four congregations again at the full Presbytery meeting on Saturday, 21st September, a deliverance was passed unanimously to that effect.

The date of a service of union will be set in due course. I would like to point out that this doesn't necessarily lead immediately to permission to call a ministry team.

Given the strong feelings of hurt and the way the decision had to be made by Presbytery, there may be a need for an extended transition period, and indeed, there was some discussion about this at the Presbytery meeting.

I will, of course, keep you updated as and when the timeline gets nailed down. Until then, a little more patience and a lot of grace in working towards the united congregation will be required from us all.

Blessings,

Morag



Harvest Service

On Sunday 8th September we held our Harvest Songs of Praise service, led by the Worship Group, with some assistance from the Sunday School – a service of readings and some of our favourite Harvest hymns. This year we were all invited to bring donations of food and toiletries, rather than cash, and these were later delivered to Kirkcaldy Foodbank, where they were gratefully received.



Christian Aid Week 2024

The total raised by our collection for Christian Aid in May this year was £221.39, which will go some way towards helping families around the world living in extreme poverty. A letter was recently received from Christian Aid, thanking us for our gift, which was much appreciated.

Blythswood Christmas Appeal

Thanks to all who have taken a shoebox to fill for this year's Christmas appeal - there are still a few available in the church. Please return any filled boxes by Sunday 20th October (Communion), when they will be uplifted by Blythswood in time for Christmas delivery.



Thanks to Mary and her team for their time and effort covering them all!



**BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
KIRKCALDY**

Meldrum Road/Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR
Charity Registration Number SC 005628
(Registered Scottish Charity)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF BENNOCHY PARISH CHURCH, KIRKCALDY

GIFT DAY SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2024

Yes, it's just the end of September but as we can already see from the decorations on sale in the shops, some of the adverts on television, hotels and restaurants advertising Party Nights to name a few reminders, Christmas is coming. Perhaps you have finished your Christmas shopping and everything is wrapped. Maybe you haven't started yet, but the Christmas season will be here before we know it.

At this time of giving, 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 2024. This will take place on Sunday, 3rd November.

As usual, a Gift Day envelope will be delivered to you, along with this Newsletter, before the 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. The line at the top of the envelope which says 'Name of Charity' should be filled in saying **Bennoch Parish Church**. No other charity name can be accepted.

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 prefer you can donate using Online Banking using the usual church bank account number and sort code.

Sort Code is 80-16-84

Account number is 06022892.

If using this method, please make sure you put in '**Gift Day**' as a reference.

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 or friends 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 Bennoch and pray that you continue to have a Church home where your life is enriched by worship and Christian fellowship.

The Finance Team

Women's Group

The Women's Group began their 2024/2025 session on 20th August with a walk in Ravenscraig Park and supper at the Strathearn Hotel. On 3rd September Dave Stewart told ladies about what goes on in Kirkcaldy Men's Shed. We had a floral demonstration by Angie Potter on 17th September. The meeting on 1st October is open to everyone, when we will hear Lynda Colson tell us a true story "Love is like a violin". On 15th October Susan Thores will give a mosaic demonstration and on 29th October Faye Smith will be the guest speaker. A visit to the Adam Smith Theatre to see KAOS production of Elf is on 12th November and on 26th November we will have members' craft night. On 10th December we're having our Christmas Dinner. Meetings resume on 7th January with another varied programme, including our annual Bunny Drive on 22nd April.

We meet on Tuesday evenings, usually every two weeks, in the Church's St Andrews Hall at 7pm. New members welcome.

A very warm invitation is given to come along to our open meeting on 1st October to hear the true story of a Fifer.

Irene Wood

Church liaison member

tel. 01592 267995

Handbell Ringers:

We meet again this Autumn session on Tuesdays at 2.30pm with a programme of old favourites and new arrangements of folk songs from around the UK.

Welcome to anyone interested in "giving it a go".

Margaret Simpson.

(01592 262005)



Why can't Church..?

Why can't Church be more like Football?...

You mean ... be enjoyed worldwide... by people of all abilities... rich and poor... taking place in spaces large and small... having basic rules accepted by everyone no matter what their background... having local groups... singing out loud... meeting once a week or more?



(Sounds a bit like Church...but there's no expensive equipment or special clothes required?)

Why can't Church be more like McDonald's ...

You mean where everyone gets the same treatment... where everyone gets the same experience... where all ages can meet... where your money doesn't get you to the front of the queue or give you a bigger helping...



Sounds a bit like Church...but it's free... and healthy!

Why can't Church be more like the Gym or ParkRun ...

You mean where people try to do their best...where people face a challenge... where everybody wins... where there are no prizes for being first... where everyone works at their own pace...



(Sounds like Church... and it can be indoors or outdoors!)

Why can't the Church be more like a holiday?...

You mean where people do something different, take a break from everyday ... do nothing or take part... forget their worries for a while... where everyone is friendly and listens... where there might be music... food... where it's like Christmas or Easter maybe..?

(Sounds like Church... where Christmas and Easter all began... and it's eco friendly... no passports... and free!)



Eco Fayre

On Saturday 10th August the G & Q team held their first Eco Fayre in the church hall. There was a variety of different eco stalls – Men’s Shed, Book Swap, growing and compost making, pre-loved jumble, upcycling and Dr Bike. Fairtrade refreshments were available, with free ice cream for primary children, and there was a very good turnout on the day.

Although the main purpose of the event was to raise awareness of eco and environmental issues, the Fayre nevertheless raised a generous amount.

Thanks to all who contributed.

- Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/SbainOcwKDU> or on the website.

Urgent! Cafe volunteers needed!

The Olive Branch cafe has lost several volunteers recently and we are struggling to offer a full service to our loyal customers. If you, or someone you know, can spare a few hours on a Thursday, not necessarily every week, to join our team of friendly, enthusiastic volunteers, we would be very grateful.

For further information contact Alison on 07714 329773



Deaths

05.24	Sadie Craig
16.06.24	George Baxter
12.07.24	Alex Rae
25.07.24	David Stewart
05.08.24	Bryan Archer



The January Blues

Instead of trying to banish the January Blues 2025, we want you to embrace them!

That's because we are talking about musical kind of blues.

Starting on the first Sunday in January, there will be a 'warm space' set up in the Methven Hall three days a week for two hours. We are very conscious that people might have to be cautious with how often we heat our homes because of the cost of fuel this year. So, the church will be offering a warm welcome and social contact, free hot soup and crusty bread, hot drinks and biscuits, board games and jigsaws and MUSIC.

This is the Blues part. We hope to encourage people to bring their musical instruments along and play to a small audience. (Not electric instruments or mics however). There will also be background blues/ light jazz music playing quietly.

Who is it for? Anyone

Can you help? We need knitters. The attendees will have lap blankets to use so we may need quite a lot of blankets. If you can help, aim for a 30" x 36" blanket, any pattern you like. 6-inch squares, 32 stitches on size 8 in DK are ideal. Please do not buy new wool – use anyone's stash, charity shop or rip down a wool jumper and create a lovely cosy lap blanket. Something like this... x5 We will also be grateful for donations of wool.





The purpose? To Warm People, Inside and Out.

Text 07980 367632 for more information.

Thank you

The Green & Quirky Upcycling Group

Autumn Calendar

October 1	Women's Group Open meeting	
October 20	Communion	
October 27	Monthly joint service at Abbotshall Church	
November 10	Service of Remembrance Gift Day	
January 2025	Bennochty Warm Space	

- * There will be a special collection at our Communion Service for the Trust in Fife Homeless Service
- * There will be a collection for Poppy Scotland at our Service of Remembrance.



The Olive Branch Café

Our Community Café is open every Thursday from 11am – 2pm, 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, or join the Knit & Natter Group who meet in the café at 11am.



Free WiFi

Car Parking - Don't forget, Rexel, the electrical wholesalers in Katherine Street, have kindly agreed to allow us the use their premises for car parking in the evenings and at weekends.

www.bennochyparishchurch.org.uk

Current Activities in Bennoch Church

Girl Guides:	Wednesday
Rainbows	for girls aged 5 - 7 years
Brownies	for girls aged 7 - 10 years
Guides	for girls aged 10 - 14 years
Senior Section.	for girls aged 14 - 25 years
Women's Group	Tuesdays, fortnightly
Community Choir	Monday
Al Anon	Tuesday
Dru Yoga	Tuesday
Hand Bell Ringers	Tuesday
Country Dancers	Tuesday
Indoor Bowling	Monday
Tai Chi	Monday & Wednesday
Zumba	Wednesday

The Olive Branch Your community café.
Internet connection is available.
Every Thursday 11.00 - 2.00

More information on these activities can be found on our website.

Streaming of Sunday services.

The easiest way to watch services on-line, is via the website, which gives a clear guide.

You can also use Facebook or Zoom. Zoom requires the following codes: Meeting ID: 710 193 7064, Passcode: 123456

A recording of each service should also be available for the following two weeks on the website, under the banner "Sunday Reflections",

Halls available for hire

for organisations, for meetings, or for parties.



St Andrew's Hall



Methven Hall