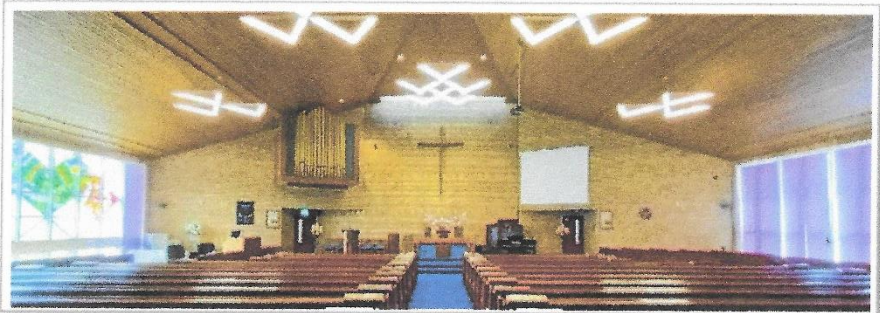


Bennochty Parish Church of Scotland

Newsletter

December 2024



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

**Details of our Advent services leading up to Christmas are enclosed.
There is also an update from our Interim Moderator on the changes
about to take place.**

**Happily Stewart McPherson continues as our Interim Minister to
guide us through the various changes to come.**

**There will no doubt be challenges, but there will also be many
opportunities to be seized.**

Interim Moderator: Morag Wilkinson 07824 954215

Session Clerk: 200179

Church Office: 07483 162346

Website: www.bennochtyparishchurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity SC005628

DECEMBER 2024

A Christmas message from our Interim Moderator

The end is nigh!

Not of the world - at least, I hope not - but of my time as your Interim Moderator, and, ultimately, of the separate congregations of Bennoch, St Bryce, Abbotshall and Linktown.

With just a few weeks left until the end of the year, I now know that the December Session meeting will be the last scheduled one I will moderate for you, that the 22nd December will be the last Sunday service I lead at Bennoch (though I would be glad to do pulpit supply for Langtoun Central down the road if required), and my last service with you will be on Christmas Eve.

Following decisions at Presbytery's November meeting, the date of union has been set as 1 January 2025. At this point, Stewart McPherson will take over as IM as well as interim minister for Langtoun Central. A formal service of union and introduction of Stewart to the new united congregation will be arranged in consultation between the new Session and Presbytery, likely at some point in January.

It has been a real privilege for me to accompany you for the last ten months or so of your journey towards this union. I know it's been a long road, with many setbacks and frustrations, but you are almost there, and come January, you will be able to focus completely on becoming a new congregation and getting ready to be able to call a ministry team.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Advent, Christmas, and New Year. I hope to see as many of you as I can on the 22nd and 24th, but for those who can't make it to those services, every blessing going forward.

Morag



Shoe Box Appeal 2024



A total of 65 boxes were filled by Bennochty members and friends, and these have now been collected by Blythswood Care for delivery to children and adults across Eastern Europe living in poverty. A generous amount of cash was also donated.

The boxes bring real joy to so many who have so little. Thanks to all who contributed to the appeal, and a special thanks to Mary for organising the event and covering all the boxes!



The January Blues

During the month of January, the Methven Hall will be open for two hours, three days a week as a 'warm space' for anyone who would like some social contact, play boardgames/jigsaws or just relax with a hot drink or a bowl of hot soup. There will be some background light jazz/blues but we hope people might like to bring along their own instrument (not electric or mics however) and play to a small audience.

Cosy knitted blankets and wheatbags will be available. We want to warm you Inside and Out.

There will be a warm welcome for you on

Sundays 1pm - 3pm starting on 5th January

Mondays 11.15am - 1.15pm

Thursdays 3.00pm- 5.00pm



These events are free.

More information from Dianne on 07980 367632

The Green & Quirky Upcycling Group

Bennochy Community Choir

The Bennochy Community Choir's Friends and Family Christmas performance will take place on Monday 9th December at 6.30 in the Church. Everyone is very welcome and light refreshments will be served after the event. It would be very helpful for our catering, if those attending could let a choir member know in advance. This is a free event but there will be the opportunity to donate to charity on the night. We look forward to seeing you.



Olive Branch Cafe

The Olive Branch, our community café, which is open every Thursday from 11 until 2, continues to attract our regular loyal clientele. We also look forward to welcoming new customers who can enjoy home-made soups, sandwiches, paninis, mac'n' cheese and more, all at very reasonable prices! The Knit and Natter group meets at 11 and welcomes anyone who enjoys crafts, a chat, tea/coffee and home baking. Other small groups would be made most welcome.

Recently, Gabi Paterson, the local artist, who annually exhibits her paintings, prints and jewellery for sale in the café, decided this year to invite Olive Branch customers to visit her nearby studio. Gabi was very pleased with the positive response. The café has also hosted the Green and Quirky Recycling group with their range of unique items for sale. And for any puzzlers out there, we have our Jigsaw Library!

Although we are delighted that two new 'recruits' have joined our enthusiastic team of volunteers, we would welcome more help.

The Olive Branch closes for Christmas on 12th December (last day) but we're looking forward to meeting friends, old and new, in the New Year when it reopens on 9th January 2025

Salvation Army Toy Appeal 2024

This year's toy appeal is on Sunday 8th December, when our service will be led by the Worship Team. If you haven't already done so now is the time to dig out your Christmas jumpers.



A representative from the Salvation Army will be there to collect gifts (unwrapped) for children. New presents for all ages are welcome, but especially for older boys, which are traditionally in short supply.



There is also an **appeal for voluntary help** to make up gift parcels for delivery. If you are able to assist with this please contact the Salvation Army at kirkcaldy@salvationarmy.org.uk for details.

Adult Gift Day/Coffee Morning



The previous day, Saturday 7th December, there will be a Coffee Morning in the Methven Hall from 10am-12 noon, when you are invited to bring a small gift or some toiletries which will go to the parents of the children receiving the toys. We have done this for the past two years and our gifts have been greatly appreciated. Entry £3, payable at the door.

Christmas Family Service

Our service on Sunday 22nd December will be a Family Christmas service, led by Morag Wilkinson, with input from the Sunday School and Diane White. After the service there will be a short party for the Sunday School.



Sadly, this will be the last service for our organist, Stuart Watson, who takes up a new post in the New Year at St Fillans Church in Aberdour. We have been lucky enough to enjoy Stuart's musical talents over the last few years and we wish him well in his new post.

Bell Ringers:

We have enjoyed a good season of ringing out tunes of folk song favourites from around the UK - Loch Lomond, Country Gardens, Ash Grove, Londonderry Air.

We are now engaged on a programme of Christmas music, with a visit planned to Marchmont House and a visit here to Bennochty from residents of Abbeyfield House. This will be on Tuesday 17th December, mid-morning, in the St. Andrews hall.

Welcome to anyone interested in an hour of Christmas ringing and maybe singing Please let me know, for numbers involved.

Thanks.



Margaret Simpson

Advent Blethers

WHAT?	Four weeks of reflections on Advent Bible readings
WHERE?	Bennochty church small hall
WHEN?	Thursday morning at 10 am, starting 28 th November
WHO?	Anyone!
WHY?	Why not?



Carols and a Pint

Kirkcaldy Town Centre Churches invite you to Carols & a Pint at the Duchess on Wednesday 11th December from 7.30pm Join in a fun social evening with music by Richard Michael.



A Psalm of Content (Tune: Gelineau)

Refrain:

For the Retail Park is my refuge
I shall always want some more...

It makes me lie down in its bed stores
It leads me to buy a new bath
It leads me down aisles of bargains
To follow a yellow stickered path...



Refrain

If I walk in the aisles of a supermarket
I shall never be dismayed
For its coupons, double points and special offers
Are rewards for the money I paid...

Refrain

Fast food and drink are before me
From early morning, all day until late
On the App, drive through or delivered
I will never ever need to wait...



Refrain

Indigestion and debt may follow me
Every day that I shop
But there's no other reason to live
There's nothing that will make me stop...

Refrain

Nancy Gilmartin

Christmas Cards

This year there will once again be a page on our website where members can post their Christmas greetings to all at Bennoch, beginning on Sunday 1st December. A printout of all messages will be on display each Sunday in the Methven Hall so those who don't use the web can view them.

To post your message please either visit the Bennoch website and click the link on the main page, or hand your message to Ragnar, Liz or any office bearer.



FWO Envelopes 2025 - Envelopes for 2025 are not going out with this Newsletter. The situation is currently under review pending the union in January.

Donations

Our Gift Day in November has so far raised the sum of £1,415.00 for church funds. Thanks to all who have contributed.

A cheque for £207 has been sent to Poppy Scotland following our collection on Remembrance Sunday




Deaths

13.10.24	David Wallace
30.10.24	Arthur Snowden



Car Parking - Don't forget that Rexel, the electrical wholesalers in Katherine Street, have kindly agreed to allow us the use of their premises for car parking in the evenings and at weekends. This will ease the parking situation at busy services and events..

Christmas Calendar

November 28	Advent Blethers	
November 30	Steptoe's Posh Junk	
December 7	Coffee Morning	
December 8	Salvation Army Toy Appeal, Christmas jumpers	
December 9	Community Choir Friends & Family Performance	
December 11	Carols and a Pint in the Duchess	
December 12	Last day for Olive Branch Cafe	
December 15	Christmas carols with a difference, led by George Drummond, Christmas jumpers	
December 19	4 th & final Advent Blethers	
December 22	Family Service led by Morag, with input from SundaySchool & Diane White. Christmas jumpers Sunday School party after service.	
December 24	Joint Watchnight service with St Bryce at Bennoch, 7.00pm. (organist provided by St Bryce) Watchnight service in Linktown Church, 11.30pm	
December 29	Joint service at St Bryce Kirk	
2025		
January 5	Sunday School resumes 'The January Blues', 1pm-3 p.m.	
January 6	'The January Blues', 11.15am - 1.15pm	
January 9	Olive Branch Café re-opens 'The January Blues', 3pm-5pm	

'Steptoe's Posh Junk'

There will be Art, Antiques, Toys, Christmas Presents, Collectables and Men's & Ladies Clothing and Shoes. This is being held by David Wallace, on Saturday 30th November, 12-4pm in the Methven Hall.

www.bennochparishchurch.org.uk