

Rosyth  
Methodist Church



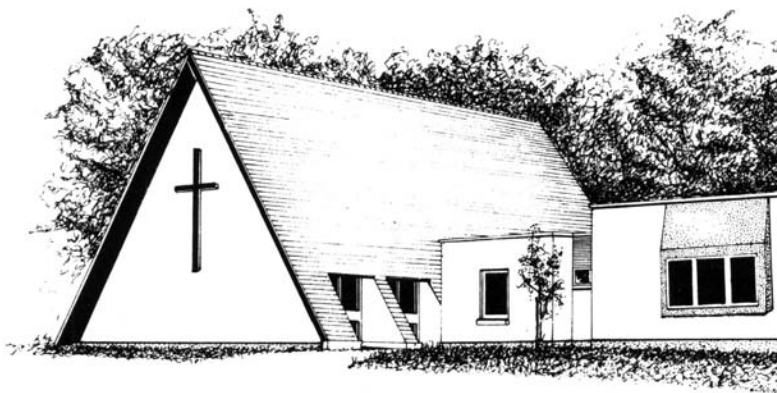
St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church



# Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and  
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 48

December 2009

Rosyth  
Methodist Church

Scottish Charity SC028559

St Margaret's Scottish  
Episcopal Church

Scottish Charity SC028426

## in partnership

Our partnership is formally recognised as a Local Ecumenical Partnership,  
with a constitution and Covenant signed on 14 June 2000

**Minister:**

Revd Eric Potts 01383 851373

**Supernumerary Minister:**

Revd Malcolm Trew 01383 420949

**Senior Steward:**

David Salthouse 01383 889212

**Pastoral Secretary:**

Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779

**Treasurer:**

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

**Rector:**

Revd Tim Bennison 01383 720532

**Associate Minister:**

Revd Ross Kennedy 01383 625887

**Vestry Secretary:**

Sandra Young 01383 415021

**Treasurer:**

Alan Taylor 01383 823902

## our regular pattern of worship

### Sundays (except 4th)

9.30am Episcopalian Sung Eucharist  
(occasionally 9.15am – see diary pages for details)

11.00am Methodist Morning Worship

### 2nd Sundays: for the Young Church

9.00am Breakfast and “Sunday Funday”

11.00am All-age service

### 4th Sundays: Worship together

11.00am Joint Communion Service

6.00pm “Sunday@Six”

**Quiet space:** our premises are busy with a variety of activities throughout the week, but the sanctuary is open for quietness, prayer and reflection on **Thursdays 2.00–3.00pm.**

Our postal address is Queensferry Road, Rosyth, Dunfermline, KY11 2JH, and you'll find us at the junction of Queensferry Road and Woodside Avenue. The car park is behind the church, and limited local on-street parking is available, but there is lots more space in the parking area at the junction with Park Road.

# The Colour Purple

an Advent thought from the Revd Eric Potts

Some years ago I was talking with a colleague about themes for worship during Advent. "Oh, that's easy," he said. "Four Sundays: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell!"

Well, I hadn't thought of it quite like that, and I still don't. It doesn't really fit with decorating trees, four candles dancing in a ring, donkeys and babies and all the excitement of planning for Christmas, does it?

And yet, my colleague did have a point. In the interest of making things attractive, and accessible to children – both of which are good aims – we can sometimes get over sentimental and just a little too comfortable. And we can lose the whole point of Advent, the season of the Coming of Christ.

Christ came once, in the child and man Jesus. That's where it all begins. But it doesn't end there. We look also for a new coming of Christ, as King and Lord of all creation. The baby in the manger is also the Christ on the Cross. And, as a hymn puts it, "the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne." Advent is as much about that ultimate Coming as it is about the baby Jesus; as much about the New Jerusalem as about Bethlehem. It is not just about a hope that was realised in the past; it is about our hope for now and for the future, the ultimate future.

"The Colour Purple" is the title of a famous but controversial novel by Alice Walker. It is controversial because of its explicit accounts of abuse and its strong language. The leading character had a difficult life and was abused as an adolescent. The colour purple is continually equated with suffering and pain. But slowly she learns

to see life in a different light. In a field of purple flowers she is taught to see beauty and to embrace it; she learns to see and acknowledge all that is good, for God has placed it on earth. She learns respect for life and all it has to offer.

Purple is also the colour of Advent; it may be worn by clergy in vestments or a church may be decorated in purple. In some advent rings there are purple candles as well as or instead of red ones. For purple is associated both with suffering and pain, and also with royalty and the triumph of the king, the work and victory of Jesus. As my friend said: death, judgement, heaven and hell!

In Advent we take a careful look at ourselves, at our need of being made whole by the grace of God. We may learn to face up to the evils we have suffered, and have done to others; and then to open our hearts and souls to the undefeated, unlimited, never-ending love and grace of God, revealed in Jesus. We can learn not to be dominated by the ugly, but to fill our lives and our worlds with beauty – above all with the beauty of Christian lives, lives lived in the light of Christ.

And then, when we get hold of that message; then it really is time to light the candles, switch on the fairy lights, sing the carols and ... celebrate!

So: Christmas doesn't begin until December 24th, whatever the shops may say. And it then continues into Epiphany, in the New Year. But first, let us focus on Advent, the first Coming, and the Final one, so that we truly are ready to celebrate.

With every blessing

Eric Potts

# Fellowship News

Sadly for us, **Doreen Mackie**, one of our members and also one of our official church cleaners, has moved from Rosyth to Glenrothes, due to her husband's (Dave) health problems. Happily for them, they are now in a warden-controlled block of houses with a lift, which will make life a lot easier for them. We wish them well in their new home.

We were delighted to welcome **John and Virginia Osborne** back for the 40th Anniversary celebrations. Virginia has been another of our official cleaners, former organist of both St Margaret's churches and a volunteer one at the Methodist services, and a member of the choir. John and Virginia retired to Hampshire recently and are sadly missed, but we are happy to know that they will be returning from time to time.

**Joan Sowerby** moved to another Care Home on 17 November. Her new address is:

Glencraig Grove,  
Lister House,  
203/207 Lochleven Road,  
Lochore,  
Ballingry KY5 8HU

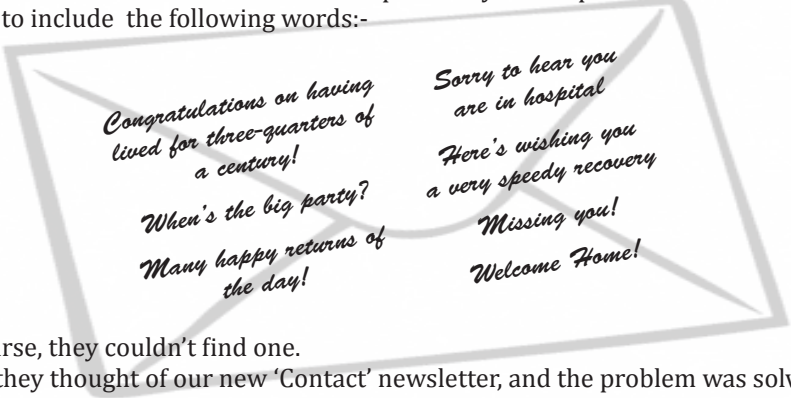
By the time you read this **Malcolm Trew's** 75th birthday will have happened (on 24th November), but the event planned to celebrate the occasion has had to be postponed due to his recent illness, from which we are pleased to say he has now made a full recovery.

**Eve Denning**, one of the stalwarts of the choir, looks forward to being 90 on 5 January. Happy birthday, Eve! An excuse for another Epiphany party?!

Congratulations to Dr **Ceri Trevethan** (Myra Tarr's daughter) who was awarded her second doctorate by Edinburgh University on 27 November. Ceri was part of our congregation before moving to Aberdeen some years ago, and is now a qualified clinical psychologist, working at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability in Putney. We wish Ceri every success in her new career.

If you hear items of news concerning members of the fellowship, whether for information, for rejoicing, or to inform our prayers, please let the Editor know, and *don't* assume that someone else will!

One of our readers went into a Card Shop recently for a 'Special' card. It had to include the following words:-



Of course, they couldn't find one. Then they thought of our new 'Contact' newsletter, and the problem was solved. Malcolm, this card has your name on it!

# Opportunities for fellowship and service

## 11.00am services: help needed

We really need more people to offer their services as **Welcomers**. There are only a few doing this work now, and we ought to try to spread the load – please help!

**Readers** are also needed for the Bible readings. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

## Unable to get to church?

### Communion can be brought to you ...

Many of the Methodist Pastoral Visitors have been commissioned to take Holy Communion to those unable to get to church, and a portable communion set for their use was dedicated by Revd Eric Potts at the service on 22nd November. If you are wanting to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact your pastoral visitor, or the secretary to the pastoral committee, Gwyneth Kirby (624779)

## Church Flowers

St Margaret's are responsible for Church flowers on the 4th Sunday; Methodist friends provide flowers on the other Sundays. Mary Kidd writes ...

The lists for Church flowers, for donors and arrangers will be available on the Noticeboard in the Crush Hall within the next few days. Please enter your name for the week(s) you request, either for a birthday, anniversary, or in memory of loved ones. Money donations should be given to our Treasurer, Howard Kirby, so that Gift Aid can be claimed if you are a tax payer.

Many thanks are due to all those who have given and arranged flowers during the past year. I feel this is an important part of the ministry of our church.

Please give your name to the Duty Steward if you know of anyone who is ill at home and would appreciate flowers.

## Church Cleaning

We are looking for volunteers to join the rota. You need only to be available for a couple of hours on a Friday or Saturday once every five weeks. Contact Myra Tarr (myra@mtarr.co.uk or phone 723989).

## Worship materials needed!

You'll notice that Malcolm Trew is organising a special children's drama on Christmas Eve. Please don't ignore the box in the Crush Hall which we hope be filled with the required materials for costumes for shepherds, angels and kings.

## Christmas Dinner

David Slater and Dennis Cook are organising another meal at the Hideaway on 7 January 2010. Please add your names to the list on the noticeboard.

## Also in the New Year

Wednesday Fellowship and the Choir are taking a well-deserved break in January, but will be starting again in February. Details in our next issue.

## Wednesday Fellowship

See page 19 for a report on how this new venture in the life of our church has progressed since its start in September.



Post early for Christmas ...  
turn over for details

# Be prepared for Christmas!

## “Advent Conspiracy”

Friends of the Editor were introduced to “Advent Conspiracy” whilst visiting friends and going to a church that will be embracing this challenge over the forthcoming Advent period.

The presentations on the web site (<http://www.adventconspiracy.org>) are challenging ...

The story of Christ’s birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love.

So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a saviour has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And, when it’s all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and this empty feeling of missed purpose.

Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again? For example, explore how you can give by alternative means by checking out the web sites of Save the Children, Oxfam, Tear Fund, Christian Aid, World Vision and Open Doors.



## Caring Christmas Trees

Those of you who support Bethany Christian Trust may like a reminder that Caring Christmas Trees are available to order, but only **until 11 December**. Your purchase helps raise funds for the Trust’s work at their Edinburgh and Aberdeen Care Shelters and Fife Drop-ins. For more information, to place an order, or to volunteer to help, phone 0845 111 8733 or visit [www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com).

## Ecumenical Study Group

The first Advent meeting of the St Columba Group will be on Monday 30 November in St Columba’s Church, Torridon Lane at 7.30pm. The study material – “Ready and Waiting” by Nick Fawett – will take us through four of the following Mondays, ending on 28 December. All are most welcome. Please speak to Lesley Yellowlees, Alan Taylor or Jack Fowell for further details.

## Post Box

Most of you are familiar with the post box which appears in our Church crush hall at this time of year. It is a convenient means of exchanging cards with friends in the Church. A full address is not required but please ensure that surnames are included on the envelopes. The cards are sorted and laid out on tables in the lounge to be collected after the service. There is no delivery service so please do not put cards in the box for people who do not come to Church regularly.

Our Explorer Scouts are taking part in the Fife Christmas Post and cards can be sent to most parts of West Fife for 20p. There will be a collecting box in the Church until 5 pm on 10 December. Please put the cards and the money in a plastic bag or envelope. See poster for further details.

## Sing and be merry!

There is to be an ecumenical session of **Christmas Carol Singing** outside Rosyth Tesco Metro on Thursday 17 December. We will “meet and greet” in our Crush Hall at 6.00pm, and from there walk across to the store. An hour’s singing would seem within our capabilities, and hopefully this year it won’t be raining! All are welcome to join in the merriment ...

# On the stage ...

an invitation from our Girl Guide groups

The youngsters and leaders of the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides invite everyone to a

## Christmas Concert

6.30-8.00pm

Monday 14 December

The concert will be held in the church, giving you a chance to see what can be done on our stage! The evening includes a visit from Santa Claus with gifts for the girls, and refreshments will be served after the concert (donations for this if you wish).

We look forward to welcoming all the families of the girls and anyone else who would like to support this event.

Susan Warren (Rainbows); Suzy Knight (Brownies); Mandy Ward (Guides)

# Christmas greetings

**Dennis Cook**  
*would like offer his best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, to all his friends at Rosyth*

**Mary Kidd** sends her  
*very best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and New Year to all friends in both congregations*

**Tim and Hilary Bennison** send their  
*greetings and best wishes to members of both congregations this Christmastide*

**Myra and Martin Tarr**  
*wish all their friends at church a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year*

**David Slater:**  
*My Christmas Greetings to all members and friends of the Combined Churches - and thank you for the 40th Anniversary lunch!*

**Jock and Audrey Headden:** *As we won't be sending cards this Christmas, we should like to wish our friends from both congregations a Happy and Holy Christmas*

# The Covenant Service

thoughts by Mary Kidd

At this service, which is usually held on the first Sunday in the New Year (though it may also be held on other special occasions) Methodists renew their Covenant with God.

This service has been a deep source of blessing to our Church since the year 1755 when John Wesley held his first Covenant Service in the French Church at Spitalfields, in London. He drew much of his material for the service from 17th century Puritans and subsequently made changes to it.

Coming, as it usually does, after the Festival of Christmas, and also at the beginning of a New Year, the Covenant Service has a special significance and solemnity. It begins with "Glory to the Father, the God of love, who created us; who continually preserves and sustains us; who has loved us with an everlasting love, and given us the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ".

Towards the end of the service we unite in the following declaration "We take upon

ourselves with joy the yoke of obedience and, for love of you, engage ourselves to seek and do your perfect will. We are no longer our own but yours".

The words "Put me to doing, put me to suffering", have raised difficulties for some people. These words do not mean that we ask God to make us suffer, but rather that we desire, by God's help, actively to do or patiently to accept whatever is God's will for us.

The Covenant is not just a one-to-one transaction between individuals and God, but the act of the whole faith community. Our own Covenant Service at Rosyth will be our Joint Communion on January 24th at 11.00am, and led by Revd Eric Potts.

It is impossible that this Covenant, sincerely entered upon, and faithfully remembered throughout the year, should not have a deep and blessed influence upon the whole life of our Church, our partnership, and as individuals.

## Prayer for the New Year

Loving God, your mercy is everlasting. Accept our thanksgiving for all the blessings of the year that is ending; take our lives afresh into your keeping as we face the future in the coming year. Give us courage and discernment in the face of so much despair and fear. Help us to see how we can contribute towards peace, faith and love, and give us the will to translate our desires into actions. We ask that in the year that lies ahead, your wisdom may direct us, your power defend us, and your love enfold us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Retiring collections

At the 11am services:

December and for Christmas services: Action for Children (AfC)  
(formerly National Children's Home)

January: Scottish Churches Housing Action (SCHA)

At the 20 December Carol Service: Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS)



# Diary for December 2009

- Monday 30 Nov 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's  
"Ready and Waiting" by Nick Fawett  
(see page 6 for details)
- Wednesday 2 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – Jim Norman on "Gem Stones"
- Friday 4 Dec 7.00pm Choir Practice
- 7.30pm Carols at Christmas 2009: an evening with  
The City of Edinburgh Methodist Church Choir  
at Central Hall, Tollcross, Edinburgh.  
Tickets £5 for adults; children free: includes  
refreshments. Contact City Church Office for details.  
Proceeds to Action for Children.
- Saturday 5 Dec 3.00pm Dunfermline Choral Union Christmas Concert  
and 7.30pm in the Vine Church, Dunfermline.  
Tickets £8, Concessions £7, Family tickets £25  
from Mary Kidd, Myra Tarr or Gwyneth Kirby.

## Sunday 6 December

### Advent 2

- 9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Tim Bennison
- 11.00am Morning Worship Dr Anne Pennington
- 6.30pm Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

Monday 7 Dec 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's  
(see page 6 for details)

Wednesday 9 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship  
Visit by Brambles Playgroup and Christmas Quiz

Friday 11 Dec Last day to order a "Caring Christmas Tree"  
(see page 6 for details)

7.00pm Choir Practice

## Sunday 13 December

### Advent 3

9.00am Breakfast and "Sunday Funday": Theme "Christmas"

9.30am Sung Eucharist Revd Tim Bennison

11.00am All-age service Prof Jeremy Bradshaw

7.00pm Housegroup Fellowship at the home of David and Gill  
Cochrane, Dalgety Bay (see note on page 11)

## Diary for December 2009 (cont'd)

- Monday 14 Dec      6.30pm Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Christmas Concert  
to 8.00pm on stage in the church  
(an open invitation on page 7)
- 7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's  
(see page 6 for details)
- Wednesday 16 Dec 2.15pm Wednesday Fellowship – Celebration of Christmas and  
Close of Session
- Thursday 17 Dec    6.15pm Ecumenical carol-singing at Rosyth Tesco Metro  
to 7.15pm (meet in the Crush Hall at 6.00pm)
- Friday 18 Dec      7.00pm Choir Practice

### Sunday 20 December

#### Advent 4

- 9.30am Sung Eucharist                              Revd Tim Bennison
- 11.00am Morning Worship                            Mrs Hilary Henderson
- 11.00am Christmas "Drop In" at Andrew and Belinda Letby's  
to 4.00pm home, 25 Hawk Crescent, Dalkeith: meet your  
Circuit Superintendent!
- 6.00pm Sunday@Six: Carol Service by candlelight  
Retiring offering for CHAS (see page 13)
- Monday 21 Dec      7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's  
(see page 6 for details)
- Thursday 24 Dec    4.00pm Candles, Carols and Children's Drama:  
an exciting celebration for all the family  
Revd Malcolm Trew
- 11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

#### Christmas Day

- 8.00am Holy Communion (1662 Prayer Book)  
at Holy Trinity Dunfermline      Revd Ross Kennedy
- 10.00am Family Worship                            Revd Malcolm Trew

### Sunday 27 December

#### Christmas 1

- 11.00am Joint Communion Service              Revd Malcolm Trew

#### No Sunday@Six

- Monday 28 Dec      7.30pm Ecumenical Study Group, St Columba's  
(see page 6 for details)

# Diary for January 2010

## Housegroup Fellowship

Over the next few months the Methodist discussion book "Time to Talk of God" is being used as the basis for meetings at the home of David and Gill Cochrane in Dalgety Bay. For further information and dates of the January meetings, phone 01383 820535.

### Sunday 3 January

Christmas 2	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Revd Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Local arrangement
Thursday 7 Jan		Christmas Dinner at the Hideaway (see notice-board for details)	

### Sunday 10 January

#### The Baptism of our Lord

	9.00am	Breakfast and "Sunday Funday"	
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Revd Tim Bennison
	11.00am	All-age service	Revd Helen Jenkins
Monday 11 Jan to Wednesday 13 Jan		Diocesan Clergy Residential Conference at Green Hotel, Kinross	

### Sunday 17 January

#### Epiphany 2

	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Revd Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Mr Will Carroll
Saturday 23 Jan	10.00am	"Casting the Net" Workshop (details will be circulated when available)	

### Sunday 24 January

#### Epiphany 3

	11.00am	Joint Covenant Service Traidcraft goods on sale after the service	Revd Eric Potts
	6.00pm	Sunday@Six: Taizé Service led by Revd Tim Bennison	
Tuesday 26 Jan	6.30pm	St Margaret's Vestry Meeting at Myra Tarr's home (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline)	

### Sunday 31 January

#### Candlemas

	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	Revd Tim Bennison
	11.00am	Morning Worship	Revd Geoffrey Baines

# Over 7,000 reasons to sign up!

from our finance teams

There may still be some of our church family who pay tax but don't gift-aid their church giving. If this is your situation, *please* consider gift-aiding.

For every £10 you give out of your tax paid income, the church gets £2.80 back from the tax man, and so it is worthwhile to increase your giving in this way.

This applies to collections, donations; church flowers – in fact *any* aspect of the church's work. Your donations to the charities supported through the church can also be enhanced in this way: the church ensures that the tax recovered is passed on appropriately.

In the last year, our fellowships between them recovered £7,327 in tax. Which makes 7,327 good reasons to sign up!

Gift-aiding is not like the old covenant schemes that you may remember, where you were committed to regular giving over a period of years. You can stop giving by Gift Aid whenever you want, and give as much or as little as your circumstances allow.

All you have to do to start gift-aiding is to complete the simplest of forms, which are needed to register the fact that you are giving this way. And then all your gifts have to be traceable to you as a tax-payer, which is easy and confidential if you use one of the envelope schemes.

Because Rosyth Methodist Church and St Margaret's are separate charities in law, there are different arrangements for administering Gift Aid. If you would like to find out more about Gift Aid giving to Rosyth Methodist Church, please contact Ron Dempster; for St Margaret's, please contact Marc Tempelhoff.

## A Christmas Poem

Oh, hearken, for this is wonder!  
Light looked down and beheld Darkness.  
"Thither will I go", said Light.  
Peace looked down and beheld War.  
"Thither will I go", said Peace.  
Love looked down and beheld Hatred.  
"Thither will I go", said Love.  
So Light came, and shone.  
So came Peace, and gave rest.  
So came Love, and brought life.  
And the Word was made flesh  
and dwelt among us.

Laurence Housman

## St Margaret's AGM

At the meeting on 22 November Alan Taylor and Lesley Yellowlees were re-elected Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative to serve for a further year. Members of the Vestry for the next year are: Revd Tim Bennison (Chairman, ex officio), Sue Forman, Mary Kidd, Myra Tarr, Alan Taylor (lay representative, ex officio), Marc Tempelhoff, Lesley Yellowlees and Sandra Young. Howard Kirby attends the Vestry meetings as the Methodist Council representative.

# A Visit to Rachel House

a report by Alan Taylor

Betty, Lesley, Myra, Pauline and Sue F from St Margaret's and Ron and Mary from Rosyth Methodist came with me on a visit to Rachel House, the CHAS hospice for children in Kinross, on 12th November. Twice each year Rachel House has two in-service days, when maintenance is done, staff are trained and invitations are sent to supporters "to find out how our support enables CHAS to help families make the most of the time they have together".

This was an amazing visit, quickly dispelling any pre-conceived ideas of what a children's hospice is about. The building and grounds are built specially for purpose. It's not an existing building converted for use but a well-thought out design incorporating on the ground floor bedrooms for seven children with life-shortening illnesses, while their families have en-suite accommodation on the first floor. As our tour guide said, for many a parent this will be the first good night's sleep they will have had in a long time.

The activity rooms are all on the ground floor, incorporating a musical rumpus room, games rooms for younger children and for teenagers (up to 18 years old), a spa with audio-visual effects and a relaxation room with water bed. Functional rooms include specially-equipped bathrooms, a doctor's surgery, a chaplain's room and all-faiths quiet area, and a bereavement suite with

its own special, private garden. A brand-new kitchen has just been installed.

There are always three carers on duty, who get to know their children, help them to relax and escape the stresses and strains of their illness, and make it as easy as possible for parents and siblings alike.

One young boy was asked if there was anything he would really like. He said he would like his mum and dad to get married – so, after a little thought, that was arranged and happened in the hospice!

We all had refreshments at the end of the tour – which lasted about 90 minutes – and an opportunity to buy goods from the shop.

On a personal note, I was delighted to learn that a lot of the funding for Rachel House came from a well-known RAF family, the MacRobert's of Douneside, whose estate encloses Alastrean House on Tarland, a special place for RAF personnel, now a retirement home. And the name of the hospice? Comes from Lady Rachel MacRobert, of course!

---

There will be an opportunity for everyone to support the work of CHAS at our Christmas carol service on 20 December.

The St Margaret's congregation also continue to support CHAS as part of their annual "Giving to Others".

Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is a Scottish charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-limiting conditions. More information at <http://www.chas.org.uk/>

# Blow ye the trumpet ... the year of jubilee is come!

a report on the St Margaret's 40th birthday celebration by Mary Kidd

Ever since it was suggested that St. Margaret's Church has a cause to celebrate this year – the 40th Anniversary of its founding in the Rosyth Naval Base – ideas and plans were mulled over, decisions made, and plans put into operation to see how best this might be done.

It meant a lot of planning, research, correspondence, phone calls, e-mailing, catering and so on. All the members of the vestry, the choir and the congregation had some part to play in it all, and this contributed to its success.

It was felt most appropriate to choose for our 'big day' the Eve of St. Margaret, when we would have celebrated our Patronal Festival, and to share the occasion with the Methodist Church with whom we are in partnership, and worship ecumenically and regularly.



Revd Tim Bennison and Rt Revd Michael Henley

Also present in the congregation was the Revd Nigel Johnson, former Naval Chaplain and his wife, Barbara. During the 1970s Nigel composed a setting for the Artificer Apprenticeship Choir, and this was sung during the Communion service.



The church filling up before the service

On the day itself we were honoured to have as our Preacher the Rt Revd Michael Henley who had twice been our Chaplain at St. Margaret's, and former Chaplain of the Fleet. (His address and memoir are on page 16).



The choir processing out, led by Jock Headden. The cross was dedicated to Maud Headden, Jock's late sister-in-law.

Grateful thanks to Martin Rogers for taking the pictures, which you'll see in colour on the web version of Contact.

Former members of the Choir and Congregation were welcomed to the service; it was a joyous occasion and an excellent opportunity to share fond memories, and to express thanks for being a part of the life of St. Margaret's Church.



A happy group of Methodists well fed!

Many messages had been received from others who had not been able to be present – these were read out following the meal. As well as looking back, as a partnership we look forward to travelling further together.



Friends reunited (front left, Nigel Johnson)



Eve Denning holding court!  
Alison Jones used to be a member of our choir



Virginia Osborne and John Sherwood studying the archives maintained by Mary Kidd

A celebratory lunch was shared after the service when friends were able to meet up with 'old' friends, some of whom had travelled a considerable distance to be a part of this day.

The web site will shortly have more photographs and things to download, plus a recording of the service.



The aftermath!

## The Bishop's sermon

Notes for the sermon given by the Rt Revd Michael Henley at the 40th Anniversary celebration at St Margaret's, Rosyth on 15 November 2009. We hope soon to have a recording of the service on our web site.

---

I can't tell you how delighted I am to be invited to preach on this 40th Anniversary. It is truly a pleasure to be with you this morning.

Rachel and I were in Rosyth on three occasions, and indeed our first daughter was born here. I was chaplain of what was then an artificer engineer training establishment HMS Caledonia, and then Chaplain of HMS Cochrane and the Dockyard on two separate occasions before finally becoming Chaplain of the Fleet.

St Margaret's was originally a green tin tabernacle – a nissen hut in the dockyard – but with the expansion of the married quarters the MOD took the wise decision to build three new churches at what was effectively the crossroads of the then naval community, and thus St Margaret's, the upside-down boat, was born and I had some input into its design, asked by the then senior Chaplain John Marks and later Ambrose Barcroft.

The only item that was transferred from the tin tabernacle was the pulpit – the stern of a sailing man'o'war – sailing away!!!

I was invited back for its dedication and, as I have said thereafter, twice had the enormous pleasure of being its priest. In which, over two appointments, I had the support of so many naval friends and civilian members, most of whom had naval or dockyard connections, and also a number of assistants. To evoke a few memories: Vera and Harry Jenkins the principal of the apprentice training school

and long-term so-styled People's Warden. Eve Denning, Joan Groves and Mary Kidd, guider and a Methodist who became such a focal point in the life of St Margaret's and its choir. And Virginia Osborne, the very faithful organist.

From the Navy there were, in no particular order, the Squires, the Warsops, the Whites, the Vallings, the Ridleys, the Slaters, the Wilkes, and the Hardings.

I suppose the major difference between then and now was that then a strong sense of community prevailed, based on the establishments and shlps based here and the large married quarters. Today the Navy seems much more dispersed and some of the feel of community life has disappeared.

In my two appointments I had the support from some wonderful assistants, whose real job was to look after the small ships (Mine Counter-Measures and Fishery Protection), but between us and with the help of Tom Dennison (Inverkeithing and first Non-Stipendiary Minister of the Scottish Episcopal Church) we maintained a daily communion service. Again they are names from the past: Richard Thomas, John Rawlings, Steve Pickering, and Mark Jackson, one of the characters of the Chaplaincy. It was he who amongst other things procured the sculpture of St Margaret.

I little realised on my appointment to Rosyth that one of my major responsibilities as Chaplain was to oil her once a fortnight to preserve and her from the central heating!! To update you, she is no longer in Faslane but in the chapel of St Margaret's Hospice Yeovil, and the image you have on your invitation card is now the logo for hospice care in the SW of England.



I loved St Margaret's, and one of the hardest and most difficult decisions that I had to take early in my episcopate was that the then congregation would be unable to afford the upkeep and maintenance of a building which had inherent design faults. And so the links to your current home began, which eventually developed into a partnership. For which I thank God.

But briefly to the real Margaret: an Anglo-Saxon, the consort of King Malcolm and of course closely associated with this part of Scotland and Dunfermline in particular. Apart from being the mother of eight children, she is rightly credited with transforming and reforming Scottish culture, the Scottish Church and the very Scottish nation itself. She ensured that institutions were about people and she provided relief for the hungry and the homeless. Those beliefs remain very much at the heart of the ministry and missionary outreach of our church, the Scottish Episcopal Church, today.

Rachel and I had lunch with Roger and Mary Devonshire last week and he reminded me that the church was not about buildings but people. Thank you for being the people of St Margaret's, for keeping the faith and in so doing being faithful. God bless you.

---

Even Bishops get things wrong sometimes. Mary Kidd has pointed out that she was involved with *Scouting*, not Guiding, at St Margaret's: her only involvement with the Guides was to send her daughter each week, then get roped in for badge testing!

## The missing cross

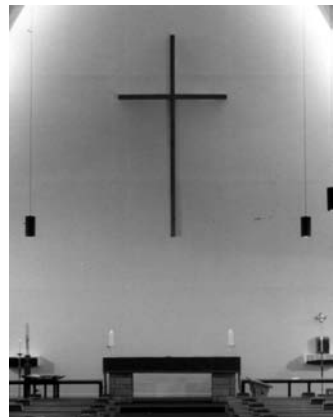
The account of the demise of St Andrew's dockyard church and the building of St Margaret's Church and hall in Hilton Road for both Naval and Dockyard families is interesting – along with the wooden sculpture of St Margaret cleverly carved and transported from Orkney some years later.

However, the account omits to mention a large cross which was manufactured and fashioned by the skills of some dockyard craft apprentices in the Dockyard Training Centre and installed in the new building early in May 1969.

My husband David, who was the senior training officer of the Centre, and myself were invited along with those apprentices by Admiral Ridley at the dedication on 27 May 1969. But does anyone know the whereabouts of the cross after the closure in January 1996?

Thelma Couch

PS: David and myself do not offer seasonal greetings cards, but wish you all Christian happiness always, and thank you for being prayerfully supportive of us.



## A message from an absent friend

Malcolm Trew was most disappointed that, due to his unexpected “detention” in Kirkcaldy Hospital he was unable to read a lesson in the service and to share the celebratory meal. So he wrote this message ... and asked the Editor, a 4th generation Baptist!! ... to read it on his behalf.

---

When the decision was taken to close St Margaret’s Church, it was expected that most of the congregation would find new spiritual homes in local Scottish Episcopal congregations. Some did, but many, particularly from the choir, had not only developed close friendships, but they had formerly worshipped in English Parish churches. They hoped they could continue in the style of worship they enjoyed at St Margaret’s. But how or where?

One of these was Mary Kidd – a 4th generation Methodist, married to a Naval Commander, with two young children. He being Anglican, and the close proximity of their home to St Margaret’s Church, led naturally to Mary being more active there than in the Methodist church of which she was also a member.

Mary shared with Malcolm their concerns. Having worked ecumenically wherever possible since 1961, Malcolm immediately thought about the growing number of “Shared Building Agreements” which

were being established in England. So he approached his Church Council with the suggestion that St Margaret’s be invited to consider sharing this building.

They agreed and St Margaret’s came . . . and saw and . . . also agreed! Some two weeks later St Margaret’s began to use this building.

Next a search began for a form of words which would both reflect our unique position and also be acceptable to Ecumenical bodies. After three years Malcolm handed this task to his successor, and a Covenant Agreement was signed a year later.

We are unique – the only instance in Scotland today of a Methodist and an Episcopal Congregation sharing one building. We share together in various activities and some services. Perhaps more important however is the love we share and the formation of individual friendships.

Malcolm rejoices with you in your 40th year Celebration today, and especially thanks God for our past 13 years together.

So, in the words of the short doxology Methodists often sing:

“We’ll praise Him for all that is past,  
and trust him for all that’s to come!”

---

## Our church web sites

As part of the preparation for the 40th Anniversary, St Margaret’s launched a web site. Planned changes include a report on the anniversary celebration (with more pictures than we can print, and in colour of course!), together with recordings both of the service and of the St Cecilia Praise held on 22 November. And, as you would expect, issues of Contact will be available on-line. So, if you are a surfer, do make a point of visiting us at [www.stmargaretsrosyth.org](http://www.stmargaretsrosyth.org).

Work is also in hand to create a parallel and linked site for Rosyth Methodist Church, and an appropriate domain name has already been registered. Watch for the “Under construction notice at [www.rosythmethodist.org.uk](http://www.rosythmethodist.org.uk) to disappear!

## **Easter Play 2010**

You may just be getting your head around the thought that Christmas is approaching and really can't conceive that anyone can be thinking about Easter 2010, but they are! The Edinburgh Easter Play, which, has become an established annual event is in the planning for Saturday 3 April in Princes St Gardens, performances at 10.30am and 2.30pm.

While the steering group are busy organising and raising funds, those taking part started rehearsals on Wednesday 18 November, 7.00pm at St. John's Church, Lothian Road. No experience necessary; no auditions; everyone gets a part! Don't worry if you couldn't make the first one: rehearsals will continue weekly, same time, same place, until Christmas, then resume in January. This year there will be a modern take on the Easter Story towards the end of the performance, which will show that the message is just as relevant as it always was.

Nearer to Easter there will be a need for a construction team to erect the scenery, a sewing team to make/repair costumes, caterers, marshalls and more. If you want more information, or to volunteer, contact Frances Young (01506 882530; frances.young@easterplay.org) or speak to either Ann or Brian Curtis, the CEMC Easter Play link people. Note also that link people are needed in all Edinburgh and Forth Circuit churches – please contact Frances to volunteer.

## **Wednesday Fellowship**

This new venture in the life of our church has been well supported since we began in September. We have welcomed former members of 'Women's Own' and the Retirement Fellowship who have come together for an afternoon of fellowship. Those of us from St Margaret's and the Methodist Church have also been joined by friends from the Church of Scotland. Our number varies – so far between 14 and 21 (including two to four men).

We've enjoyed some very interesting speakers who give freely of their time to come to Rosyth, and those who are members of our churches. We usually begin the afternoon with a short period of devotion and prayer, and close with a cup of tea and a chat with each other. We also have a weekly raffle, and recently raised £90 for church funds at our annual Bring and Buy sale.

There will be a break from regular meetings after Christmas until the beginning of February. In the New Year Mary Dempster and I will be putting together the Spring session. Do let us know if you have any ideas which will help us in our planning.

Be assured of a very warm welcome if you intend to come and join us for the first time after the holiday, even if you cannot manage every week.

Mary Kidd

## **Naval connections**

The service for the 15 November celebration included the Naval Prayer and Hymn which used to form part of regular worship at St Margaret's before 1996. So it was appropriate that the loose offering uplifted resulted in a cheque for £100 being sent to Seafarers UK (formerly the King George V Fund for Sailors). Our thanks to all who contributed.

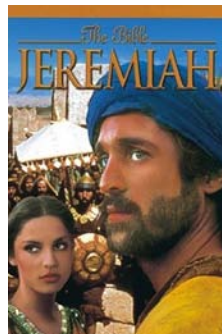
## The Bookcase: No.12

our regular feature from Jack Fowell

The prophet Jeremiah lived during the latter part of the seventh century and the first part of the sixth century BC. During his long ministry he warned God's people of the catastrophe that was to fall upon the nation because of their idolatry and sin.

He lived to see this prediction come true with the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, the destruction of the city and the Temple, and the exile to Babylon of Judah's king and many of the people. He also foretold the eventual return of the people from exile and the restoration of the nation.

In the bookcase in the Crush Hall we now have a DVD of this part of Jeremiah's life, with a cast headed by Patrick Dempsey, Oliver Reed and Klaus Maria Brandauer. The DVD lasts 94 minutes and is well worth seeing.

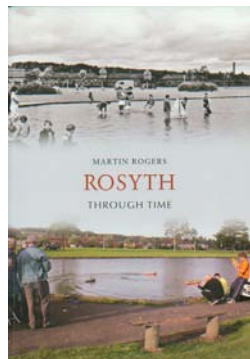


Editor's note: Parents should be aware that the story inevitably includes some violence. As it says in Kimberly Heinrich's review at Amazon.com, "the overwhelming conclusion of this movie is that being a prophet is tough."

## Rosyth Through Time

Martin Rogers was busy over the summer months compiling another book of photographs of Rosyth. "Rosyth Through Time" uses a mixture of old and new photographs to illustrate some of the changes which have taken place in Rosyth over the last 90 years. The huge increase in motor vehicles is very apparent from the photographs along with all the associated traffic signs, road markings and speed humps. Green fields have become housing or commercial sites and shops which once sold goods are now estate agents, betting and video shops. There are a number of photographs of the Pitreavie Castle area which was once closely associated with Rosyth.

Copies of the book are available from Martin at a cost of £12.99. For another 1p he will be happy to sign the book for you.



The **next issue** of Contact will be produced at the end of January 2010. Contributions please by **Sunday 23 January** to Martin Tarr (1 Methven Drive, Dunfermline, KY12 0AH; Tel: 723989), preferably by email to martin@mtarr.co.uk. Please give information for the diary section at any time to Sandra Young (sandrayoung39@btinternet.com or 415021).