

Rosyth
Methodist Church

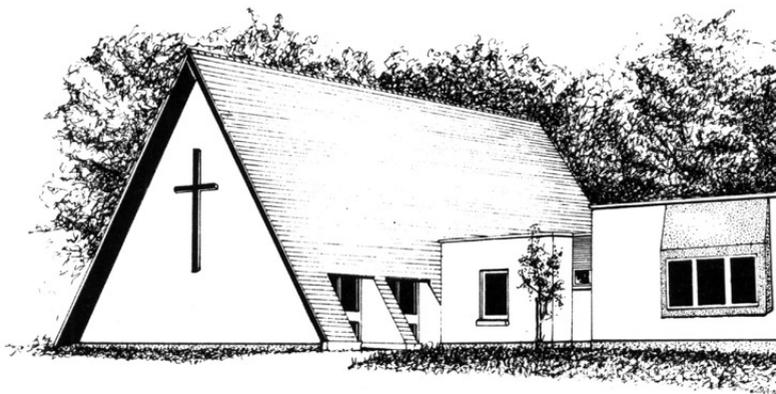
St Margaret's Scottish
Episcopal Church



Contact

the newsletter of the partnership between

Rosyth Methodist Church and
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church



Issue 60

December 2011/January 2012

**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

Ministers:

Deacon Sarah McDowall
01383 611000

Rev Andrew Letby 0131 663 1545

Senior Steward:

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Treasurer:

Howard Kirby 01383 624779

Rector:

Rev Tim Bennison 01383 720532
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Curate:

Rev Valerie Walker 07720 327766

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
(including Sunday School)

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”

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. Or come by public transport: the Church is on several bus routes, and less than five minutes walk away from Rosyth railway station.

From the Rectory

Rev Tim Bennison shares some Advent thoughts ...

As the evenings draw in, and Christmas lights and music become ever more in evidence, we can be sure that, once again, we are about to enter into the season of Advent. And perhaps, more than any other season of the church's year, the season of Advent stands at odds with what's going on in the world at large.

For most people, we are now in the run-up to Christmas and things are becoming increasingly festive with parties, eating, drinking, being merry – and frantic shopping.

In the church, we are also in the run-up to Christmas, but our preparations are somewhat different as we reflect and prepare ourselves to meet with Christ who is to be amongst us.

And that process of thinking and preparation is reflected in the distinctive spirituality of Advent – particularly in the prayers, readings, hymns and psalms of the Daily Office – all of which seem charged with hope, expectation and excitement about the future.

One particular tradition which reflects this feeling is that of the so-called 'O' Antiphons. These are seven short verses, or antiphons, which are sung before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer, or Vespers, on the seven days before the vigil of Christmas (Christmas Eve).

They each begin with the exclamation 'O'; And each of them ends with a plea for the Messiah to come. As Christmas approaches the cry becomes more urgent.

The antiphons were composed in the seventh or eighth century when monks put together texts from the Old Testament which looked forward to the coming of the Messiah and Salvation. They form a rich mosaic of scriptural images. They became very popular in the Middle Ages. While the monastic choirs sang the antiphons the great bells of the church were rung. This period of seven days, plus the vigil of Christmas is sometimes called 'sapientiatide' after the first of the 'O' antiphons.

A curious feature of these antiphons is that the first letter of each invocation can be taken from the Latin to form an acrostic in reverse. So the first letters of *Sapientia*, *Adonai*, *Radix*, *Clavis*, *Oriens*, *Rex*, and *Emmanuel*, provide the Latin words: ERO CRAS. The phrase spells out the response of Christ himself to the heartfelt prayer of his people: "Tomorrow I will be there".

In traditional English (Sarum) and hence Anglican usage this pattern was slightly revised and the antiphons began on 16 December rather than 17 December. This resulted in there being one antiphon too few and so a new one, 'O *Virgo*', was added for 23 December.

/continued overleaf

What's in this issue ...

This issue has an Advent/Christmas theme, so you'll find seasonal material on pp3–6, pp8–9 and p18, as well as the usual items:

Conversation with the Editor (pp32–35)
Diary for November–February (pp19–21)
Fellowship News (pp14–17)

From the Superintendent (pp22–24)
Invitations and requests (pp5–7)
Music corner (pp37–38)
News from our Groups (pp12–13)
Partnership news (pp30–31)
Reports on events (pp10–11, 28–29)

/continued from overleaf

However, in the new Church of England Daily Prayer Book the older Roman usage has been restored, as it has in our own Daily Prayer Office.

Why not join with the Prayer of the Church each evening, and reflect on these words preparing for Christmas day by day:

17 December – *O Sapientia*

(O Wisdom):

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to the other mightily, and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

18 December – *O Adonai*

(O Lord God):

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

19 December – *O Radix Jesse*

(O Root of Jesse):

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer: Come and deliver us and delay no longer.

20 December – *O Clavis David*

(O key of David):

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel; you open and no can shut; you shut and no one can open: Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

21 December – *O Oriens*

(O Morning Star):

O Morning Star, splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

22 December – *O Rex Gentium*

(O King of the Nations):

O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one: Come and save the human race, which you fashioned from clay.

23 December – *O Emmanuel*

(O God with us):

O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope for the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Advent Study Group

The Ecumenical Advent Study group will meet in St Columba's Church, Torridon Lane, Rosyth on Mondays **28 November, 12 and 19 December**, and **9 January** at 7.30pm. Come along and join the group, who will be "Journeying with the Magi".

For further information contact Alan Taylor, or Morag Crawford (0131 332 2253)

More Advent reflections

A special series of meetings of the Holy Trinity Prayer Group will be taking place every Tuesday afternoon throughout Advent – on 29 November, and 6, 13 and 20 December – at 2.30pm in the Holy Trinity church hall.

Each meeting is being led by a different person, including Tim and Valerie. Do feel free to join us, either for the whole series or just to dip in, as part of your Advent journey.

If you have any questions or would like more details, please contact Margaret Dineley – margaret.dineley@googlemail.com.

Invitations

Nativity and Carol Concert

At 7.00pm on **6 December** you are invited to bring your torch to the Parish Church and begin the Christmas celebrations in the company of the Christmas story characters and Sydney the donkey, the Rosyth Concert Band and the school choirs.

If you can help with stewarding or serving teas and coffee contact Alan Taylor or Morag Crawford (tel 0131 332 2253).

Celebrate in music

You are invited to join us for our traditional Advent and Christmas services:

27 November 2011 (Advent Sunday)

– an Advent meditation

18 December 2011

– Carols by candlelight

More carolling opportunities on page 38.

From hurt to hope: a different sort of Christmas service

Deacon Sarah writes ...

Christmas is of course a time of joy, but for many people it can also be a very difficult time. This may be because of painful memories, fears for the future or family circumstances. In recognition of this there will be a special service on **Wednesday 21 December** at 7.30pm here in Rosyth Methodist Church. In this service, we will be given a chance to sing and to pray. We will be invited to offer up the pain, the loneliness, the sad memories, and the anxiety and fear to the one whose birth we eagerly await ... Jesus Christ. We pray that you will find hope and peace in this service, and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. All are invited to this service and tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Witness at Christmas

Your support will be very welcome at the ecumenical carol service at 1.00pm on **Friday 23 December** at *Your Oasis*, in Dunfermline's Kingsgate Centre. See page 27 for other information on *Your Oasis*.

Do join us ...

... on Christmas Eve

Lots to choose from, depending on what hours you keep!

4.00pm Family Service at our church, led by Rev Andrew Letby and Deacon Sarah McDowall

7.00pm Service at St Columba's, Torridon Lane – tea and mince pies before the service

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

... on Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline (1662 Prayer Book)

10.00am Family Service at our church, led by Rev Geoffrey Baines

... on New Year's Day

11.00am A New Year 'Service in a Box' See page 18 for illumination!

... on 22 January

11.00am Joint Covenant Service led by Rev Tim Bennison and Rev Andrew Letby

6.00pm Sunday@Six – a Service of Healing, led by Deacon Sarah McDowall

More invitations

Flowers for Christmas

Gill Wardell is the main flower arranger for Holy Trinity, Dunfermline and her displays are especially beautiful on special occasions such as Christmas. Why not get some tips from her on arranging flowers for Christmas? Gill has kindly agreed to talk to the Wednesday Fellowship at 2pm on **7 December** in the Church Lounge. All are most welcome to come along and marvel at how easy Gill makes flower arranging. You are in for a treat!

Annual Church Dinner

All are welcome to the Church Dinner on **5 January 2012** at Taurasi, meeting at 6.30 for 7.00pm. As before, the bill will be totalled and divided by all attending. A list will be placed on the notice-board for those wishing to come. We look forward to seeing you all.

Dennis Cook and David Slater

Spirituality Event

The event being organised by the Holy Trinity Spirituality Group, and due to have taken place on 12 November, had to be postponed due to the illness of Valerie, our curate, who was heavily involved in the organisation and running of the day. It has now been re-scheduled to take place in the church on **Saturday 25 February**. This is the first Saturday of Lent and we hope that people will see it as a spiritually uplifting way to start their Lent journeys.

There will be more information in the next magazine, but in the meantime if anyone wishes to ask questions about it or express an interest in joining us, please contact Margaret Dineley by e-mail or phone (margaret.dineley@googlemail.com or 01383 624377).

World Day of Prayer 2012

It doesn't seem all that long ago when we were busy preparing for this year's World Day of Prayer, when St Margaret's was the host church for the Rosyth area which includes Inverkeithing and North Queensferry.

The WDP Scottish Committee has met several times during the year to plan the service for next year which will be held on Friday afternoon, **2 March** at Inverkeithing Baptist Church.

The Order of Service has been written by Christian women of Malaysia and is entitled "Let Justice Prevail". Malaysia is a nation of diverse cultures, races and religions, a truly multiracial country where communities live and work in harmony as one people, yet preserve the traditions and cultures unique to each race. However, the ideal of peace and harmony is undermined by corruption and greed, and it is distorted when voices for truth and justice are silenced. These problems are known to us in our own context, and so we listen carefully to those seeking and praying for justice in Malaysia.

For more details visit the WDP web site at www.wdpscotland.org.uk.

Mary Kidd



No surprise that Mary arranged these flowers! But who was she introducing? To find out, go to page 11.

Invitations and requests

Memorial Book

An updating of the Memorial Book is now due. Would anyone with appropriate information please contact either David Slater or Dennis Cook.

From the Methodist Flower Secretary

May I thank everyone who has given their gifts of time, talents, money and flowers during the last year. Thanks are also given to our church treasurer who 'manages' the Flower Fund.

Any contributions to the fund may be passed on to him – remember to inform him of your envelope number if you are a 'Gift-Aider'.

I feel flowers are an important part of the ministry of our church as well as adding beauty to our worship in the sanctuary. They are not only very welcoming but also much appreciated by the recipients afterwards, maybe in the comfort of their home when a visit is made. Pastoral visitors are welcome to take flowers to their 'charges' where appropriate.

Two new lists will soon appear on the notice board for you to add your names for 2012. Please indicate if you are willing to supply the flowers, or arrange them, or both. Perhaps you have a special date, an anniversary, or a birthday, you wish to commemorate in this way. Would you like to be a part of a team arranging flowers, perhaps once every two months? I would gladly welcome your help and any new ideas.

Please let me, or the Pastoral Secretary, know of anyone who is ill at home, and would appreciate flowers.

Mary Kidd

Can you spare 40 mins every five weeks?

This is all it takes for a team of two people to clean the sanctuary! Could you team up with a friend or relative and volunteer to fill a gap we have in our rota? Of course, with a team of three or four the job takes even less time! A family or friends could do it together.

The cleaning can be done any time after Wednesday evening, so it is flexible, but most teams seem to do it on Friday or Saturday.

We really are desperate to find a new team, so please contact me on 01383 723989 or at myra@mtarr.co.uk. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Myra Tarr

Stainer's Crucifixion

Previous generations were used to church choirs performing oratorios as part of the lead-up to Easter, and one of the best-loved of these was *The Crucifixion*, "A Meditation on the Sacred Passion of the Holy Redeemer", composed by John Stainer.

We are hoping to sing this work during Holy Week 2012, probably on Good Friday evening, so will be looking to augment our choir. If you are interested, or know others who might be, have a word with Myra Tarr (01383 723989 or myra@mtarr.co.uk). Rehearsals, from 7.00–8.00pm on Fridays, will start in January.

For wordsmiths ...

Our page 28 caption uses the term 'clutch' of clergy. Ron's web sources suggest that the proper collective noun should be 'dignity' or 'chapter' – though surely the latter applies mostly to canons! Can you do better?

Christmas Cards

As usual there will be a post box in the Crush Hall over the weeks up to Christmas. This is a 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 in racks on the worktop 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 West Fife Scoutpost and cards can be sent to most parts of Fife for 25p (see poster for further details).

There will be a separate post box in the Crush Hall for these cards. The deadline for receipt of cards is 5.00pm on **Wednesday 14 December**, so please “post” your cards in good time.

Cards and money should be placed in a plastic bag or envelope with a note of your name and contact details in the event of any queries. *Please* include postcodes on the cards! The cards will be delivered by local scouts between 17–23 December.

Our Christmas trees ...



*A message from
Athelma and David Crouch
The goodwill season should be for ever, and
the greatest gift for us is ‘life’, with all its
blessings from our loving Creator and Father,
who gave us his Son Jesus to show us the way
to use our gift of life. May we all be thankful.*

*Thank you to all those who have decorated our Christmas
trees, and given generously to charity for the privilege!*

Edinburgh Nativity Scene

If you are in St Andrew’s Square, Edinburgh between now and Wednesday 4 January do visit the renowned Nativity Scene. Why not take time to stand and think about the meaning of Christmas while contemplating Tim Chalk’s thought-provoking sculpture? This special work was commissioned in 2003 to challenge the views many people

hold of the nativity scene. Its graphic and realistic depiction of the nativity is both striking and emotional.



Pauline Fisher
wishes all in
both churches a very
Happy Christmas.

**John and
Rosemary Cowell**
wish all their friends a
Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year.

**Jock and Audrey
Headden** wish
their friends from both
congregations a Happy
and Holy Christmas.

David Slater
sends Christmas
Greetings to all
members and friends of
the Combined Churches

Lesley Yellowlees
wishes friends in both
churches a Happy Christmas
and blessed New Year.

Betty Terry
would like to wish all her
friends in St Margaret's and
the Methodist Church a Merry
Christmas and all good wishes
for a very Happy New Year.

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

Eve and Julie Denning
send their best wishes for
Christmas and for a happy and
healthy 2012 to their friends in
both congregations.

Valerie and Andrew Clark
would like to wish everyone a
very merry Christmas and a happy
New Year. May God bless you at this
special time of the year.

Dennis Cook
would like to send
everybody greetings for a
very Happy Christmas and
a contented New Year.

Ron and Mary Dempster
regret that due to circumstances
we won't be sending individual cards
this year. We wish everyone in both
church families a Happy Christmas
and a happy and healthy New Year.

What's been happening ...

The People's Bible

West Fife Christians made their mark on history in October as "The People's Bible" rolled into Dunfermline.

A unique venture between Bible Society in England and Wales and the Scottish Bible Society, to celebrate 400 years of the King James Bible, it offered participants the chance to write two Bible verses using a digital pen. The digitised entries will be included in a new paper copy of the Bible and also in an on-line archive.



An escalator's-eye view of participants

Dozens of people, including members of St Margaret's, Rosyth Methodist, Viewfield Baptist Church and Holy Trinity, Dunfermline seized the golden opportunity at the Kingsgate Centre.

It was also a welcome chance for us all to meet and get to know a group from St John's in Alloa, who had travelled through to Fife with Valerie Walker especially for the event. Their time in Dunfermline had started with Prayer Book Communion in Holy Trinity, naturally with the readings in the Authorized Version!

Lee Green

St Margaret Agape

We celebrate our Patron, St Margaret, every year and give thanks for her life and work.

This year we had a double celebration – the Wednesday Fellowship on 16 November (the anniversary of her death) devoted their meeting to her memory.

The following evening, the St Margaret's congregation held an Agape meal in the Church Lounge, 'Agape' being the name for informal meals and times of togetherness and sharing, a reminder of the meals Jesus shared with his friends and the unity that his Spirit continues to give us.

This was a relaxed evening and we all appreciated both the fellowship and the three course meal of soup, main dish and sweet/cheese and biscuits. Tim had chosen appropriate hymns, readings and prayers, which were interspersed between the courses, as was communion, when we served each other the bread and wine.

Our sincere thanks go to Marc and Pierre, in charge of the preparations and who cooked the excellent hot food; to Mary Kidd who made the tasty soup; and to all who brought desserts and soft drinks.

In our presence was a framed picture of St Margaret (produced as part of the Dunfermline 900 anniversary celebrations in 1993). This picture, which once hung in our previous church in the Naval Base, has been in Jock and Audrey's home for several years, and will now have a permanent place in this church, to serve as a reminder of our honoured Patron Saint.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning!

Although 15 folk from all parts of the Circuit were at Evelyn Kenny's coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, there was "more food than people", so she was grateful to those who bought the surplus after the next Sunday's morning service. Thanks to everyone who helped Evelyn raise £150 for this worthy charity.

Some amazing Russian sounds!



Hearty applause from an almost full house was the well-deserved response to the Voskreseniye Choir at the end of their concert on Wednesday 16 November. Dozens of music aficionados from across Scotland had descended on our church to hear this much-acclaimed choir.



Their programme started with sacred music in the Russian Orthodox tradition, including three extracts from Rachmaninov's 1916 *Vespers*, but with many less familiar masterpieces spanning the centuries. Everyone was enthralled by the amazing sounds that musical director Jurij Maruk conjured from this small, professional ensemble, all of whom had studied at the St Petersburg Conservatory of Music.



The second half provided a complete contrast, with a selection of spectacular Russian folk songs, which included the

inevitable *Song of the Volga Boatmen* and an *Old Drinking Song* straight from the taverns of Mother Russia!

The performance was part of the choir's 2011 UK tour, which began in Exeter at the end of September, and has since taken in Wales, mainland Scotland and Orkney. After delighting our Rosyth audience, the choir headed north to perform at St Mary's Cathedral in Aberdeen, but were back in Fife the following Saturday as guests of the Priory Singers in St Andrews.

Grateful thanks to:

- Valerie Walker for making the original booking
- Scottish Slimmers for moving their meetings to the main hall
- all our helpers on the night
- Marc and Pierre for catering
- Mary for her introductions, and the beautiful floral arrangements
- Will Carroll and Stuart Pearson for wielding their cameras
- Howard, Mary, Lee and Martin for organising the event

Thanks too to our audience, who we think will be pleased that the choir have threatened to return in November 2012!



Sunday Funday

Gwyneth Kirby writes ...

We've had a great response to our last couple of Sunday Fundays, so much so that we've had to enlist extra help and increase the number of activities on offer. Last time we even had a problem finding enough room for everyone to sit down for breakfast. But these are the kind of difficulties we are really pleased to be challenged with - and there is still room for more if you want to come along!

We have been thinking about gifts from the Spirit, concentrating so far on Love and Peace. Check out the two banners in the corridor leading to the Church, which show how we are trying to make these concepts relevant for our children today.



The Peace banner

On Sunday 11 December we will be thinking about Joy, which of course ties in with the joy we experience at Christmas time – watch out for the third banner in the series.



Want to know what these guys are doing?
Come along on 11 December
and find out for yourself!

If you know of any local children who would like to come along, please make sure they get invited. This month we put invitations through a number of doors in the neighbourhood, but a personal invitation is always more effective!

Wondering how you could get involved? The obvious way is to offer your help on a Sunday morning, but this is not possible for everyone, I know. We get through a tremendous amount of craft material each month, so another way of helping would be to save any materials you think might be useful to us. We also provide quite a hearty breakfast for all the children, at no charge, so perhaps the occasional donation of something towards that would be something you could do, but please check what is needed first. Above all, please pray for the work we are doing with the children, and help us to reach out to the children around us who might otherwise have no contact with the Gospel.

Brambles Playgroup

At the end of October Brambles celebrated the 40th anniversary of its opening. To the many words of thanks said on that day, their Chair, Lauren Harris, has asked us to add a further thank you to Mary Innes and Malcolm Trew, and to thank the people from the church for their ongoing support and help, which is much appreciated.

The playgroup is also grateful to the Gothenberg Trust for support in getting a new computer for the playroom.

Brambles will be having their Christmas parties on 22/23 December, with a 'graduation ceremony' for nursery leavers, and they also hope to perform a small Nativity play.

Wednesday Fellowship

Mary Kidd reports on a great session!

The last report of our Wednesday Fellowship described the 'beginning of term' and gave a hint of what was in store for us. Little did we know just how much joy and blessing we would share in the weeks ahead. Now we are rapidly approaching the 'end of term' with just three meetings left and our Christmas Lunch at The Elgin Hotel to look forward to, weather permitting! We've welcomed three new members to the Fellowship – Irvin Glancey, Dennis Cook, and Rosemary Cowell.

During this session we 'travelled' to Tanzania with Deacon Morag Crawford (see pp14–15 of our October issue) and heard about Lou Davidson's return visit to Haiti, with Lemonaid, earlier this year, and about the progress being made there in building a new orphanage. The sight of all those little children lining up to receive their injections will long be remembered.

At that meeting we congratulated John and Rosemary Cowell on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary that day. Rosemary arrived in her wheelchair, clutching proudly their telegram from Her Majesty! Mary Dempster found a cake from somewhere, and we opened a carton of fruit juice to toast the happy couple on their special day. The following week, after Haiti, we 'sailed on' to Ethel Douglas's Desert Island to hear the eight records she would like to take with her.

On a more serious note we celebrated our own Harvest Thanksgiving, reminding ourselves of its origins and how it came to be embraced by the Christian Church. What has become an enjoyable annual event is on the Wednesday before Remembrance Sunday when we have our own time to remember past times and share memories. That afternoon session lasted nearly two hours; it was almost dark when we got home!

You just had to be there to admire Alan Taylor's service medals, and to see Audrey Headden as a glamorous teenager in a gymslip, sporting hockey sticks, as captain of the 'B' team at Dunfermline High School in the year 19xx!

Much more recently we celebrated the life and work of Saint Margaret, Queen of Scotland. What an amazing woman! Saint Andrew? You're next!

On a sad note, we were very sorry to hear of the death of one of our honorary members, Peggy Truscott. Peggy once belonged to both the Retirement Fellowship and the former Women's Own. She was always in favour of the two groups coming together when membership numbers began to dwindle. Although house-bound in recent years, she always showed a keen interest in our Wednesday meetings and looked forward to receiving her copy of Contact. Some of us will remember her playing the piano for us – with 'jazzed up' hymn tunes, and her musical games and quizzes were an entertainment in themselves!

We have a break over Christmas and January, maybe even longer if we have another long winter. The ideas for next session are already being put before us. Please do consider joining us, even if only occasionally; you will be assured of a very warm welcome and fellowship, and don't let's forget the refreshing cup of tea afterwards, and a chocolate biscuit, if you're lucky!

Seeing the year out ...

- 30 Nov St Andrew's Day Special
with Bill Tulloch and Mary Kidd
- 7 Dec Gill Wardell
– Flowers for Christmas
- 14 Dec Christmas Lunch at the Elgin Hotel
Meetings resume on **8 February 2012**

Fellowship News

Seen at Harvest



The couple pictured here are Ann and Ken White. They were members of our church until they went to Canada (Vancouver) some years ago. They were home visiting their family. Ann was a local preacher and is now a minister in the United Church of Canada in the Okanagan area of British Columbia.

Ken is studying to be the equivalent of a local preacher in Canada. They are moving church shortly – they don't know where yet – and hope to return to this country in five years' time, when Ann retires. Grandchildren are now an incentive for them to return to the UK!

Valerie Walker

Our love and prayers are with Valerie as she recuperates in Pitlochry after surgery. Happily Valerie is recovering really well and enjoying walking in the autumn countryside. She expects to be back with us the first weekend of December.

One minute, please

What did Jesus say?

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away”

Matthew 24:35

Cornish christening

In our last issue we offered congratulations to **John and Deborah Cornish**, who had just become grandparents to Chloe, beloved daughter of David and Laura. Now we have another photograph taken by proud Uncle Alan, this time of Chloe's christening.



You will of course recognise John and Deborah: the other equally proud, besotted grandparents are Chris and Pippa Luckraft. Chris was a 'small ships' chaplain in the Royal Navy in the 80s and will be remembered with affection by 'old stalwarts' of St Margaret's. Small world, innit!

Margaret Dineley



Congratulations to Margaret – a regular contributor to Contact – on being accepted as a Lay Reader. We'll be seeing more of her at St Margaret's during her training, as well as hearing her alto voice in the choir.

What is a Lay Reader? See page 26 for her explanation.

Fellowship News

Blue Sapphires!

John and Rosemary Cowell celebrated their Blue Sapphire Anniversary on 12 October. What anniversary was it? According to our computer it was their 65th!



19 marries 17! John and Rosemary Cowell at Wednesday Fellowship

That day they happened to be at the Hub Café (which is held in the Parish Church Hall) for lunch, and when the ladies found out they produced a cake, which was nice of them.

They then came along to Wednesday Fellowship, where they got another piece of cake, along with a glass of grape juice. They also were given the previous Sunday's floral arrangement – it went well with all the other flowers that they had received from their family.

It is so nice to have John and Rosemary able to come to the Fellowship and join in the chat, etc. John and Rosemary, we all wish you both many blessings.

Ron and Mary

Angie and Mo

We are sorry to say that Angie Bradley and Mo Fellows are leaving Dalgety Bay to set up home in Portsmouth. This is the second time that they have lived in Dalgety Bay as they once had a house in Morlich Road next door to the late Mrs Troop, whom we are sure will be remembered by members of the congregation.



Angie (left) and Mo (right) at an "Out of Town" meeting in Manchester in June 2011

Angie and Mo were in the WRENS and, as they like to go to various social events which are usually celebrated in Portsmouth, the move will cut out all the travelling up and down the country. They have been fortunate in getting a serviced flat, which is great news for them as neither likes gardening. Now all that remains is to sell their lovely little bungalow, so if someone is thinking of "down-sizing" ...

Ron and Mary

Contact editors are always pleased to receive letters and articles on topics of interest to our readership, especially items of fellowship news, though regrettably these may need to be modified or adapted to fit the space available. Please email your contributions to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk.

Young at heart ...

Scout Group

Our Scout Group recently held a successful and well attended Open Night and AGM. This was the last official duty for Stuart Fowell as our Group Scout Leader who has now passed on the mantle to Nick Mathieson, a former Scout and Explorer Scout in the Group.

District Commissioner, Barrie Wilson, presented Stuart with a quach as a token of appreciation for his contribution to the Scout District. Stuart has served as Group Scout Leader for 20 years and for 14 of these years has had the additional responsibility of running the Beaver Colony.

A slide show of photographs (many in black and white!) looked back at some of Stuart's Scouting moments since he joined the Scout Movement in 1956.



Also included in the slide show were a few other old photos of present day leaders in their younger days. The one included here shows Paul Ward (Explorer Scout Leader) Nick Mathieson (new GSL) and Alan Connery (Scout Leader) as Cubs and Scouts at Fordell in 1985. Would anyone then have imagined this trio as leaders in the Group some 25 years later!

Martin Rogers

Trash the Dress!

First there was the engagement photo! Then there were wedding photos, and a lovely album. Now here is the 'Trash the Dress' photo. That's right, folks – after months of planning the dream wedding, followed by a lovely honeymoon in Cape Verde, this slightly mad couple decided not to follow tradition of keeping her dress nice and safe in the attic, but instead to follow the new trend of 'trashing the wedding dress'.

So, one sunny Saturday morning in October, Valerie had her hair and make-up done, got all dressed up again in her dress, and then headed off to St Andrews where Valerie and Andrew met with their photographer, Caroline Trotter to 'Trash the Dress'. This was a lot of fun and as you see we ended the day in the sea!



You can view more of these photos on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/7d7842n>.

This was Caroline's first 'Trash the Dress' but, as always, she delivered some special photos. As those who have seen the wedding album would have to agree, she has a nice relaxed approach and puts everyone at their ease. If you are looking for a photographer I can highly recommend her to you. Please check out her web site (www.carolinetrotter.co.uk) or give her a call on 01333 360219. I hope you enjoy the 'Trash the Dress' photos'.

PS: The dress isn't really trashed, just needed lots of cleaning.

Sporting success

Sue Masson reports on a trip out West ...

Three and half years ago Adrian and Sue set off with Robby to find a small town called Hillsboro, in the middle of Kansas, where Robby had won himself a scholarship to study and play soccer. A couple of weeks ago, we retraced our steps so that we could watch his final home game of the college season. After flying to New York and spending three days sightseeing we then travelled on via Kansas City and a lovely four-hour drive across the prairie with its amazing fall colours to find Tabor College.



In the USA teams play in 'conferences' rather than leagues and the recent end of season report from his college team, the Tabor Bluejays, reads as follows:

"Senior Robert Masson took home top honours for the Bluejays as he was named First Team All Conference. Masson, a midfielder from Dalgety Bay, Scotland, finished his senior season with 16 points as he totalled 6 goals and 5 assists ranking him 3rd and 2nd in the team respectively. He also led the Bluejays and the Conference in shots with 73, while finishing 1st in the team in shots on goal with 29, ranking him 2nd in the Kansas Collegiate Conference."

Robby has come to love the American way of life and wants very much to stay after he graduates, hopefully in May. He will have 18 months in which to find a job related to his majors, Strength and Conditioning and Sports Business Management, and we hope and pray that he will be successful.



Proud parents on the touch-line

This small independent college, which is run by the Mennonite church, has been Robby's home and where he has made friends with people from all over USA and international students from Brazil, Germany, Mexico and England. He has been made welcome and invited to stay for Thanksgiving and Fall breaks and summer vacations. He has snow-boarded in Colorado and joined a scientific field course in Belize which involved trekking through the rainforest and studying the sea life on the coast. He has also coached soccer in Telluride in the Rockie Mountains, has played for the professional development team of the Real Colorado Foxes and recently made the final round of selection trials for the Wichita Wings, a major league professional indoor soccer team.



Follow that star ...

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/ Christmas Season and the “Twelve Days of Christmas”. The days are customarily counted from the evening of 25 December to the morning of 6 January, beginning at *sundown*, so it is the evening of 5 January that is Twelfth Night.

For many Protestant church traditions, the season of Epiphany extends from 6 January until Ash Wednesday (this year on 22 February).

The term ‘epiphany’ means ‘to show’, ‘to make known’ or even ‘to reveal’. The Western church began celebrating the Epiphany on 6 January in the 4th century when it was, as it still is, associated with the visit of the magi (wise men, believed to have been astrologers) to the infant Jesus.

The biblical story of the Epiphany is recalled only in Matthew’s Gospel (Chapter 2). The story says the magi came from the East and followed the star in search of the newborn King.

But the story does not tell us everything.

- 1 It doesn’t say how many magi followed the star, though there are traditionally three, because of the three gifts they brought: gold, frankincense and myrrh.
- 2 Neither does Matthew tell us that they were royalty, though Christian writers have referred to them as kings since the 3rd century.
- 3 And their names in the West – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar – date only to the 6th century.

The magi were the first Gentiles to acknowledge Jesus as ‘King’, and thus the first to ‘show’ him to a wider world as the incarnate Christ. Their act of worship, which corresponded to Simeon’s blessing that the child Jesus would be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32), was an early pointer that Jesus had come for all people, of all nations, and of all races, and that the work of God in the world would not be limited to a chosen few.

Epiphany is a time to focus on the challenge to the church to reach others by ‘showing’ Jesus as the Saviour of all people. It is also a time to focus on Christian community and fellowship, and an apt season to pray for the worldwide mission of the Church.

Recognise this young lady?



Now doesn’t that look like someone you know from church?! To check your guess, go to page 32.

‘Service in a Box’

As **1 January** is a Sunday, we are mirroring last year’s Boxing Day experiment, by designating the services for New Year’s Day as ‘Local Arrangements’, but providing a special worship resource which churches and individuals are encouraged to use creatively. Wherever you happen to be that day, in the Circuit or visiting friends and family, you can all share in the same service using these materials.

Come along at 11.00 and find out how the resource is being interpreted at Rosyth ...

Diary for December 2011/January 2012

Monday 12 Dec 7.30pm Advent Study Group, St Columba's

Wednesday 14 Dec 12.30pm Wednesday Fellowship:
Christmas Lunch in the Elgin Hotel, Charlestown

Note: No further Wednesday Fellowship until 8 Feb 2012

Friday 16 Dec 7.00pm Choir Practice

Sunday 18 December

Advent 4 11.00am Joint Communion Service Rev Geoffrey Baines
Deacon Sarah McDowall (Worship Leader)

6.00pm Sunday@Six: Joint Carol Service by candlelight
Offering uplifted will be in aid of CHAS
(CHAS Gift Aid envelopes available from Alan Taylor)

Monday 19 Dec 7.30pm Advent Study Group, St Columba's

Note: Final meeting on 9 January

Wednesday 21 Dec 7.30pm From hurt to hope: a different sort of Christmas service
Deacon Sarah McDowall and Rev Tim Bennison
(see page 5 for details)

Friday 23 Dec 1.00pm Carol Service at Your Oasis, Kingsgate, Dunfermline

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Family Service
Rev Andrew Letby and Deacon Sarah McDowall

7.00pm Service at St Columba's, Torridon Lane
(tea and mince pies before the service)

11.30pm Midnight Mass at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

Sunday 25 December

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

10.00am Family Service Rev Geoffrey Baines

Sunday 1 January 2012

The Baptism
of our Lord 9.30am Sung Eucharist

11.00am New Year's Service
(see page 18 for details)

Thursday 5 Jan 6.30pm Church Christmas Dinner
at Taurasi, Carnegie Drive, Dunfermline
(see page 6 for details)

From the Superintendent's desk

Andrew Letby writes ...

Dear friends

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.” (Henry Ford)

Over the past few weeks I have enjoyed following the lectionary passages from Paul's writings to the church in Thessalonica. As one of the earliest pieces of Christian writing they give an insight into a community of people who have just heard about the new 'way of Jesus'. Paul commends them on their excitement, expectancy and their witness to the power of the Gospel demonstrated in their love inspired lifestyle. It is clear that the words brought to them by Paul have really struck home and their lives have been transformed. They were people who lived in difficult times and we know their new community was under pressure from those who thought they were mad or had sold out on their tradition. But, crucially they saw a new age dawning (what we have come to understand the Kingdom of God) and they were not to be distracted from the tasks, the learning and their growth as disciples that would lead them towards it. Paul reminds them over and over again that they are Spirit filled and led people, and that they must never lose sight of the goal. Such a focus on the goal is so uplifting. So often I find myself in conversations which revolve around why we can't do something, rather than how we can achieve it.

That said there are several ways in which we have set our sights on the goal and refused to be knocked off track by so called obstacles. So we can celebrate the start of work to re-develop the CEMC building at Nicolson Square. Many people have worked tirelessly, often at great personal cost, to get to the stage where building could begin.

There were many difficulties on the way, but the goal was always in sight. A similar story can be told of Granton United where building work nears completion. Rev Helen Mee reflects on this:

“You may become aware of ripples of excited anticipation radiating across the city and sending waves down and across the Forth as the handover date for our new church building gets tantalisingly close. As I am writing this it is almost the Church's new year and the Granton United congregation is being given the opportunity to celebrate and contemplate Advent in a very tangible way. We hope to take handover of the building just before Christmas and our waiting is filled both with anticipation and busy preparations. Perhaps we will move in in January with the celebratory service planned for March. As a congregation we see this as an opportunity for a new beginning in our discipleship and ministry of welcome in Granton whilst building on our shared traditions. We ask folk to pray with us that we can continue to find meaningful ways to bring an incarnational approach to God's mission in Granton.”

We have also seen the start of several other new projects which are described on the next page. Each could have come to grief because of some imagined obstacle: immigration, finance, accommodation, inertia or a simple unwillingness to be challenged and changed. But, we kept an eye on the goal and they are now reality. Rev Geoffrey Baines reflects that we are on the 'The journey of our lives' and offers these thoughts:

“Sometimes I have to walk a little further from my home for a bus. Then, if I see one passing the end of the road, I have to really hurry up because experience over these last five years has shown me that there’ll be two more buses, at least, following close behind. Anyone using Lothian buses knows that, very often, they arrive in threes. It’s a mysterious thing! The important thing is, when they do, make sure you get on one – if you don’t, you might be waiting a long time for the next one.”

Life in the city and Circuit looks like this to me at the moment. All of a sudden, we have lots of things (people) coming together at the same time and there are lots of things beginning: Ken and Casey Weatherford with their songs and their passion; Lou Davis with her dreams and creativity; Sarah McDowall, Belinda Letby, and Sue Langdale as local ministers with a diversity of talents and skills. I don’t think that these arrivals exist in isolation to one another, but are part of something significant happening among us and we are just beginning to imagine the connections and the possibilities they present. At a time such as this, unprecedented in the life of the circuit, the important thing is to get on board and take the journey of our lives.

So as we come toward the start of a new year – are our eyes set on Spirit inspired Kingdom goals or are we allowing ourselves to be distracted by looking for obstacles and hurdles? Read on to discover what God is doing among us – both now and as we look to the future.

Andrew

Ed: Meet **Lou** when she comes to Rosyth for Family Worship on 11 December!

Hello! My name is **Lou Davis**. I’ve recently moved to Edinburgh from Stockport to do something called Venture FX. If you’re not familiar with VentureFX, it’s a pioneering ministry scheme of the Methodist Church that has the aim of reaching young adults with no Christian heritage and establishing fresh expressions of church in new places and in new ways. I’ve come at the request of the Methodist Church to work with young adults in the city.



That request came as a result of a small group of people who have been meeting in Edinburgh and praying and thinking about how the church might develop here. How it might be good news to the community of Edinburgh and how it might re-engage people in faith.

The little group in Edinburgh aren’t the only ones thinking that kind of thing, it’s part of a bigger movement of people worldwide that are asking serious questions of the church about what it means to be agents of God’s kingdom; what that looks like in practice and what do the resultant communities of faith look like. I think it’s a result of God prompting us (the church) to re-examine our priorities, to let go of some of the things that are unnecessary, unfriendly and unwelcoming and to rediscover depths of spirituality, compassion and holiness as demonstrated by Jesus.

If you’d like to follow what I’m up to, I’m blogging my experience of being in Edinburgh and meeting new folks at <http://edinburghdreams.com>, you can follow me on twitter @edinburghdreams or on Facebook (search for Edinburgh Dreams).

More from the Superintendent's desk

Our Leith and East Lothian youth worker, **Hayley Dunn** was recently part of a week of activities in Ross High School, Tranent. Working with a Scripture Union team a group was given access across the school to run a 'Freedom Focus Week'. It was a really positive week and Hayley writes:

"God is good! As we prepared, there were a number of hitches but God dealt with them one by one. Just a few highlights to give thanks for:

- Over the week, we led 70 classes, 6 assemblies, and one concert.
- For protection over the whole team: the band, Taste, the drama group, Foolproof, and a mix of local ministers/ youth workers and SU staff. It was a busy week, but God gave us the strength.
- For the chance to build relationships with the pupils and to see them in a number of classes. Most of the week was spent with S1 and S2.
- For the support of school staff and a raising of the profile of the chaplaincy team in school
- For Christians within the school (pupils and staff) who felt encouraged by the week
- For the Thursday night concert where 125 pupils came along to hear the band and a message about finding freedom through Jesus.
- For the provision of accommodation, food and finance by the local churches.

"Please continue to pray for the witness in Ross High and in particular for the CY group which will run on a Tuesday lunchtime in school up until Christmas. This is the youth version of Christianity Explored and aims to help pupils think through some of the things they heard this week."

Music Missioners, **Ken and Casey Weatherford** are now settled in Edinburgh and working on several exciting new initiatives. They reflect on the coming weeks:

"As Advent approaches, we enter a time of conception, of preparation, of anticipation. We look with hope toward the birth of all that is truth and beauty and light. We grapple for a tangible response to such a monumental gift. What on earth do I have to give to a God who gave His only son?"

"These are things on our hearts as we enter a new season of our time in Edinburgh, and as we prepare for a special Advent series called 'Give It Away'. We've been conceiving ideas, preparing plans, and anticipating the beginnings of new things: a Fresh Expression of worship in East Lothian, a new gathered community in the city, and the growth of 'inter : mission', a mid-week respite for the work-weary. We are in the business of planting seeds, and all we can do is look for fertile ground and pray for rain. This Advent, plant a seed. Take a risk. Give yourself away for the One who gave himself for you."

For those who come from non-Methodist backgrounds, and wonder why we've printed material about Edinburgh, it's worth quoting Andrew's comment that "Methodism is structured around the Circuit – not independent congregations – and that Circuit is the primary unit of mission. So we rejoice in our mutual life and all news is of relevance to every part of the circuit."

Keeping the show on the road!

Property Matters

from Martin Rogers,
Property Committee Chairman

There is always something on the go regarding the use, maintenance and improvement of our Church premises. As I write this article I am mentally preparing to get up at (for me) a very early hour the following day to see the painters in at the Church. Earlier in the year, they painted most of the external black A frame of the main sanctuary area but were unable to get to the apex at the front as it was too high to reach without scaffolding. We have hired in an access tower to enable this last section to be completed and, as the minimum hire is for a week, we are taking the opportunity to move the tower inside and redecorate the sloping ceiling and wall at the stage end.

A lot of work was done some two years ago to redecorate the lower part of the sanctuary and replace fluorescent tubes and last year the floor was sanded and restored. The painting of the ceiling and stage wall will be the final part in a "facelift" for the sanctuary.

Also imminent is the upgrading of the audio system in the Church. We will be replacing the two speakers on the beams near the front of the Church with more modern and versatile ones which will be better able to cope with music from CDs and DVDs. The amplifier is also to be replaced. Our thanks to Stuart Pearson for all the time and effort he has devoted to researching possible options for upgrading the system and seeking quotations for the work.

I need a fairly small sewing job done. With a machine, I imagine it would only take a few minutes. If anyone can help, please speak to me.

Thanks

As a past editor of Contact, I am very much aware of the time and effort required to produce a magazine like Contact. Martin Tarr and Sandra Young have taken the magazine to new heights with a comprehensive and varied range of reports and articles coupled with a high standard of presentation and production. I suspect they will be an impossible act to follow! On your behalf may I thank them both very much for the diligent and imaginative way they have produced the magazine over the last two years.

Martin Rogers

St Margaret's AGM

At the AGM on 20 November Alan Taylor stood down as Lay Representative and was thanked for his sterling work over 13 years. No nominations were received for the post and Tim appealed to the congregation for someone to take on the role for the next year. Anyone who feels able to do so please talk to Tim or Sandra Young before the next Vestry meeting on 17 January.

Lesley Yellowlees was re-elected to serve as Alternate Lay Representative for a further year. Peter Hutchings (Holy Trinity, Dunfermline) was re-appointed as independent examiner of the church accounts.

Welcome to Erica Lock, who joins the Vestry for the first time. Other members for the next year are: Rev Tim Bennison (Chairman, ex officio), Sue Forman, Mary Kidd, Myra Tarr, Alan Taylor, Marc Tempelhoff, Lesley Yellowlees and Sandra Young. Rev Valerie Walker also attends as does Howard Kirby, the Methodist Council representative.

Lay Readership in the Scottish Episcopal Church

– What does it all mean? Margaret Dineley explains ...

Those of you who were at the 9.30am service on Sunday 18 September will have heard Tim announce that I had been accepted for training as a Lay Reader in the SEC – those of you who weren't there on that occasion may still not have heard. For all of you I am very pleased indeed to have the opportunity to tell you about what being a Lay Reader entails, about the training and a little about my spiritual journey. I would have liked to have made you all aware of this a bit sooner. However, the whole process, which is a Diocesan matter involving a Diocesan appointment, suddenly accelerated at the end, sooner than I had expected.

I was put forward in the Edinburgh Diocese some eight years ago for consideration for Lay Readership by Rev Dr Marion Keston, who some of you may remember. Although I was accepted, I moved to Argyll to further my husband's plans, and the situation in my parish there was quite different. I did 'keep my hand in,' so to speak, by being commissioned as a Lay Preacher by the then Bishop of that Diocese.

Since moving permanently to Dunfermline I have been pulled into various activities both within Holy Trinity and also in the Diocese. I have felt it a privilege to become so involved and grateful for the opportunities afforded to me. However, back in the winter, I began to feel that God was calling me to serve Him in a deeper manner. Because of my age, for some time I felt that Lay Readership was now out of the question, but during the summer I found out by chance (I think that is what a dear clerical friend of mine would call a God-incidence) from a Warden of Lay Readers in another Diocese that they did not operate an 'ageist policy.'

Having approached our Rector with my intentions, I was apprised of the Diocesan procedure and awaited the necessary interviews and their outcomes. Indeed, until I had been interviewed by the Warden of Lay Readers in our Diocese, Rev Bob Harley, and then by Bishop David, in whom the ultimate decision rests, I did not feel at all confident about their agreement over my sense of vocation, given my age! In fact it was my age that helped the decision making that I should start training immediately. I saw the Bishop only two days before Tim was able to inform the Vestry members, three days before the course started, and four days before he announced it to you all in church! I reckon my mind is reeling as much as yours!

So, what does being a Lay Reader involve? Basically it is an authorised ministry, which entails the Reader in assisting with the duties of the ordained clergy. Being a Diocesan appointment, the individual has to be prepared to go where the Bishop sends him or her. Generally the Reader will serve in the congregation from which he/she has come, but there may be an occasion where assistance is needed elsewhere in the Diocese, on either a short- or long-term basis. So it is more than likely that I will be serving both in Holy Trinity and in St Margaret's.

I think it is easier to state what a Lay Reader cannot do rather than what he or she can do! A Reader cannot consecrate the elements, though can take any worship service, including communion from the Reserved Sacrament. He/she cannot conduct a wedding or a baptism (except in an emergency, when in fact any one can undertake this sacrament), but can, and frequently does, conduct a funeral.

Apart from this, the Reader can undertake and be responsible for any other task in the remit of the ordained clergy, including pastoral, teaching and preaching elements. The Reader will only fulfil his/her duties under the authority of the incumbent of the charge. One final point – a Lay Reader cannot be in sole charge of any church, though may in an inter-regnum have a very full workload in a congregation, but only under the authority of the interim moderator.

As regards the training, all prospective Lay Readers in the Province undertake the Initial Ministerial Education course alongside the ordinands. The responsible body is the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (known simply as TISEC). Lay Readers are expected to follow two years of intensive part-time study, involving each year five residential weekends, weekly evening seminars, monthly evening seminars on Reflection of Ministries and a summer school. In addition eight assignments have to be produced. All students are being continually assessed (at least there are no exams!). Ordinands follow the course for three years and a number of potential Lay Readers choose to do this also – but I reckon two years will suffice me – that question of age again!

I will keep you all informed of my progress – I am still a member of Holy Trinity, as well as enjoying links with St Margaret's – and you will continue to see me around.

I would very much like to ask for your prayers on my journey of faith. Also, please, if anyone has any questions to put to me, do not hesitate to approach me and ask!

In blessings,

Margaret

Your Oasis

Have you ever dropped into the *Your Oasis* centre in the Kingsgate? It's a haven of peace for shoppers, run by Christian volunteers. If you have never visited *Your Oasis*, Christmas shopping is the ideal time – come in for a rest and a refreshing cuppa!

The latest news from *Your Oasis*, received from our friend Rev Kathryn Price of Dunfermline URC is that:

- Pat Carrigan, town centre chaplain, has announced his intention to retire when his contract expires in February. Pat has done tremendous work during his four years in post and the churches, especially those in the town centre, have reason to be enormously grateful to him. The future development of *Your Oasis*, following Pat's departure, is already under discussion.
- Plans are being made to mark Advent in the Kingsgate Centre with models of Mary and Joseph journeying from shop to shop in search of a room.
- Through the winter 'meal packs' will be put together for the most vulnerable visitors. We are asked to consider having a collection of suitable tins and packets in our church. Monetary donations are also very welcome!
- There will be a carol service in *Your Oasis* at 1pm on **Friday 23 December**.

Harvest

Alan Taylor writes...

Our Harvest Festival is normally celebrated on the last Sunday of September, which is usually the 4th Sunday of the month and thus our joint service. This year it was the turn of St Margaret's to lead the service, so what better than to have all four ministers taking an active part – Andrew, Sarah, Tim and Valerie – and with two others in the congregation.



Our "clutch of clergy":

Back row L to R: Rev Andrew Letby; Rev Eric Potts;
Rev Tim Bennison; Deacon Sarah McDowall;
Front row: Rev Malcolm Trew; Rev Valerie Walker

Just one problem – where was the organist? Sue had just cried off as she was ill at home, but who walked through the door at that point than Janet! A willing "volunteer" until she discovered that we were to use unfamiliar hymns. Compromise – Tim would play the unfamiliar hymns on the piano, while Janet played the familiar ones on the organ. Solved!!

Tim and Valerie wore kitchen aprons, Tim for most of the service. What a strange thing to do, but why? Well, they had discovered a recipe for Stone Soup which they decided to make at the start of the service. And what strange soup it was because it was pretty tasteless as you might imagine.

Nothing daunted, the cooks asked for additional ingredients – and, lo and behold, these appeared from the congregation, and soon there was a tasty cauldron of soup which – in a virtual sense – everyone was able to have, with more than enough for all. The moral: nothing's impossible when everyone gets stuck in (my version)!

For our Confession, each half of the sanctuary said their own prayer in turn. And then for our Affirmation, Robert Pearson helped by asking "What kind of God is our God?", "What is he like? Tell me about him.", "What does God call us to do?" – with answers from each of our ministers. Not to be outdone by her brother, Abigail Pearson read the second lesson which was about the feeding of the 5,000.

Andrew presided over communion – the *piscie* version – aided and abetted by Valerie, just to keep him right of course. And so everyone was able to participate who wanted.

Even our hymns were a bit different. We sang a Peruvian Gloria, our Offertory hymn was "Who put the colours in the rainbow?" and during Communion we sang "Beauty for brokenness". Not wanting to be totally hip, we also sang "Come, ye thankful people come", "Jubilate Deo" and – what else? – "We plough the fields and scatter!"

The service, understandably, was a little longer than normal. So what better than to be able to go straight into lunch in the hall after the Dismissal. Our ladies had laid out a wonderful feast from everyone's "bring and share" contributions, so we sat down to knives and forks, napkins and glasses – and what good food it was too.

And so we all went home, satisfied in more senses than one.

Harvest gifts

For the Harvest Festival Service, the sanctuary was decorated with a reminder of the harvest season. At the front of the church there was fresh produce, which was sold later. At the back of the church, were items that were later taken to the Blythswood Highland Food Bank.

Thanks to all who gave, and especially to those who laboured to make the church look attractive and to deal with the gifts.



Above: The display at the front of the church
Right: Some of the gifts that filled the black bags!

Ron and Mary asked us to say:

“Many thanks to all who contributed so much that it filled seven black bags with tins and packets of food. Thankfully the driver of the Blythswood van was able to lift them from our car as we knew that we couldn’t manage! Hopefully the Food Bank shelves will be well stocked before winter sets in. Well done, friends.”



Our Episcopal Area Council

We thought we had better explain the ‘Area Council’ mention in this issue ...

St Andrews West is one of the four Area Councils for the Diocese and covers the Episcopal churches in Kinross, Kirkcaldy, Central Fife (Glenrothes, Leven and Lochgelly) the ABI Group (Aberdour, Burntisland and Inverkeithing), Dunfermline and St Margaret’s. The Council meets four times a year, has a social in June and an annual service in the autumn. Its membership tends to comprise the clergy and lay representatives of these churches, although meetings are open to all members of the congregations.

Margaret Dineley has recently taken over as Convenor and is keen that future meetings should be interesting and lively and attract

a wider audience than at present. The 2012 programme has not yet been finalised, but each meeting will include a guest speaker and a variety of relevant topics relating to the Diocese or wider church are being planned.

The first meeting will take place in our Church Lounge on **Thursday 26 January** at 7.30pm, when all are welcome to come along and hear Rev Canon Val Nellist speak on “Travelling in ‘Ernest’ – reflections on a visit to New Zealand via the Far East”.

Other venues for open meetings in 2012 are Kirkcaldy (March), Kinross (May) and Glenrothes (November), and the annual service on **30 September** is at St Columba’s, Aberdour in the evening.

Casting the Net (CTN) – Autumn NETworking day

Sandra Young reports:

The annual NETworking day meeting of the Diocesan CTN Liaison Officers took place at St Peter's Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy on 12 November. Once again it was led by the indefatigable Karen Gaskell who also introduced the new CTN Co-ordinator, Caroline Gerbrandy-Baird, a member of St Serf's, Burntisland.

Together with the Methodists, we are engaging in the CTN initiatives in a special Rosyth way so it was an opportunity to 'fly the flag' for us along with over 30 from other churches in the Diocese, including Margaret Dineley (see page 14).

The day mainly took the form of small discussion groups, the morning session covering three topics quite similar to those aired at the mini-LEP (see opposite page). We looked at:

Worship, nurture, prayer, word and sacrament

Transformed lives, sharing faith and serving community

Children, and welcoming newcomers

I chose the group looking at serving the community. Interestingly, some of the smaller churches are already enthusiastically involved in various ways with their community or have aspirations for future participation. This gives me hope and encouragement. Our ministers are currently looking at ways we can engage with the Rosyth community, including further use of the church building during the day.

From feedback on all the topics, came a huge diversity of responses. Some of the simple and helpful ones I thought worth sharing include:

- We are 'casting the net' in some way every day
- A prayer helps
- Adopt the 'light' touch
- Be prepared to change directions and don't have a set agenda
- Share good practices
- Engagement with the 'wider' world – be good at listening

The four Area Councils discussed separately whether there is scope for Area Council meetings to include CTN networking so that we can share ideas. Our Area, St Andrews West thought this could be a suitable forum and I look forward to more productive Area Council meetings in future!

We were fortunate to have Bishop David with us all day and his injection of words of wisdom, personal concerns and views on mission were, as always, thoughtful and challenging.

Positive throughout, the day was spiritually enriching with open and trusting conversations. However, I needed time afterwards to reflect on all that we had heard and learned.

We were made very welcome and well looked after by St Peter's, who spoiled us with the choice of *five* home-made soups at lunchtime!

The day finished with a reflective Celtic Eucharist, led by Fr Gareth, Rector of St Peter's.

Date for your diary:

The 2012 CTN Gathering will be held on either **5 or 12 May**. More details later.

Developing local partnerships

Sandra Young reports:

Howard Kirby and I represented our churches (Rev Andrew was also there) at a recent half-day LEP mini conference at Augustine United Church, Edinburgh. Aply led by Rev Lindsey Sanderson, Assistant General Secretary of ACTS in Scotland, this was an opportunity for 35 people from a variety of LEPs – mainly across Central Scotland – and national officers to exchange ideas and practical suggestions.

We began with an interesting presentation of the life of the Local Church Partnership (Augustine URC, Greyfriars and St Columba's by the Castle, SEC). Members from each church spoke about the ways in which the partnership lives out three elements of their covenant: studying, working and worshipping together – the last one not on a regular basis like ourselves.

We then broke into the inevitable discussion groups and in two separate sessions we split into groups to explore ways of developing partnerships. By identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), we shared our experiences.

Date for your diary:

Please keep **Saturday 10 March 2012** free for the 4th LEP National Gathering at Murrayfield Parish Church, Edinburgh. More details later.

In the first session, we discussed ways of developing LEPs through:

- mission/outreach
- local ministry teams
- congregation to congregation links

In the second session, we looked at:

- working with children and young people
- developing relationships through worship
- how local relationships can be supported by denominations

Howard, Andrew and I chose different groups and I am sure they would agree that most of the SWOTs identified seemed familiar to our LEP. From this I take heart as we go forwards in our life together.

We finished with lunch, during which we had the opportunity to get to know others better and to share our stories and aspirations.

Lindsey sent a summary of our findings, which included the following Words of Wisdom:

- Take risks, leaps of faith
- Be open to change
- Don't assume everyone can use microphones
- Don't imagine we are taking God anywhere, God is already there
- Watch boundaries – they seem to get in the way.

Even unto the fourth and fifth generation ...

Notes on a conversation with the Editor

You arrive in Rosyth with your husband for a two/three year posting, thinking you can take things easy, and enjoy a sabbatical, and “on loan” to your local Anglican church, where you can lap up the music and liturgy ... and thirty years later you’re still here, and enormously active in both halves of our partnership. Who could this possibly be?

Mary Kidd was born Mary Jones in Cannock in Staffordshire. Although now realising that she is the fifth generation of her family to be a Methodist (she used to think only four!), Mary describes herself as “ecumenical from the cradle”, being the result of the union between a Wesleyan Methodist father and a Primitive Methodist mother, and attending a Church of England school.

Mary has three brothers, one older than herself, “like the Princess Royal”, and the Jones family are still close: for the seven years since their mother’s death, Mary and her brothers have been getting together each June, around the time of her birthday. The reunion at Bibury was particularly special, because the left-hand wing of The Swan Hotel, seen in the background, was built by their grandfather!



Reunion at Bibury: Mary and her three brothers

Music has always been important to Mary, and nowadays we see her singing with Dunfermline Choral Union and Dunfermline Gilbert and Sullivan Society, as well as in our church choir. But did you know that she also plays the cello? This resulted from her mother Connie having been the

RE teacher at Mary’s school. Mary wasn’t allowed to be taught by her mother, and in any case was well-versed in the subject, so was encouraged to have cello lessons instead, and subsequently played in the Staffordshire Youth Orchestra.

Mary has been a carer all her life – see our last issue in relation to Malcolm Trew, her next-door neighbour! – but her formal training in nursing, and then midwifery, took place at the Queen Elizabeth School of Nursing, attached to Birmingham University, and “the best teaching hospital outside London”.



Mary and her mother

On her days off, Mary was able to go home, so still retained membership at the church where she had grown up. Influenced and guided by her mother, Mary has been a believer “ever since I can remember”, and her commitment was first recognised formally in 1958, since when she has kept every “membership ticket”! (More about this on page 36)

Mary's ecumenism extends to a "mixed marriage" between Methodist and Anglican, which all came about when she was asked to be chief bridesmaid to her brother's fiancée, and met his fiancée's brother, who was giving her away. Now Jim Kidd looked magnificent in his lieutenant's uniform, and it was "love at first sight". A year later they were engaged, and married in the August of 1966, the year that England won the World Cup.



The nurse Jim fell in love with!

By 1971, Jim and Mary had moved from Plymouth via Dartmouth to Portsmouth, where they were to spend ten happy years with their young family, Becki and Andrew. Mary's spiritual home at that time was Hart Plain Church at Waterlooville, a joint Anglican and Methodist Church, and Mary believes the first such Local Ecumenical Partnership in Britain.



The family now:
 Back: Mary, Becki and Séan
 Front: Andrew, Aideen and Jamie

Here she served as Sunday School Superintendent, and made the first moves to "study to show herself approved", feeling that God may be wanting her to serve in some different way. All this as well as being wife/mother and for nine years a star of the Waterlooville Musical Players, performing two shows a year.



As Hebe in *HMS Pinafore*,
 aboard HMS Victory in Portsmouth.

The move to Rosyth took place early in 1981, at a time when Mary had just finished her three-year Christian Education course. Whilst her Methodist membership had been transferred to our church, Andrew was a Cub in the Scout Group attached to St Margaret's, then the Anglican Church for the Naval Base, so Mary involved herself in Scouting, and she was released to serve and witness at St Margaret's. She sang in the choir, and, encouraged by Rev Bill Weldon, led services such as evensongs and a "Songs of Praise".

Mary was also still a stage performer at heart! Having seen the Society perform *The Pirates of Penzance* in 1982, Mary's first show with Dunfermline G&S was *The Yeomen of the Guard* the following year, since when she has performed regularly, as an impressive exponent of the principal

contralto roles created by Alice Barnett and Rosina Brandram, including Katisha, Dame Carruthers, Lady Blanche, and Dame Hannah.

Not content with making music on stage, from 1988 until Bob Headden's death in 1996, Mary was one of "Bob's Lot", a group of entertainers much-loved throughout the neighbourhood, where Bob and Mary were joined by Virginia Osborne (vocals and guitar) and Don Higham (piano), two others who will be remembered by many.

The posting to Rosyth had been intended to be at most for three years, but the Falklands War disrupted their plans, as did, more seriously, a deterioration in Jim's health. So Jim left the Navy, and the couple moved to what is still Mary's home in Limekilns.



Mary and Jim at their (new) home in Limekilns

Two significant events in Mary's spiritual pilgrimage took place in the 1990s. The first of these was the closure of the base and the Naval Church, and the subsequent move of its remaining members to worship in the Methodist premises. "Coming home!" Then, in 1997, Mary went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with a group from Dunfermline Abbey, and it was while in a boat on the Sea of Galilee that she felt a definite call to be a local preacher.

This call was encouraged by Malcolm Trew, and she was strengthened during her period "on trial" by the Local Preachers' Meeting.



Mary's all-time favourite photo!

These were testing times personally as well as spiritually, with the collapse of Jim's health, yet her call was reinforced, and in the summer of 2003 Mary was finally accredited as a Local Preacher.

A highlight since was when, on her return to the Holy Land in 2008, she preached in the Church of Beatitudes, set on a hill at the north-west corner of the Sea of Galilee, and overlooking the Plain of Gennesaret, where our Lord once spoke to the crowds. Mary's "Sermon on the Mount"!

So far we've seen that Mary is someone who has used her many talents – as carer, homemaker, preacher, organiser, and on the stage – and have described what for many would be a full life, but Mary has other passions! For example, her garden is important to her and, thanks to the encouragement given by Frieda Trew to develop her artistic skills in making beautiful things even more beautiful, Mary's "plot of heaven" is now full of things that are useful to flower arrangers.

Also, having loved poetry since childhood, for the last 15 years Mary has joined Bill Tulloch (of St Leonard’s Parish Church) in the “Poetry Please” duo, offering poetry as entertainment. Her favourite poem is “Ballad of the Bread Man”, in which Charles Causley re-imagines the birth of Christ in Britain in the late 20th century.

Mary is also an indefatigable collector of memorabilia, and the keeper of our choir archives, and her collection of hymnbooks is matched by an impressive collection of books about hymns, hymnology being another of her interests.

Her having related the date of her wedding to the World Cup also hints correctly that football is an enthusiasm. Originally a Wolves supporter, her passion for Arsenal developed when Andrew was a little boy, and this love of “The Gunners” has affected the whole family for 35 years!

And of course Mary is a proud mother and grandmother, and takes great delight in the growth of her Irish family.



Proud grandma!

Mary is a tireless worker for our partnership, and she rejoices that the union between Methodists and Episcopalians has progressed, seeing the growth of many friendships as a great source of strength.

She is particularly pleased with the success of the new Wednesday Fellowship, which is “very special to me”.

She describes herself as “looking to wind down, but not yet”, but there are “too many jobs; not enough people” in the local church, so she sees herself continuing as Senior Steward and Local Preacher. As well as continuing as the Methodist representative on the World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee, and being singer and performer, poetry reader, flower arranger, football supporter, and carer extraordinaire! Mary has certainly taken to heart the message from The Preacher: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10a).

Thank you ...

... to the eight “pillars of the community” who have shared some of their stories with our readers over the past eighteen months. It has been a privilege to hear what has moulded them into what they are, to learn how God has been working in their lives so far, and to share their hopes and aspirations for the future.

... to all the folk who have been so supportive of our efforts as editors, and have “dug deep” to produce articles without *too* much prodding!

... to all our regular contributors but especially to our “roving reporters”, Mary and Ron Dempster, who have gone out of their way to bring us an amazing amount of fellowship news.

Sunday@Six

October's Sunday at Six was devised and led by Mary Kidd, and based on the Order for Evening Prayer from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The service included a number of parallel passages, read in turn from the Authorised Version, the Good News Bible, and the Message Bible, illustrating both the beauty of the 1611 words and the greater intelligibility of later versions.

We would encourage you to carry out the same exercise, and to be open to the fact that the Message Bible in particular has some wonderfully clear passages.

Mary's illustrations came from:

Genesis 1.1-3

Isaiah 55.1-3

Romans 10:15

I Corinthians 13.12

Ephesians 6.13

John 3.16-17

Philippians 4.8

We invite you to share in our forthcoming Sundays@Six:

27 November 2011 (Advent Sunday)

– an Advent meditation

18 December 2011

– Carols by candlelight

22 January 2012

– a Service of Healing
led by Deacon Sarah McDowall

Just the ticket!

Mary Kidd keeps an amazing record of her life, and this includes every single one of her membership tickets!

Those of you who aren't Methodists may be surprised to hear, as were your Editors, of the practice of issuing folk with a formal reminder of their membership, and of its duties and obligations. The form this has taken has changed over the years, from paper to plastic card, but there are always three components:

- a Biblical exhortation for the year
- the names of your minister and pastoral visitor/class leader
- space for you to sign

as well as a reminder of one's calling as a Church member.



This calling is expressed in four parts, one for each of the four segments of the Methodist Church corporate logo. These are worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism:

worship within the local church, including regular sharing in Holy Communion, and through personal prayer

learning and caring, through Bible study and meeting for fellowship, so that I may grow in faith and support others in their discipleship

service, by being a good neighbour in the community, challenging injustice and using my resources to support the Church in its mission in the world

evangelism, through working out my faith in daily life and sharing Christ with others.

'Singing the Faith' at Hereford Cathedral

our 'Special Correspondent', Rev Deborah Cornish, reports on the launch of the new Methodist hymn book

It started with a gracious invitation by the Dean of Hereford Cathedral to the Superintendent of the Herefordshire (South & East) Circuit: "Would you like to use the Cathedral for a circuit service?" To which the answer was "Wow! Yes, please".

A date was chosen, 16 October 2011. Then everything began to fall into place, when the launch of *Singing the Faith* and a visit to the District by the President and Vice-President coincided with the Cathedral service.

The Rev David Meachem arranged the music, and gathered and conducted a choir of 100 voices from across circuit and denominational boundaries. The service was planned in collaboration with the Chaplain of Hereford Cathedral School. The posters and worship booklet were designed and printed by Cathedral staff. Methodists served refreshments and acted as door stewards, with Cathedral vergers in the wings on hand to help visitors.

This was collaboration at its very best: hosts and guests serving one another and God.

As the choir took their places in the Cathedral, there was an air of anticipation and expectation. We knew this would be a good night; we hoped it would an evening of worship and celebration that would raise the roof and inspire all those that gathered.

The evening exceeded the wildest expectations of all those who had been involved in the preparation as coaches drew up outside the Cathedral grounds, and another 500 people poured through the doors. We ran out of service sheets and more chairs had to be found.

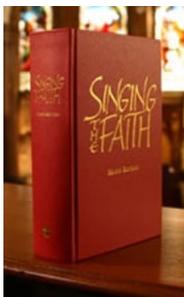
There was silence as the congregation listened attentively to those that spoke, and then earth and heaven combined as everyone praised in songs divine.

It truly was an awesome evening.

Using Singing the Faith

Singing the Faith is the new hymn collection authorised by the Methodist Conference in 2010. It claims to "reflect the distinctive voice of Methodist worship today, in all its diversity, by achieving a careful balance between the classic and the contemporary."

Tranent is so far the only congregation in the Circuit to receive the new books, but the sample booklet is used regularly at our Wednesday Fellowship. An order has been placed for copies for Rosyth, including some music editions, and the choir members are looking forward to using this new collection of hymns.



Note that the introductory discount has now been extended. If you wish to take advantage of this 17% saving to buy your own copy, or to give one to someone else, your order needs to be with Mary Kidd *before* Christmas. The collection is available in three printed editions: music, words and large print words.

Andrew Letby commends the supporting web site (<http://www.singingthefaitplus.org.uk/>) as "an amazing resource", and notes that the editor is one of own Local Preachers, Laurence Wareing.

Music Corner

RSCM Singing Day

This event, organised by Matthew Beetschen, (Chair of RSCM Scotland and Director of Music, Dunblane Cathedral), was held in Dunblane Cathedral on a glorious November afternoon.

Myra Tarr, Eve Denning, Sandra Young and Dorissia Forsyth joined some 40 people from other churches as far afield as Oban and Kelso to spend an afternoon making music.

We were instructed by the enthusiastic and helpful Gordon Appleton, an experienced Course Director, who taught us four pieces of choral music new to St Margaret's folk – the *Benedictus* from Stanford in G, the anthem *Let all mortal flesh* sung to a haunting arrangement of the well-known hymn tune *Picardy*, and two pieces suitable for an introit and a blessing.

After a break for tea, we duly put our efforts to good use when, during a short service led by the minister of the cathedral, we 'performed' these pieces, as well as singing three hymns – unfamiliar words, but well-known tunes.

We were accompanied by Matthew at the magnificent organ and, for the anthem, by the Handbell Ringers of Dunblane Cathedral. This was a real treat as the Ringers are a very versatile group, renowned throughout Scotland. Appropriately for 5 November, they played a movement from Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, as well as pieces at the beginning and end of the service.

This was an inspiring afternoon in a beautiful, medieval building and so worthwhile for us to have the opportunity to sing choral music our small choir cannot normally perform.

Sandra Young

Music for Christmas

Why not celebrate Christmas with The Kingdom Singers and Dunfermline Town Band on **Friday 9 December**, at 7.30pm at St Margaret's Parish Church, Touch. Tickets adult £7, concessions £5 (cost includes glass of wine/soft drink & mince pie) available from Marc Tempelhoff or Ann Duly.

Should you happen to be at Tesco's Duloch Park store on **Saturday 10 December**, listen out for the Dunfermline Gilbert & Sullivan Society, singing in aid of the Whitefield Day Hospital between 11.00am and 1.45pm.

Later the same day, at the Vine Church, Garvock Hill, Dunfermline, **Dunfermline Choral Union** are giving *two* Christmas Concerts at 3.00pm and 7.30pm. "Lots of festive fun and beauty, with carols for everyone to join in too".

Tickets are £9 (£8 concessions) from Gwyneth Kirby, Mary Kidd or Myra Tarr.

The Peer and the Peri

This is the alternative title for that perennial Gilbert & Sullivan favourite *Iolanthe*, which runs at the Carnegie Theatre rather earlier than usual, from **8-11 February 2012**: 7.30pm nightly, plus a Saturday matinée.

Do come and see Gwyneth as an amazingly energetic fairy, and Martin as one of the Peers of the Realm, in what we both know will be a sparkling production, full of wit and memorable tunes. And we'll even sell you tickets!

A date for the future:

The RSCM Triennial Festival will be on **Saturday 16 June 2012** in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh.

Contact points

This list supplements the list of formal contacts given on the inside cover, and is for the activities and organisations run by the Methodist Church Council and St Margaret's Vestry, and by affiliated but independent organisations.

Church activities

Methodist Gift Aid enquiries to
Ron Dempster 01383 721252
ronmary.dempster@tiscali.co.uk

Property matters and letting enquiries to
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Rosyth Methodist Toddler Group
Elaine Lambert 01383 417071
elaine.lambert1@sky.com

St Margaret's Choir
Myra Tarr 01383 723989
myra@mtarr.co.uk

St Margaret's Gift Aid enquiries to
Marc Tempelhoff 01383 410151
marct@talktalk.net

Sunday School and Sunday Funday
Gwyneth Kirby 01383 624779
gmkirby@hotmail.com

Traidcraft
Myra Tarr 01383 723989
myra@mtarr.co.uk

Wednesday Fellowship
Mary Kidd 01383 872332
cmarykidd@btinternet.com

Organisations meeting in our premises

Brambles Playgroup
Lesley Hynd (play leader)
07758 877284

Lauren Harris (chair) 01383 412592
laurenst3@aol.com

Alan Harris (treasurer) 01383 412592
alanharris34@aol.com

Parahandies Disabled Club
Peter Merckel (secretary)
01383 822940
peter.merckel@yahoo.co.uk

Scout Group

Group Scout Leader
Nick Mathieson 01383 737464
nickolas.mathieson@wled.org.uk

Beaver Scouts
David Sinclair 01383 410255
davidgraeme31@yahoo.co.uk

Cub Scouts
Martin Rogers 01383 415458
martin.rogers13@talktalk.net

Scouts
Alan Connery 01383 731391
alan.connery@virgin.net

Explorer Scouts
Terry O'Neill 01383 842695
terryoneill2003@yahoo.co.uk

Guide Unit

Rainbows
Susan Warren 01383 414355
Assistant, Lyn Lennie

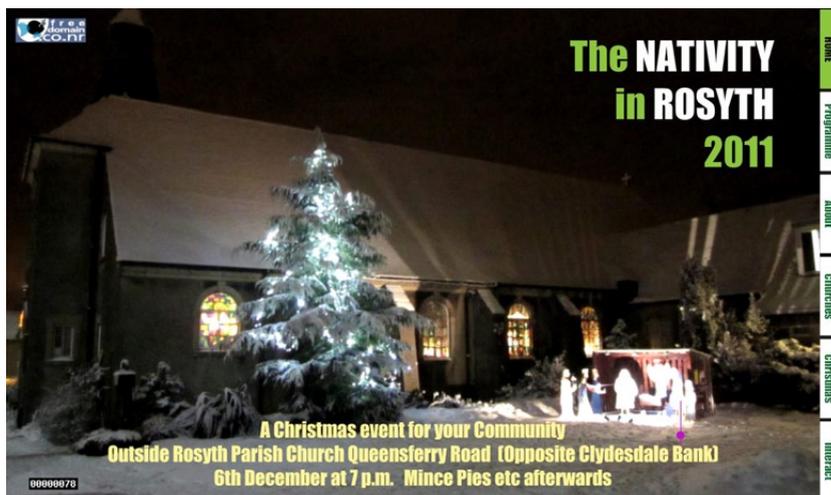
Brownies
Suzy Knight 01383 416087
Assistant, Vicky Cooper

Guides
Melissa Peel
Assistant, Nicola Byrne

Please let the Editor know of any changes or additions to this list, preferably by email to editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk

The church in the community

Bring your torch, and come along to the Parish Church at 7.00pm on **Tuesday 6 December**, to begin the Christmas celebrations in the company of the Christmas story characters and Sydney the donkey, the Rosyth Concert Band and the school choirs.



Gilmour Lilly, the pastor of Rosyth Baptist Church, has created an excellent web site for the event, of which the picture above is the home page. Do go to <http://nativity.co.nr/> and explore the site: note that the navigation is the set of tabs on the *right-hand* side.

Rosyth on the web

You can view or download this issue, with photos in colour, at <http://tinyurl.com/7y8udlg>. If you don't mind a large download, and would like to zoom in on photographs, a higher-definition version is also available at <http://tinyurl.com/7m87uf7>.

To our contributors

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the past thirteen issues of Contact which have been produced by the editorial team of Sandra Young and Martin Tarr, representing the Episcopalian side of our Local Ecumenical Partnership. We have appreciated all the inputs that have helped us compile what we hope has been an interesting and informative newsletter.

It's now the turn of our Methodist partners to assume the editorial mantle, and we wish them well. Do please keep your material coming, but send it instead to Janet Murray, at the new email address of editor@rosythmethodist.org.uk, And do let Janet know in good time about all your dates and events.

We hope that the next issue of Contact will be published on 5 February 2012, a birthday present for Mary Kidd! Because of changes to the production process, contributions will need to be in rather earlier than before, so you should send your copy to Janet at the latest by the end of play on **Sunday 22 January**.