

St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Autumn 2015



Message from the minister.....

Dear members of the St Columba's church family,

"God loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt." Deuteronomy 10:18-19
The book of Deuteronomy is best known for the 10 commandments, "Thou shalt not...", but there is also a lot about "doing" rather than "not doing". Through Moses, God reminds the people of Israel of their own history and calls on them to be compassionate.

Most of us in Glenrothes moved here from somewhere else, or were born to parents who had moved from somewhere else. For many, the move was to a new job or to get a house. Very few of us came here because we were terrified for our lives or the safety of our families.

There have been some heart-rending scenes and stories in the news, but we are reminded of our connectedness to people in very different situations. Being a church family brings the challenge of trying to work out what it means to follow Jesus in our place and our time. It's not always easy to do that. As a Kirk Session and a congregation, we are trying to work out how to show God's love to this community and beyond. In this newsletter, you will read about our attempts to build partnerships with Malawi and about some of our engagement with the local community. We are also currently collecting items to be delivered to refugee camps in Calais. For more details, see our Facebook page and website.

During our Harvest Service on October 4th, there will be a focus on Malawi, an opportunity to raise money for the Foodbank and a chance to reflect on our giving, which enables the work of the church in this community.

If there are there are ways you would like to see the church family showing God's love, here or elsewhere, please get in touch.

Thank you,

Alan



ROTHES TRINITY PARISH GROUPING

The Kirk Sessions from the three Churches held their annual conference on Saturday, 22 August. It was led by David McCarthy, Church of Scotland Fresh Expressions Development Worker. It was a most enjoyable talk.

A Workshop on how we might minister to those with Dementia is scheduled for Thursday, 17 September.

The third of the United Worship Services will be held in St Columba's Church on Sunday, 1 November at 3 pm.

Cathie Gilchrist Session Clerk

Congregational News

The following news is taken from our Board Meeting held in June.

Lone Worker Policy – A draft Lone Worker Policy was circulated to members and after some discussion and amendments the Board approved our Policy.

Proposed Cycle Route – In preparation for Fife Council's proposed Cycle Route around the town centre, the Board was informed that three trees at the front have been cut down and the half dead tree outside the Bobby Brown Room removed.

Finance – The following balances in our funds were noted as at the end of May 2015, these were;

General Fund	-	£39,396
Building Maintenance Fund	-	£14,815
Building Improvement Fund	-	£29,274

The General Fund received donations of £1,000 from the Grapevine Café, £300 from the Country Dance Group and £50 from the Organ Society, It was also noted that our Gift Aid has now been claimed in full to March 2015, this amounted to £10,968.

The Board also approved the purchase of Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2016.

Our stewardship Campaign will commence in September and further details will be given nearer the time.

Bell Tower – Members were advised of the three firms who had been asked to tender for this work. Members were also advised that verbally we had been given funding by the General Trustees and The Baird Trust, their funding together with the conditional offer from Fife Environment Trust means that we have all the necessary funding in place. However, we now need Listed building Consent and we need to receive this before Fife Environment Trust will offer as an unconditional offer of funding. The Board approved acceptance of the lowest tenderer subject to the necessary funding being in place and Listed Building Consent Obtained.

Fabric – A repair was carried out to the broken floor boards at the east door. The boundary fence to the front of the manse has been completed and a repair was carried out to the boundary fence to the back of the manse. Treatment work is due to start on the manse roof to remove the moss. Painting work will also be carried out to the windows and surround at the southwest corner of the Church.

Radio Mics – The Board was informed that we are having problems with our radio mics due to the G4 mast installed in Raeburn Heights. After considering the options put forward the Board approved the purchase of new mics up to an expenditure of £1,000. Jean Clunie was asked to inform the café people that their donation would fund these mics.

Health & Safety – The Board was advised about a letter received from the General Trustees who have set up a Health & Safety Working Group to assist congregations. Members were asked to give some consideration to this role.

Carol Gibson, Clerk to the Board

KIRK SESSION REPORT

St Columba's will participate in "Fife Open Doors Day" on Sunday, 13 September. We hope to welcome many people to our Church.

The sum of £161.50 was raised as a gift to Jim Anderson who retired recently as our Church Treasurer. A letter of thanks was sent to Jim expressing our appreciation of his years of commitment to our Church.

Elders were informed recently of a bequest of £5000 from the estate of May Smith. A letter of thanks was sent to Alan.

Our plans to establish a link with a Church in Malawi are progressing. During the summer Alan and Margaret enjoyed a visit there.

A group has been set up to look at ways in which we might create opportunities for fellowship within St Columba's. If you have any ideas or know of anything done in other Churches please let us know.

As reported in the last Newsletter, we were experimenting with organising meetings so that members had the opportunity to chat with and exchange ideas with Elders. The first of these was held in July and although only a few people came it was a most enjoyable evening. We hope to organise a gathering from another precinct next year.

Once again during July united Sunday Morning Services were held in Christ Kirk, St Margaret's, Leslie Trinity and St Columba's. They were all well attended and most enjoyable.

Cathie Gilchrist Session Clerk

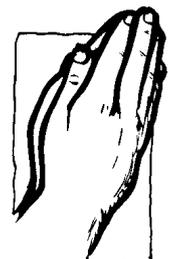


PASTORAL CARE REPORT SUNDAY AFTERNOON COMMUNION

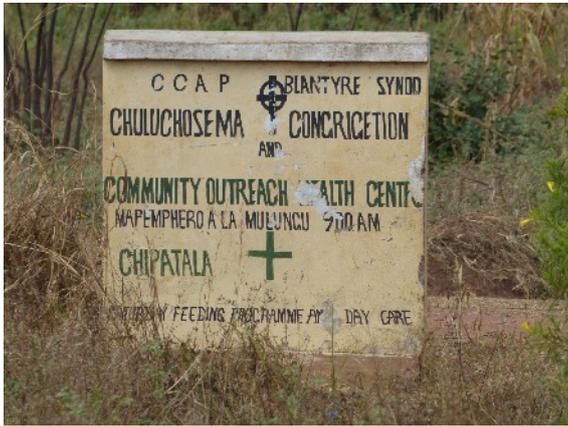
On Sunday, 26 July, we had another Communion Service. A few of our regular attendees were on holiday and one or two were unwell, but 12 people came along as well as our usual helpers. However, this service was different as we also had a baptism and around 50 friends of the family joined us for this special occasion. Rev. Ken Russell, whom some of you may remember, participated in the service. We all enjoyed this happy occasion.

SUNDAY MORNING TIME FOR PRAYER

We have started a prayer group which meets on the first Sunday of each month from 10.30 a.m. to 10.45 a.m. in the Bobby Brown Room. It is an opportunity to pray either silently or out loud with others. It is very informal and anyone is welcome to drop in. You do not have to stay for the whole time or be there at the start. Also there is a box in the church if anyone has a prayer request.



Arlene Russell



Malawi Partnership – Chuluchosema

You will probably have read or heard that St Columba's is working towards a partnership with Chuluchosema Church in Malawi. Chuluchosema is about 10 miles from Zomba in Southern Malawi. The church is part of the Blantyre Synod of the CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian).

Both St Columba's and Chuluchosema have formed partnership committees and we are working towards a partnership agreement. The committee in Chuluchosema has suggested that we send some

visitors to Malawi next year to sign the agreement.

As part of the process, we have exchanged information about our activities. These are some of the projects operated by the church in Chuluchosema:

Agogo Club – About 80 “agogo” – literally grandparents, but anyone over 60, meet once a month on a Saturday from 9am to 12:30pm for prayers and Bible study led by the minister, Silas. They are currently looking at Acts and use questions like “What stories do we tell the grandchildren?” to start discussion. These include family stories, fables and traditional stories. There is sharing about things like herbs with healing properties. There are also physical exercises, which help improve arthritis and Silas's wife Margaret, who is a retired nurse, runs a clinic.

Saturday feeding programme – About 45 children aged 12 to 17 who meet from 8am until noon on Saturdays to learn knitting, sewing and other useful skills. This group was initially just for orphans, but this created a stigma, so it is now open to all. There is a meal each week, typically of chicken or mince and nsima (maize porridge).

Water and Sanitation committee – Helps with the water provision across the wider community. 16 boreholes have been sunk (typically about 75m down to the water table) and there has been a reduction in cholera.

Livestock committee – encourages groups which keep pigs. Previously, one goat was given to each child, which worked for some but not others. Now pigs are given to groups, who take shared responsibility.



The Saturday sewing classes before the children get fed.



The partnership committee with Alan and Margaret.



AUTUMN FAYRE

This will take place on Saturday 7th November from 2-4pm. There will be the usual stalls which include gifts, toys, craft, cards, cake and candy. There is also a raffle and tombola. Tea tickets will be available nearer the time. Donations for any of the stalls can be handed in on the morning of the fayre after 11am. If you wish to hand in donations before this, please speak to Carol, Beth or June.