



St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Spring 2014

Message from the minister.....

Dear members of the St Columba's church family,

It's the season of Lent and we are invited to reflect as we prepare for Easter.

This has been a time of special reflection for me, as I look back on my first year at St Columba's. It's been wonderful! I feel greatly blessed and very fortunate to be part of this church family. There have been sad times and difficult times, but the warmth, active faith and enthusiasm of this church family are great.

By the time you read this, the presbytery Celebrate & Discover event will have been held and we will have shared with other congregations and people around the presbytery. There will be a similar event on a bigger scale on the afternoon of Sunday May 18th, 2014 when Heart and Soul 2014 is held in Princes Street Gardens. A group from St Columba's went last year and we had a great time. If you are interested in coming this year, please let me know.

We recently had a great joint conference of elders from the Parish grouping churches (ourselves, St Ninian's and Leslie Trinity). We are seeking ways to work together more. Also as part of the parish grouping, I have been leading worship in Leslie once every two months. The services in St Columba's have been conducted by members of the Worship Group, who have been inspirational. I have listened to the CDs! If you know anyone who would like a CD with a recording of Sunday services, please contact Tom Gibson, or one of the elders.

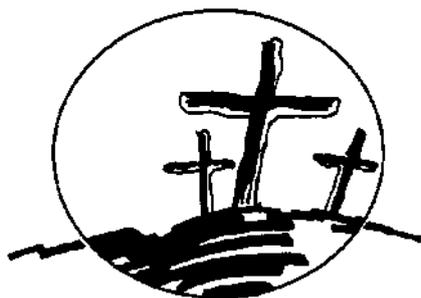
You may have heard about Mission Development Staff posts in Glenrothes and Leslie. We have received applications for all three Glenrothes/Leslie posts and interviews will be held soon.

I have visited the Foodbank several times recently. It is very frustrating that there is such a need for this service, but it's great to see how much support is coming from the St Columba's church family. Thank you.

Last but not least, look out for the first Glenrothes Big Christian Aid Book Sale March 30th to April 5th and the first Messy Church at St Columba's on April 13th. There are more details of both events inside this newsletter. Also, find us on Facebook for more news. More than 300 people regularly visit our Facebook page.



Best wishes, Alan (01592) 742233



Holy Week Services

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| Sunday 13th April | 11am Morning Worship
4pm Messy Church |
| Monday 14th April | 7pm Service led by young people |
| Tuesday 15th April | 7pm Service led by Kirk Session |
| Wed. 16th April | 7pm Joint service in Leslie Trinity |
| Thursday 17th April | 7pm Hunger Meal and Communion |
| Friday 18th April | 2pm Good Friday Reflection |
| Sunday 20th April | 7am Falkland Hill at Radio Masts
11am Easter Morning Worship |

Congregational Board News

The following Board News is taken from our January and February meetings

Data Protection – A draft Policy has been drawn up in conjunction with our Parish Grouping partners.

Recycling Bins – Stackable bins have been purchased and these can be found at the west entrance to the Church. Members are encouraged to make use of them.

Fundraising Events – Members noted the following Fundraising Events;

Saturday, 17 May - Dinner from around the World
Saturday, 7 June - Sponsored Cycle run in aid of GROW
Saturday, 5 July - Fruit Tea
Saturday, 25 October - Autumn Fayre
Saturday, 29 November - Haggis Drive

Sometime in September we hope to organise a concert by the Markinch Community Choir.

Property – We have now received our Architect, Stephen Newson's Report and this is being considered at present.

Fabric – Two shoot bolts have been fitted to the west door making access easier for the disabled and for people with buggies.

A quote to cover the damage to the Formica in the kitchen with metal coverings was approved and this work has since been carried out.

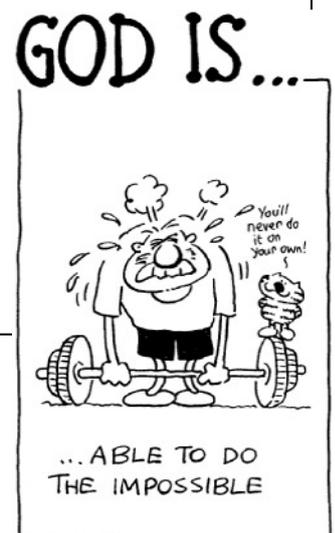
Under our Fire Risk Assessment Report we have had to address some points. So far maintenance has been carried out to the large hall fire door and the south exit fire door has had a hinge replaced. The Board also approved the purchase of new Fire Safety Signage. The Fire Door down in the Boiler Room is not up to current standards and the Committee brought up some questions regarding this requirement from the Consultant, which are being sought, and if we have to meet this requirement then the appropriate door will require to be fitted. We are also requesting quotes for a Fire Alarm System.

The Property Book and Manse Condition Schedule are both complete and ready for attestation.

Fundraising – The Board approved the disbursement of the following monies from the 20ps collected each Sunday;

£300 for the purchase of outside banners for the Church
£250 for the purchase of 20 small CH4 Hymn Books
£200 to Summer Mission
£600 towards the purchase of new sound equipment.

Carol Gibson
Clerk to the Board



Kirk Session Report

Kirk Session Teams

The new Kirk Session Teams are now in place. Each Team has been meeting to decide how it will function and what its priorities are for the coming months. Progress reports are given at Kirk Session meetings.

General Assembly

Alan and Joan have been selected to attend the Assembly this year. Iona Kimmitt's name has been submitted to Presbytery as a possible Youth Representative.

Eldership

Towards the end of last year session agreed to invite a number of our members to consider the Eldership. After training, seven of them chose to go forward. A Service will take place on Sunday, 30 March, when John Baker, Lorna Baker, Margaret Gordon, Nancy Howie, Karin Liddle, Kayleigh McGowan and Alison Oliver will be ordained. Also on that day, Jim Imrie and Dorothy Woolley, who were previously Elders will join our Kirk Session.

Easter Service

Arrangements were made for worship during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. (Details are given elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

Bequest

Session was advised of a bequest of £500 from Marion Shepherd's estate. In consultation with her family, it was agreed to buy some new Pew Bibles.

Messy Church

Plans are now in place to set this up. It will be held from 4pm to 6pm on the second Sunday of each month starting on Palm Sunday. Activities include worship, music and art and craft, with a meal being served before people go home. We look forward to welcoming new people to St Columba's. (Children must be accompanied each month by an adult.)

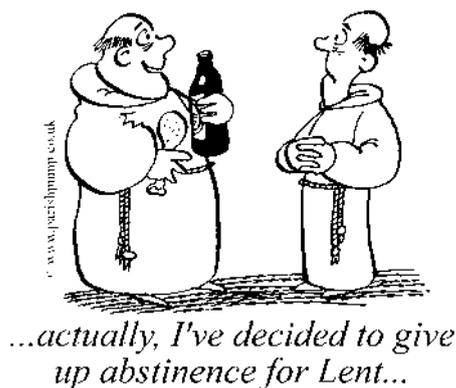
Social Evening for Organisations

Our annual Get Together has been arranged for Tuesday, 27 May, when the speaker will be Maureen Powers of Glenrothes Foodbank.

Resignation

Oonah Robertson has resigned as Co-ordinator of the Flower Arrangers and as an Arranger. Oonah was thanked by Session for her years of service.

Cathie Gilchrist Session Clerk



Not Lent, but Given

In Creation, God gives us life;
Not lent, but given.
In Jesus, God gives us His Son;
Not lent, but given.
From our sins, God gives us freedom;
Not lent, but given.
For His work, God gives us talents;
Not lent, but given.
In return, we give God our lives;
Lent, or given?

Presbytery of Kirkcaldy News - February

Membership – Myra welcomed Rev Maudeen MacDougall, the new minister at Dysart St Clair.

Locum – Rev Alistair McLeod has been appointed Locum at Markinch Church.

Interim Moderator – Rev David Adams has been appointed Interim Moderator at Leslie: Trinity.

Jubilee Scotland Debt Justice Pledge – Presbyters and Congregations are encouraged to sign the debt justice pledge brought by Jubilee Scotland. The Jubilee pledge is for debt release so nations can be unchained from endless servicing old debt (sometimes accrued by previous dictatorships) and instead spend the money on education and medical care, to rebuild their nations lives. www.jubileescotland.org.uk/sign-debt-justice-pledge This campaign is supported by the Church of Scotland. www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/mission_worldwide/current_focus

Caring for God's People – This Pastoral Care conference will be held on Saturday 10 May, 10.00am-4.00pm in St Bryce at a cost of £10. Suggestions for content to Beryl please. berylluke@googlemail.com

Commonwealth Games – Robin MacAlpine spoke of 2 initiatives to help churches make the most of the Commonwealth Games. The Penny Gospel (already mentioned by Peter Chirnside) and More than Gold <http://morethangold2014.org.uk/> which focusses on outreach, hospitality and service.

Parish Grouping News

On Saturday, 22 February, St Ninian's hosted a joint Kirk Sessions Conference when members from St Columba's, St Ninian's and Leslie Trinity met to discuss Parish Grouping. The conference was led by Rev Karen Fenwick who was able to share with us how her church worked as part of a Parish Grouping.

After an introduction from Karen and as a way of getting to know each other, we were asked to consider What were our strengths? What we were good at? What did we enjoy doing? And what were our weaknesses (if any)? The same questions were then applied to our congregations. Many talents were highlighted within the groups. By identifying our strengths and weaknesses, we found that what might be a weakness for some could be a strength for others and by pulling our resources we could help and support each other when needed. We were then encouraged to look ahead and think about what we would like to see happening in the future as part of Parish Grouping.

There then followed a time of fellowship when Karen served communion followed by a Bring and Share lunch.

Grace Seath
Parish Grouping Committee