

# St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

## Newsletter

Spring 2017



### Message from the minister.....

Dear members of the St Columba's church family,

*Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert, where he was tempted by the Devil for 40 days - Luke 4:1-2.*

It's Lent! This is a period before Easter which has been special for Christians over many centuries. The meaning and practices of Lent have varied between different church traditions since the early church, but for many Christians it is still a time of fasting, abstinence or adopting specific spiritual disciplines. Even for those who enjoy the pancakes of Shrove Tuesday without giving up anything afterwards, it is still an opportunity to reflect. Luke tells us that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit after his baptism and was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert.

As a church family, we believe that the Holy Spirit guides us, but it helps if we allow ourselves the space to hear the Spirit. With all the trees around Glenrothes, there are many birds. I'm not an ornithologist, but at this time of year, my attention is sometimes caught by the sound of birds. Geese flying over just as it's getting dark, the hammering of a woodpecker in the morning, or owls calling in the evening break through into my awareness. I know that there are many other more subtle bird songs that just drift past me. I could take the time to listen at a much deeper level to hear the quieter sounds as well as the obvious ones. Lent is perhaps an opportunity to listen to the prompting of God's spirit in deeper and more subtle ways. Then when Easter comes, we may be more aware of the reason we are celebrating.

You may be aware of the transition we are making to a Unitary constitution. In many ways, this will not affect the way our congregation operates, but it may be a way of listening to hear where God's Spirit is guiding us as a church family. If you feel called to be more involved in some aspect of the life of the congregation, please contact me, one of the clerks or one of the elders.



Best wishes, Alan

Holy Week services have been arranged as follows:

Monday 10 April at 7pm worship led by the young people.

Tuesday 11 April at 7pm worship led by the Kirk Session.

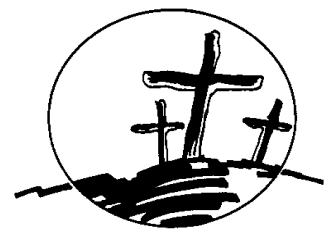
Wednesday 12 April at 7pm a joint service in Leslie Trinity.

Thursday 13 April at 7pm a Hunger Meal with Communion.

Friday 14 April at 2pm a time of reflection followed by hot cross buns and fellowship at 3pm.

**Sunday 16 April** at 7am a service on Falkland Hill followed by breakfast at St Ninian's and...

at 11am an all age Easter service with Communion.



## **Congregational Board News**

The following news is taken from the January meeting of the Board

**Door Entry System** – at present we are awaiting an installation date for this system at the west door.

**Unitary Constitution** – Board members were advised that this would come up at the next Kirk Session meeting to move things forward. Once the Unitary Constitution has been approved it will go to Presbytery for their concurrence. Thereafter the Board will no longer be in existence but its work will be done by a new group called Fabric, Finance and Resources Group. The Convenors for this new group will be Brian Lumsden and Carol Gibson.

**Church Interior** – Alan confirmed that he has established availability with the Architects for next week in order that we can ascertain what we can and cannot do. The Board will be updated on progress at its next meeting.

**Church Licences** – A meeting has been arranged to review the various licences we hold.

**Car Park** – Members were informed that the new parking arrangements appear to be working. Contact will be made with the Manager of the Town Centre to take down their sign and put one of our own up. The wording of this sign was agreed with the Board and they were also happy to formalise our agreement with the Town Centre.

**Property/Fabric** – Members were informed that we had received a letter from ENTRUST which confirmed that St Columba's Church is no longer enrolled as an Environmental Body in the Landfill Communities Fund and we have been removed from the register of Environmental Bodies. It means no more form filling for Carol!

**West Door** – a new closing unit has had to be installed at the west door.

**Broken Pipe** – we have eventually found the source of the bad smell in the kitchen and hall areas. This was caused by a broken pipe and work was carried out to repair this. Unfortunately we have had to lift the flooring in order to gain access to the pipe and the Board will now have to look at replacement covering.

**Hot Water Urn** - a fault had also developed in our hot water urn, this has since been repaired and was covered under our two year parts and labour warranty.

**Wall in large hall** - damage was done to the wall in the large hall under the hatch and this has been covered with wood to make a feature of the wall.

**Harling Work** - we are now looking at harling work around the halls and three quotes are being sought for this work.

Carol Gibson  
Clerk to the Board

## **KIRK SESSION REPORT**

The planning for a proposed change to a Unitary Constitution continues with the groups in place. Written information has been prepared for the membership which they will receive before the Stated Annual Meeting after worship on Sunday, 19 March 2017.

Session has sent an invitation to our partner church in Chuluchosema to send 4 people to spend about ten days with us, possibly in September. This has been eagerly accepted by our Malawian friends. In light of this it has been decided to reform the Partnership Group specifically to plan this visit. More information this will be available soon.

The service to re-dedicate the bell and tower brought pleasure to many members and visitors from near and far.

During the "Sharing Stories" time at Session meetings, there have been excellent reports on the work of the Glenrothes Foodbank, the very successful Christmas Day Lunch and we have heard about plans that Churches Together have to organise a public opportunity later in the year to discuss the "God Question" regarding tensions between faith and science.

Please note that we will **not** celebrate Communion on Sunday, 30 April 2017.

Joan Cumming, Session Clerk.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **CIVIL FOLK Saturday 13 May**

Civil Folk are a musical group featuring Marilyn Maule Friends. They will be in the church on Saturday 13th May and tickets will be available in a few weeks from members of the Fundraising Committee. The group are very entertaining so please come along.

#### **GLENROTHES CHORAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT Saturday 25 March**

The Glenrothes Choral and Kirkcaldy Choral Union will be performing Handel's Messiah on 25th March at 7:30pm in the Studio at the Rothes Halls. Tickets are £8 and £2 for children

To St Columba's Church Family,  
Flower Ladies and Friends.

I cannot express enough the appreciation for the support, flowers, cards and prayers the family and myself have received over this trying time. If wealth was measured by these values, I would be the richest man alive.

Thank you so much.

Tom Gibson (aka Radioactive One Eye Pete).

### **Prayer Promoter's Lenten Presentation**

At St. Columba's Church on Wednesday the 29th of March between 7pm and 9pm Anne Rennie will present thoughts and exploration on a Lenten theme including religious symbols, vestments, numerology and church paraphernalia across a wide range of traditions. By special request a meditation and journey through the Stations of the Cross will be explained with a modern theme as this is appropriate to all traditions at this time of year. All are welcome and refreshments will follow. On Palm Sunday at 3pm, St Mary's in Leslie will host an ecumenical Stations of the Cross.

## Chuluchosema 1475 Appeal

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the appeal for food distribution by our partner church in Malawi. The harvests last year were terrible and many families could not afford to buy the food they needed to survive. With help from us and from another partner church, food has been provided to all the families in need, regardless of their faith background. These pictures were taken on March 2<sup>nd</sup> when the maize bought with the money we provided was distributed. The great news is that the rains have been much better this year and the maize is growing very well. A good harvest is expected to start soon.



**It's great to have contributions for the newsletter and we would encourage people to submit items to the editor. This message has been written for Easter by one of our members -**

Easter is a time to rejoice for Jesus has risen and conquered the grave and we have a living hope but just like Christmas and other anniversaries when we have lost those dear to us who were loved and cared for, we often become confused and lost and lonely at unexpected times. We need a hand to hold or a shoulder to lean on. A glimpse of that familiar face to look at or just a quick few words to keep us going and we cannot see it and we do not hear it.

We live in a busy world that has no time to pause and so we are often left feeling isolated and with no one to tell about the holidays and the laughter and the years of sharing and arguing and just being together. There are often moments of love and happiness that we need to remember and share and as an Easter gift. I would encourage us to share them, when that would be helpful. The Lord tells us to love and help one another. Easter seems like a good time to start - Anne Rennie

This newsletter was produced by St Columba's Parish Church of Scotland.

It is distributed to members and is on the church web site.

[www.st-columbas.com/Newsletters/](http://www.st-columbas.com/Newsletters/)

If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail, please contact [info@st-columbas.com](mailto:info@st-columbas.com) or phone the church office on (01592) 752539. You will also find information about St Columba's on our Facebook page, St Columba's Church of Scotland, Glenrothes