



# St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Spring 2015

## Message from the minister.....

Dear friends,

As Easter approaches, we look forward to celebrating the resurrection. At the same time, we see reminders of new life around us. In the book of Acts, the apostles are told to "Go and stand in the Temple, and tell the people all about this new life." (Acts 5:20). That is the activity we are still engaged in 2000 years later, although our call is often not to be in the temple, or the church, but to tell people about the new life through our words and actions in our community or wherever we are.

In March, we finished our first 12 months of Messy Church. Over this year. About 100 different people have come along to Messy Church in addition to the teams that organise it. We now seem to be at a steady group of families who come each month. The "Messy Teams" have been doing a great job of welcoming people and, through their actions and words, telling people about the new life.

We also have a small group of people who will be joining the church on Easter Sunday. They are part of a slightly larger group who will be meeting occasionally to explore their faith further together.

Our relaunched web site ([www.st-columbas.com](http://www.st-columbas.com)) and the Facebook page are also helping us to reach out to people. We recently started to load recordings of Sunday services to the web site for people who cannot attend on a Sunday morning. These can be listened to on a computer, tablet or smartphone. They are at [www.st-columbas.com/recordings/](http://www.st-columbas.com/recordings/) and you will need the password, which is Jan15Egypt. If you know someone who cannot attend church, but would like to hear the service, please pass this information on to them.

However, we haven't gone all digital. We would love to see you all in church, especially for the Holy Week and Easter services. On Easter Sunday, we will have an All-age communion service and there is an opportunity to worship with other churches at the radio masts on Falkland Hill. Meet at 6am if you want to walk to the top for the sunrise (if there is one!) or 7am for the worship in the car park.

Best wishes, Alan



## EASTER SERVICES

- Monday, 30 March at 7 pm - led by the Young People
- Tuesday, 31 March at 7 pm - led by the Kirk Session
- Wednesday, 1 April at 7 pm - in Leslie Trinity
- Thursday 2 April at 7 pm - Hunger Meal with Communion
- Friday 3 April at 2 pm - A Time for Reflection
- Sunday 5th April 11am All-age communion



## Get the St Columba's newsletter by e-mail – faster, easier

The CHOC group (Communications & Other Churches) are looking at ways of improving communications and we would like to offer you the opportunity to get the Newsletter by email. If you are interested, please complete and return the form which has been delivered with your Newsletter.

## Congregational Board News

**Finances** – the following information was supplied to the Board

General Fund	2014	2013
1 January opening balance	£33,530	£30,772
Income to 31 December	£67,036	£72,937
Expenditure to 31 December	<u>£68,187</u>	<u>£70,179</u>
31 December closing balance	£32,379	£33,530

It was highlighted to the Board that we have not yet received the 2014 Gift Aid Claim hence the reduced income for 2014. This claim is now being submitted. The Quiz Night raised £172 towards the attendance fees for our representatives at the National Youth Assembly.

### Income comparison from the principal funding areas

	2014	2013
FWO	£43,533	£44,326
Open Plate	£ 5,305	£ 4,842
Hall Hire (50%)	£ 9,268	£ 8,428

The General Fund Budget for 2015 was approved by the Board.

**Property – Bell Tower and Canopy Refurbishment** – The Board approved that we inform the Presbytery, in principle, of the proposed works so that we can proceed with this project. We have put in an initial enquiry in to Heritage Lottery, however, they have come back advising we need to relook at our application particular in terms of how we can deliver activities which engage more people with the heritage. A meeting has also been arranged with Fife Environment Trust. Our Architect is looking for a price to have our Bell operational again.

**Fabric** – Due to the build-up of debris on the high roof we have been advised that this needs to be cleaned 4 times a year. Vandals had removed a section of the lightning conductor and this has now been rectified. An annual inspection has also been organised. Quotes were received for the rendering of the north wall of the sanctuary and also for patch repairs. Quotes are also being sought for the varnishing of the large hall and sanctuary floors. The Board approved the budget for the manse/church/halls with the Fabric Committee prioritising the works to be done so long as £5,000 is kept in the Fabric Fund.

**Fundraising** – Members were advised that the Markinch Community Choir will be holding a concert on Friday, 12 June. Our Autumn Fayre this year will be on 7 November.

**Sound** – The Board is looking at replacing the speakers in the sanctuary, these are have been in place for a considerable number of years and are not as efficient. Approval was given to purchase new speakers, subject to approval by Church Art and Architecture.

Carol Gibson, Clerk to the Board

The 55th Stated Annual Meeting of St Columba's Church will be held in the Church on Sunday, 22 March 2015 after worship.

## KIRK SESSION REPORT

At the December meeting Elders were advised that Oonah Robertson had decided to stand down from the duties of active Elder due to health concerns. Oonah was thanked for the great contribution she has made to the life and work of St Columba's Church over many years.

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We have received a letter from the local branch of the Samaritans, thanking us for the donation of £348.90, which was collected in the Offering at our Watchnight Service.

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The new Church Website is now in use and already it has brought in a number of new contacts. Sunday morning Worship can also be accessed on it.

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The possibility of delivering the Newsletter electronically to some members is being discussed, but more details will be given at a later date.

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The Community and Wider World group is planning to host a sponsored walk/run in May for Hall users and Organisations to get to know each other. They are also looking into the feasibility of establishing a link with a Church in Malawi.

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It was agreed not to have a Communion Service in March.

Cathie Gilchrist Session Clerk

## PASTORAL CARE

We are planning to have another Afternoon Communion Service on Sunday, 26 April at 2 pm. We will be in touch with those who usually come. As you know, these services are arranged mainly for people who have difficulty coming to Sunday morning worship, but anyone is welcome to join us.

Afternoon tea is served afterwards. If you would like to help with this please speak to Margaret Dougall or Cathie Gilchrist.

## ROTHES TRINITY PARISH GROUPING

It has been agreed that three united Services will be organised each year by the Group The arrangements for 2015 are:

Wednesday 1 April Leslie Trinity at 7 pm  
Sunday 21 June St Ninian's at 7 pm  
Sunday 1 Nov. St Columba's at 3 pm

We hope that many of you will be able to come along and enjoy worshipping with our friends from St Ninian's and Leslie Trinity.

## **GROW News**

Scottish Charity SC 034830



Bee has now settled into her role in Glenrothes. She has already become a familiar face in all three High Schools and has also taken Assemblies at Pitcoudie Primary with Ellie Morrocco (MDS for Christ's Kirk and St Margaret's). Currently we have Xchange groups running in all 3 High Schools and from March there will also be a lunchtime group in Pitcoudie Primary. Bee is also involved in Assemblies and is currently booking RME lessons into her diary.

Aside from her work in the schools, Bee was one of the leaders at the recent SU weekend at Lendrick Muir. She has started a series of monthly visits around the churches to meet as many members of the church families as she can. On 8<sup>th</sup> March she will be at Christ's Kirk at one of the Lenten series and in April she will be visiting St Ninian's. St Columba's turn is in May.

We are holding a family prayer morning on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March at St Margaret's Church from 10.30am-12 noon. Please come along for information, interactive activities and refreshments. Also watch out for more information about our "Garden Safari" in June!

If you would like any further information about the work of GROW please contact Bee or Chris Hay (Chairperson) at [Beatrice@grow-trust.co.uk](mailto:Beatrice@grow-trust.co.uk) and [chris.hay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:chris.hay@blueyonder.co.uk).

Dear Friends,

I'm really excited to give you a brief update on how things are looking around the parishes. The Church of Scotland has a growing bond with the three high schools in Glenrothes and most of the primary schools between the parishes. This can be largely ascribed to the successful Scripture Union groups, as well as input from local ministers, new clubs and visits being run by myself, Ellie and John.

Our 'Messy Church' communities are also going well, which I am helping to coordinate at St. Columba's, St. Ninian's and at the brand new group at Leslie Trinity. These groups have provided an opportunity to visit schools to engage with new young people and teachers – all of whom have received the Church in a positive and friendly manner. I've also enjoyed being part of the school chaplaincy teams, running assemblies and getting involved in the classroom teaching– some of which being thematic to Harvest, St. Andrew's Day, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas, the parables of Jesus and the run up to Easter. I've now enjoyed leading different parts of worship in each of the Churches and have enjoyed using music as a tool to engage young people with informal worship.

There have been a plethora of local initiatives which I've been pleased to involve the Church in, involving inter-school/parish work. I particularly enjoyed setting up and running a Church of Scotland local youth stall at a major youth event within the Rothes Halls, as this went down very well with all those in attendance, generating a real interest in what we believe and practice. None of this could have been achieved without close communication, both congregationally and with our headquarters in Edinburgh, while also attending regular Church of Scotland Youth meetings in Edinburgh and Stirling.

As well as regularly visiting the already well-established youth groups, day centres, care homes, hospitals, social events and cafés shared between the parishes, I've really enjoyed starting up my own new youth group, 'illumin8', which seeks to explore the big issues in life through fun, games, discussion, bible study and some food. The group is tailored for those between the years of Primary 7 and Secondary 4, though young people whose age falls slightly out with that remit are welcome to attend. The group has been running for quite a few weeks now from St. Ninian's Church now and has benefitted from publicity in the schools and local newspaper. I've worked through various resources with the group and have recently moved onto the new Youth Alpha course, which I have just finished using in Glenwood High School and am currently using with my group in Gilven House (part of the Scottish Christian Alliance). I'm also looking forward to starting a new illumin8 group shared between St. Margaret's and at St. Columba's. This group will begin on the 25<sup>th</sup> March and be held weekly (except during school holidays) between 5.30-6.30pm – the same time as the group at St. Ninian's. For anyone interested in finding out more, or to volunteer at any of the groups or local youth initiatives, please call me on 01592 366009.

It was a pleasure to present "The Mission of Jesus to Children and Young People" at Christ's Kirk with Bee Roy last night. Thank you very much to all who attended, and thank you for your kind comments and reception, as I think there was a generous representation from each of my five Churches there.

All the best for now and I'll look forward to seeing you all soon.

Ally Stark (Church of Scotland Youth Worker for Glenrothes and Leslie).

#### Dates for your Diary

Saturday 18th April - Afternoon Tea

Sunday 24th May - Gift Day

Friday 12 June at 7.00 pm - Markinch and District Community Choir

Saturday 5 September - Sponsored Walk in aid of GROW

Saturday 7 November - Autumn Fayre

