

# St. Columba's Parish Church of Scotland Glenrothes

Winter 2013



## Message from the minister.....

Dear members of the St Columba's church family,

Through Advent, we are singing an Advent candle song each Sunday. As we have been singing, I have been thinking about the life of the church family.

*The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right, and bring to earth's darkness the hope of love and light* – At the Gift Day service, 108 shoeboxes full of essentials and gifts were collected for people in Eastern Europe, a very real mark of spreading the hope of God's love and light.

*The second for the prophets, who said that Christ would come with good news for many and angry words for some* – Over the last month, the Kirk Session has set up four work groups to focus our activities. We are continuing to share the Good News and working to address injustice in our community and the wider world.

*The third is for the Baptist, who cried, 'Prepare the way. Be ready for Jesus, today and every day* – The way has been prepared for us by those who have lived their faith in this church and community before us. At this time of year, thoughts turn to those no longer with us. We are thankful for their friendship, love, witness and service.

*The fourth is for the Virgin, who mothered God's own Son and sang how God's justice was meant for everyone* – We also think of our families and the church family at Christmas. We have experienced love and have been blessed in many ways. Perhaps, through our families, we are reminded of the joy of sharing love with other people.

*At last we light the candle kept new for Christmas day. This shines bright for Jesus, new-born, and here to stay* – We will join together for a family service and a Watchnight service on Christmas Eve. There will also be a brief service on Christmas morning. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will remember the Good News of Jesus and we will be reminded that through Jesus, we remain united in God's love – wherever we are and whatever we are doing.



Wishing you a happy, joyous and peaceful Christmas,

Alan Kimmitt,(01592) 742233

## Grapevine Cafe

The Cafe will be closed on 18th and 25th December and 1st and 8th January, resuming on 15th January from 2pm - 4 pm

## Services during Advent

Sunday, 22 December at 11 am - Nativity led by our Junior Church  
Christmas Eve, at 6.30pm - Family Christingle Service  
Christmas Eve, at 11.30pm - Watchnight Service with Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies at 10.45pm  
Christmas Day at 10.30am - Family Service for half an hour  
Sunday, 29 December at 11am - Carols and Communion

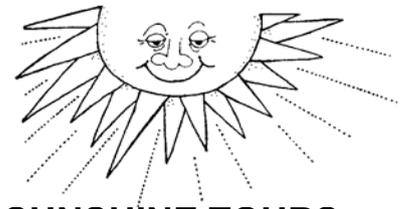
## Scottish Country Dancing

The annual St. Columba's Scottish Country Class Dance, on Friday the 8th of November, was a great success. Jim Lindsay, on accordion, and his daughter Ruth, on the fiddle, encouraged the class and the many visitors to dance the night away with their wonderful reels, jigs and strathspeys. The dancers paused, only briefly, to enjoy the extravagant supper spread, provided by the members of the class.

Thank you to everyone who supported the dance and to Lorna Young, Alison Oliver and Ewan Oliver who came along to help serve and tidy up, allowing the members of the class to simply enjoy the dancing and live music.

The event raised £420 for the St. Columba's Building Improvement Fund.

Lesley Shand



## SUNSHINE TOURS

Final arrangements for next year's summer tours are now being made and a list should be available early in the new year.

Beth and June  
The Sunshine Girls

## PRESENTATION TO ERIC CHRISTIE

On Sunday, 1 December, a large congregation got the opportunity to say thank you to Eric for the way he has served St Columba's Church as their organist for the past 50 years.

At the end of Worship he was presented with a cheque and a beautifully crafted gift marking his service. Jean, his wife, was presented with flowers.

Afterwards about 100 people enjoyed a celebration lunch together with Eric and his family.  
Cathie

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The Fundraising Committee will be holding a New Social on Saturday 25 January in the afternoon from 2.00-4.00. Tickets cost £2 / £1 and will be available from 5 January

## PASTORAL CARE

We appreciate that a number of our Church family, for various reasons, have difficulty in attending Worship at 11 am. For these people we have been arranging an occasional extra Communion Service on a Sunday afternoon.

On Sunday 24 November we had one of those Services when a number of us shared a short, informal Communion Service, and afterwards enjoyed a cup of tea together.

If any of you would like to come to these Services, please contact one of us, and nearer the time, we will be in touch to tell you the arrangements and arrange transport for you if required.



Margaret Dougall (Tel 742560)  
Cathie Gilchrist (Tel 779090)  
Pastoral Care Co-ordinators

## Rotary Shoe Box Appeal

"We counted them in and ..... we counted them out" and, as a result, we know that a staggering 108 shoeboxes, stacked full of useful gifts, were transferred to the Rotary Shoebox HQ.

Many thanks to all who contributed. The consistency of giving in our congregation over the years is quite outstanding. Well done to you all. (A special additional thank you to 'Santa's Little Helpers' who packed the 'Seat Santa Sleigh' full of boxes!!)

Jim and Lesley Shand

## Kirk Session Report

As you are aware, a few years ago the Kirk Session changed the responsibilities of Elders in that they no longer were allocated a District to look after, and our members were asked if they wished someone from the Church to continue visiting them. These visits are now organised and carried out by some Elders who are in the Pastoral Care Team. Anyone can request a visit by contacting the Minister, Session Clerks or Pastoral Care Co-ordinators. Elders who are not in the **Pastoral Care Fellowship Team** are now involved in at least one of the following Teams;

### **Worship & Prayer, Community & Wider World, Communication and Other Churches.**

These Teams were set up at a recent Kirk Session Conference. You will hear more about them in due course. All Elders will, of course, continue to deal with Kirk Session business.

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Margaret Kimmitt and Derek Stahly, previously ordained Elders, joined the Kirk Session of St Columba's at a Service of Admission in September.

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On Remembrance Sunday, we were pleased to welcome a large number of people who joined us for worship after the Service at the War Memorial.

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Deacons, Deaconesses and Parish Assistants are now known as Mission Development Staff (M.D.S.) and now, after much thought and discussion, we are ready to advertise the 3 posts which have been allocated to Glenrothes.

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St Columba's has agreed to support the Food Bank which is being set up in the town.

Cathie Gilchrist Session Clerk

## Congregational Board News

The following Board news is taken from our September and November meetings.

**Data Protection** – A small group comprising representatives from our Parish Grouping partners are looking at producing a Data Protection Policy for the three Churches.

**Projection System** – We now have a projection system for use within the Church.

**Waste Management** – The Law on waste is changing from 1 January 2014, which will involve the Church in having to recycle our plastic, glass, paper and card separately. Although our food waste is not likely to meet the requirements the Board have agreed that we will also recycle this as well. The necessary recycling bins will be provided shortly. A notice explaining the changes will also be given to our hirers.

**Annual Review of Hire Charges** – The Board agreed that there would be no change to our hire charges this year.

**Property** – The Board approved the appointment of Stephen Newsom as our Architect for our work on the Bell Tower. He will also look at work needing done to the harling, windows and heating system. At present he is preparing a Report for the Board's consideration.

**Fabric** – The following fabric works were noted as completed;

A new boiler has been installed in the manse. The lights in the large hall have been fixed. The high level outlet and down pipes have been cleared. Stuart McGowan cleared the low level downpipes for us. The annual PAT testing has been done.

**Donations** – Welcome donations have been received from the Country Dance Group, GAMA and St Margaret's True Blues

**Hall Hire** – New lets are continuing to come in with our halls getting busier by the month.

**Stated Annual Meeting** – The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, 23 March 2014 in the Church after Worship.

Carol Gibson, Clerk to the Board

## Presbytery of Kirkcaldy News - December

### **New minister for Dysart St Clair**

Presbytery sustained the Call to the Rev Maudeen MacDougall, minister of Meadowside: St Paul's in the Presbytery of Dundee, to Dysart St Clair, subject to the approval of the Presbytery of Dundee. The service of Induction will be held on Thursday 23 January 2014 at 700pm in the Viewforth building of Dysart St Clair. The Moderator will conduct worship, and the Rev Alan Kimmitt will preach.

### **Retirement of Alex Forsyth**

Members of the congregation of Markinch were present to hear their Session Clerk and the Moderator pay tribute to Rev Alex Forsyth who will retire at the end of January after 40 years in ministry. Both spoke warmly of his dry humour, his enthusiasm, his commitment and his strong desire to help people understand the word of God.

### **Union of Markinch and Thornton Parish Churches**

Presbytery approved a Union between the congregations of Markinch and Thornton with both congregations retaining their church sanctuaries and halls. The Basis of Union is to be drawn up by 31st March 2014.

### **Glenrothes: St. Margaret's**

Presbytery granted the charge of Glenrothes: St. Margaret's leave to call on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure, as indicated in the Presbytery Plan.

### **Mission Development Staff Posts**

Presbytery approved the job descriptions for Mission Development Staff in Glenrothes and Leslie: Families Worker/Parish Assistant, Christ's Kirk and St. Margaret's Families Worker/Pastoral Assistant, Rothes Trinity Parish Grouping. Youth and Children's Worker - Glenrothes and Leslie Churches of Scotland.

### **Pulpit Interchange**

The annual Pulpit Interchange will be on Sunday 9th February. Rev Alli Roy is scheduled to lead worship in St Columba's and Alan will be in Templehall.

### **Maternity Leave**

Rev Alexandra Rosener of Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk will be on maternity leave from early January. The Moderator conveyed the good wishes of Presbytery to Alexandra and her husband at this exciting time. Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison will serve as joint locums and Interim Moderators.

### **Celebrate and Discover**

"I am the vine and you are the branches" on Saturday 22nd March from 10am to 5pm in Kirkcaldy High School THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!



Unfortunately the recent round of advertising did not result in us being able to interview for a replacement for Gwyneth Duff. It has been agreed that we will advertise again in February and March and interview in April. We feel that the start of the New Year may be a better time to find someone looking for a new challenge.

In the interim the GROW Management Group hopes to coordinate an H2O Night of Prayer and one visit to Powerpoint in Edinburgh. We will also encourage all churches to support a primary aged fun day being held on Saturday 15th March.

Terrific work continues in our schools by chaplains and Bruce Lockhart, our local SU regional worker will try to visit some schools with one-off roadshows.

Please pray for our chaplains and the GROW management group as we work to maintain the links with schools and young people established by Gwyneth and that the right person will apply for the position in 2014.

Chris Hay GROW Chairperson