

ROSIE'S LETTER

May 2015

Dear Friends,

Christian Aid Week has been described as Britain's biggest act of Christian witness. From 10-16 May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money. 100,000 volunteers will demonstrate God's love for the poor by taking part in house-to-house collections for Christian Aid. Many more will be involved in a host of different and imaginative ways.

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve. She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.



Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family. This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko.

Please give generously.

Rosie

10 reasons why Christians should vote...

1. Voting publicly recognises that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God.
2. Voting recognises the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard.
3. It is one way that we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole.
4. It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf.
5. It is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. 'All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing', Edmund Burke.
6. It makes a difference the way a grain of salt makes a difference and that is how we are to influence our society for good.
7. It is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions.
9. Voting has biblical precedence for example Acts 14:23 describes that the early Christians elected elders by voting.
10. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honour God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.

(Krish Kandiah, London School of Theology)

Summer Services



For many years we have had two services of worship during the summer months with a 9.00am option for those early birds who like to make the most of the day. At a time of year when many people are away the reality is two smaller gatherings and a divided congregation. This year, after gauging opinion, the Kirk Session has decided to experiment with one service at the earlier time of 10.00am during June and August. In July we join with our neighbours for united services at 11.00am.

So, to keep yourself right, please take a note of these dates, times and venues:

Sunday 7 June, 9.00am and 11.00am - Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sundays 14, 21, 28 June - Worship at 10.00am

Sunday 5 July, 11.00am - Bennoch Church

Sunday 12 July, 11.00am - Abbotshall Church

Sunday 19 July, 11.00am - St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 26 July, 11.00am - Linktown Church

Sundays 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 August

10th Anniversary



The Board and Session marked the tenth anniversary of Rosie's induction by presenting her with a Susan McGill pottery dish and some gifts from Christian Aid's "Present Aid". It is fair to say that the minister was caught completely by surprise!! She was very touched by the kind gesture and conveyed her thanks to the congregation.

A BIG THANK YOU

Brian and Margaret Methven would like to say a big thank you for the lovely flower basket and card which they received from the church on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They said "what a lovely surprise it was".

Christian Aid Week - 2015
Sunday 10th May to Saturday 16th May

YES – It is that time of year again – CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Last year the Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee collected from Door-to-door collections a splendid total of approx... £8,500.

All the participating churches are having more and more difficulty in persuading church members to carry out the door-to-door collection and we are aware that many areas of the town are now NOT being “covered” by collectors.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing with your copy of this newsletter a Christian Aid Envelope.

Now if you regularly have a Christian Aid collector at your door, or if you will be at church on 10th and 17th May, when there will be Christian Aid envelopes available for your contribution, then you do not need to do anything with this envelope.

But if neither of these are applicable to you, and you would like to give a donation, then can I ask you to give your completed envelope to a relative, friend or neighbour, who you know is going to church – any church – on 10th or 17th May, where it will be collected and end up as part of our Kirkcaldy total.

Failing which, get it to me at 5 Raith Drive, Kirkcaldy KY2 5NW, or I will collect it from you if you phone me on 01592 266451

Euan Fraser – Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Treasurer

NEXT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN EDITION 2015

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 30th August 2015**. Please send your contributions to Diane Murray on e/mail at [**dianemurray953@btinternet.com**](mailto:dianemurray953@btinternet.com) or by post to 97 Mellerstain Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 6UD or leave in our basket in the church vestibule.

THANK YOU – NEWSLETTER TEAM

MESSAGE FROM JENNY FEATHERSTONE

Jenny Featherstone is our Missionary Partner working with the church in Zambia. She recently alerted us to problems she was having at Chodort College following a reduction in the funding she was receiving. We had a retiring offering after our Communion Service on 1 March 2015 and were able to send Jenny £350 – more than enough to sponsor a student for a year. Jenny e-mailed to tell us about our student who is studying carpentry.

The student we have chosen to be sponsored with your retiring collection is Solomon Buyoya. This young man is 18 years old and was orphaned when both parents died between 2003 and 2004. He lives in a compound about 4km away from the school with a friend (and his family?) who took him in. He managed to be educated to grade 9 (education beyond grade 7 involves some fees) but failed the exams and then just brought in income to the household by doing what casual work he could. His uncle (who appears to be his nearest relative) has a large family and cannot help with sponsoring him at Chodort for carpentry. He says he likes working with his hands which is why he wanted to do carpentry. As well as that he will also learn entrepreneurship and have 10 workshops through the year about HIV, drugs & alcohol and gender based violence.

At the moment all carpentry students are out learning how to put ceilings in our new classroom block which Beit trust has sponsored.

One fee paying carpentry student usually pays K2,700 over three terms which is just under £300 at current rates.

Once again, thank you so much for your help. I am sure you can see by Solomon's background how important it is to give these young people a better chance in life.

Here is a picture of Solomon and a letter of thanks from him. I hope this emphasises the reality of your gift to him,

Every good wish to you all, Jenny



Solomon's letter was very faint to scan in so here it is in type. The original copy is on the noticeboard in church.

Chodard Training , P.O. Box Choma
10 March 2015

Dear Rev Frew

RE Thanking you for sponsorship.

I am writing to you to thank you for helping me towards paying for my fees at Chodort.

Your help will go a long way in making my life easier. I can be able to sustain myself and others.

Thank you so much for making my future. May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely
Solomon

Myra Muncey

On Friday 10 April the church was filled for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Myra Muncey who died peacefully at home following a short illness. Singing played a large part in Myra's life – the Church Choir, the Kinghorn Singers, the Probus Choir – and music and song played a big part in the service, along with laughter and tears.

Myra was born and raised in Glasgow and trained as an optician. It was work that brought her to Glenrothes and a meeting with David Muncey at the Kirkcaldy Gilbert and Sullivan Society. The rest, as they say, is history. Marriage, children (Alistair and Neil), grandchildren (Robbie and Douglas), lots of sport and lots of gardening...

Myra will be greatly missed by the Abbotshall church family. She was involved in many church activities over the years. She was the longest standing member of the Abbotshall Scottish Country Dancing Class and was instrumental in ensuring the class kept going - firstly when they had to leave the YWCA and more recently when she found them a new, and extremely good teacher. She set up the church walking group with Anne Moyes and Jenny McLeod and led many of the walks. She was a stalwart of the choir, and regularly arranged the church flowers. She enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of church coffee mornings and social events.

We thank God for the full life and devoted service of Myra Muncey.

SING-ALONG COFFEE MORNING

To be held in the church hall on Saturday, 13th June 2015.

Starting at 10:00 a. m.

Entry ticket costs £5 and are limited to 100 due to the number of seats the hall holds.

Tickets are available now.

This will be the last coffee morning until Saturday 12th September.

Donations of home baking etc for the coffee mornings would be appreciated very much.

Easter Code (Strathallan School)

On Thursday 1 April Rosie, James, Chris Beattie from KART, 2 KART volunteers along with Morag, Morna, Jenny and Bill from the congregation ran a special Easter workshop for Primary 7 pupils at Strathallan Primary School. Called the Easter Code, it took the 50 young folk on an action packed, 2 hour long, interactive journey through the events of Holy Week with competition, drama, music, craft, good fun and serious questions. There was foot washing and a Passover feast, the Friday crowd shouting for Jesus to be crucified and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. It was a great success! Pupils and staff loved it and we're booked in for a re-run next year. A lot of hard work went into the preparation. Thanks especially to the Church Craft Group for preparing everything for the craft activity – there was a lot of cutting out!! Congratulations to Chris Beattie who became a dad for the first time the week before...he was in top form despite sleepless nights....

WALKING GROUP MARCH & APRIL 2015

The Holy Strollers were blessed with sunny weather for the first 2 walks of the 2015 season.

On Saturday 21st March we walked round Birnie and Gaddon Lochs, taking time to admire the trees just beginning to show signs of coming into leaf, daffodils in flower and many species of birds flitting between the trees and on the water. We had lunch by the side of Loch Birnie in the company of inquisitive ducks and swans. Birnie and Gaddon have been created from disused sand and gravel workings. Progressive restoration has provided a range of wetland habitats. After lunch we walked through nearby Heatherhall Wood. We completed the afternoon in Falkland Estate. Starting at the Stables car park we passed the cricket pitch, the "Talking Stanes" and reached the Pillars of Hercules where we stopped for welcome refreshments and a look round their organic farm shop. We returned to the car park via the Red Squirrel Trail.

We used public transport to access our walk from Cramond Brig to South Queensferry on Saturday 18th April. First of all it was train from Kirkcaldy to Dalmeny and then bus to Cramond Brig on the outskirts of Edinburgh. We went by a farm road surrounded by fields and woodland to reach the shoreline and a view of Cramond Island and the mouth of the River Almond. After a short distance we made a slight detour to Eagle Rock, so-named because of the carving of an eagle reputed to have been made by the Romans when they were garrisoned at Cramond. We stopped for a coffee break and to admire the views across the Forth to Fife. Our route continued along Shore Road passing Snab Point, Dalmeny Golf Course, the impressive Tudor gothic mansion of Dalmeny House and Barnbogle Castle. At Hound Point we had an excellent view of the Forth Bridges and also several sailing boats out in the Forth. It was a short distance from here to Long Craig Pier and finally South Queensferry. We found a café to have welcome refreshments before ascending steps to the station.

Future walk dates are:- 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 15th August, 19th September and 17th October. Further details can be found on the web site or from Jenny McLeod (j.mcleod415@btinternet.com / 01592 268415).

Thursday Fellowship Group

Over the past months we have had a varied programme, all enjoyed by the Group.

Jean Napier gave us a very interesting talk about her holiday to Alaska. We were transported by plane, boat, train and finally cruise ship by way of some beautiful slides. She visited many places of interest but Mount MacKinlay was Jean's favourite view as well as landing on the Ice Cap. Wildlife was another point of interest when we saw brown bears catching fish, bird life and sea life while on her cruise.

A most interesting talk was given by two ladies from the local branch of the Samaritans. Volunteers work in pairs on a shift basis and are "listening ears" to anyone who phones in. Everything is very confidential and as well as phone calls people now use email, texts or they can call personally to the St Clair Street premises. Volunteers also go out to speak in schools and colleges. They do not offer solutions but try to help people explore the options available to them.

Following from this talk we had a volunteer from Street Pastors telling us of the work they do. They also work in pairs patrolling a designated area in Kirkcaldy. They work closely with taxi operators when the local clubs close, ensuring everyone gets home safely. They get many people just needing someone to speak to and the pastors are ready to listen. Although sometimes the talk had a serious nature, the speaker also had some amusing stories to tell us.

A most interesting talk by Bruce Farrell gave us an insight on the history of Abbotshall. Illustrated by maps, photos etc., a lot of interest was shown and questions asked. The members also put a lot of input in as they were able to recognise places and people on the photos. Over our usual cup of tea the various items on show brought up many stories of 'days gone by'.

Last month we learned about the history of the bicycle from James Bissett... 'Four Wheels Good, Two Wheels Better: A history of recumbent cycling.' A lot of research had been done and again by way of slides we were brought up-to-date. James also brought along two recumbent bikes belonging to Susan and himself. He demonstrated them and explained the workings. He also told us of places they had visited on their bikes. Several members had a shot on Susan's machine 'whizzing' round the hall to the delight of everyone.

BEREAVEMENTS

We were saddened at the passing of
Moira Brunton in February;
Myra Muncey in March;

BAPTISM

Thomas Stuart Bell was baptised on Sunday 16 November 2014.

MARRIAGE – CONGRATULATIONS

On Saturday 29 November - Dean William Heggie and Ann Ewan married in Abbotshall.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS

Marina and Alister Hope celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in February;

Margaret and Brian Methven also celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in April.

Shop online to raise money for Abbotshall Church

Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy has received more than £661.98 simply from our supporters shopping online! This amount is part of over £5 million generated by leading UK good cause shopping website [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) for over 50,000 causes just like Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy.

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy? There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotshallchurch>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy. It couldn't be easier!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

Heart & Soul 2015
Celebrating the life of the Church

Living STONES

A celebration and exhibition of
the life and work of the Church.

17 May, 2015
2.00pm - 6.00pm
Princes Street Gardens
Edinburgh

- Congregation Life Stories
- Exhibitors
- Music / Events / Seminars
- Youth/Children Activities
- Massed Worship

www.heartandsoul2015.org.uk

 The Church of Scotland

Scottish Charity Number SC011353



Diary Dates

Thursday 30 April, 2.00pm - Thursday Fellowship Group

Saturday 9 May, 10.00am-12noon - Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

Saturday 16 May - Friday 22 May - General Assembly

Sunday 17 May, 1.00pm - 5.00pm - Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens

Thursday 28 May, 2.00pm - Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 28 May, 7.30pm - Kirk Session meeting

Sunday 31 May - Young Church Service

Sunday 7 June, 9.00am and 11.00am - Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Wednesday 10 June, 7.00pm - KART AGM in Abbotshall Church Hall

Saturday 13 June, 10.00am-1pm - Coffee Morning in the Church Hall

Sundays 14, 21, 28 June - Worship at 10.00am

Thursday 25 June, 2.00pm - Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 25 June, 7.30pm - Congregational Board meeting

Wednesday 1 July, 9.30am - Strathallan end of term Service

Thursday 2 July, 9.45am - Kirkcaldy West end of term Service

Sunday 5 July, 11.00am - Bennochty Church

Sunday 12 July, 11.00am - Abbotshall Church

Sunday 19 July, 11.00am - St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 26 July, 11.00am - Linktown Church