

## **ROSIE'S LETTER**

May 2016

Dear Friends,

As I write this our political leaders in Scotland are vying for our attention with ever more daring / ridiculous / amusing photo opportunities; the associated dangers of staying in Europe / leaving Europe are becoming more extreme by the day; and we are watching events over the pond with an amazed / horrified fascination as Donald Trump sweeps through the primaries and gets ever closer to the Republican nomination. Politics!

Religion and politics are the two subjects we are warned off discussing in polite company...and yet it's hard not to as our faith shapes who we are and what we believe and what we want for other people and for the society we live in, our politics. That's not to say that we will all agree.....chances are we will agree on key priorities but disagree on how we finance them and implement them. That's party politics!

We have 2 polling days coming up on 5 May and 23 June. The campaigning may frustrate us but the opportunity to vote is a privilege not to be taken for granted. There are many reasons why we should vote.

- Voting recognises the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard.
- Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
- 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.
- 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.
- It shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf.

Your vote is a privilege. Use it wisely and prayerfully. **Rosie**

### **Christian Aid Week - 2016**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

**HELP – Where has this year gone??**

**It is CHRISTIAN AID WEEK again!!**

In 2015 the Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee increased their Door-to-door collection total by £1,100.00 to a marvelous total of £9,600.

This increase in giving was, in part, helped by distributing the Christian Aid envelopes beyond the Door-to-door distribution.

You may remember that last year we enclosed a Christian Aid envelope in your Spring Kirk Newsletter, and this was a success, so we are repeating this again this year.

Now, if you regularly have a Christian Aid collector at your door, or if you will be at church on 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, when there will be Christian Aid envelopes available for your contribution, then you do not need to do any thing 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 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> 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**

### **Abbotshall Door-to-door Collectors**

To the wonderful band of door-to-door Collectors of Abbotshall Parish Church, please note that Christian Aid Week this year is from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May.

I know it does not get any easier as the years roll by, but I do appeal to you to help with this most rewarding task to enable us to equal or beat the incredible total of £2400 that we achieved last year.

It is essential that we keep the number of collectors as high as possible, so if you have never helped before or have missed a year or two please, please come forward with an offer of help in any way at all.

**Thanks – Euan Fraser**

### **USED STAMP APPEAL (2016)**

Thank you all for the used stamps which you have kindly donated to the church to help raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. It is through your support that £3511 was raised by The Church of Scotland in 2015 to help our partners worldwide.

The Church of South India (CSI) recently opened the Othara Eco-spirituality centre, where people can learn about climate change and the importance of conserving the earth God has given us.

This year the Stamp Project will support some of their ecological innovations including the harvesting and re-use of rain water, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds.

Through retreats and conferences, CSI hopes that the knowledge people gain at the centre will inspire them to live sustainably and encourage others in their community to do the same because 'caring for the earth is not only a calling, but a lifestyle'.

Thank you

**Anne Moyes**

### **Hot Cross Buns (a true story)**

Two young ladies were heard talking recently. " Bother, said one, we missed our Burns Supper this year." "That's a pity" said the other, " I do so like hot cross buns"

(According to Google, the cross on the top of the bread was introduced by

the monks of St Albans Abbey in 1361 on the bread distributed to the poor on Good Friday and the custom of adding the cross became widespread from the late 14th Century).

**David Muncey**

### **Prayer Group**

We are very pleased to tell you that we have 3 new members of the Prayer Group. We meet in the vestry on the second and the last Sunday of the month at 10.20am for about 15 minutes. A warm welcome is extended to all to join us on any of the dates listed below. There will be no meetings in July.

The Prayer Group dates are:-

**8<sup>th</sup> May, 29<sup>th</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 26<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 28<sup>th</sup> August.**

If there is someone or something you would like us to pray for, please put a note in the Prayer Boxes in the Church vestibule and the Church Hall.

### **2016 Stewardship of Talents**

Having completed the four year stewardship cycle of talents, time, money and the natural world we return to the stewardship of our talents. In preparation for our September stewardship season here are a few ideas for you to be working on during the long hot days of summer.

*Sharing talents between the generations*

We are aware of the diversity of talents in our families and friends and in particular how they can be very different and shared between generations. The modern world

of mobile phones, computers, the internet and social media tends to be the domain of recent generations while hobbies, many sports, music, cooking and handcrafts tends to be the domain of older generations. This years' challenge is to share talents between the generations for their mutual benefit and to reward those stretching over the most generations by the greatest amount.

### *How Long Is a Generation?*

We may think that the duration of a generation is about twenty five years from the birth of a parent to the birth of a child. In the past generations were closer to twenty years and now they are over thirty years. The length of a generation, however, is not fixed but is specific to each family and each family member. As an example consider a family with grandparents in their 80's children in their 50's, grandchildren in their 20's and very young great grandchildren, clearly four generations.

### *Possible talent exchange ideas*

Using the TV controller	Cooking from basics
Working a mobile phone	Golf for a beginner
Using mobile phone APPS	Knitting
Setting up a cordless phone address book	How to grow seedlings
Using the internet	Tax without tears
Sorting the home computer	Home painting basics
Fixing the house WiFi	Tennis fundamentals
Getting the most out of the new car	Lawns without moss
ATMs and on-line banking	Sewing and using a sewing machine
Social media for beginners	Why and how to save money
Internet shopping without tears	Scone and tablet making
Making a music playlist	Letter writing

### *Talent exchange cards*

The talent exchange cards will be available in August and will be split into three categories defined by the generational gap and they will record the talent or talents being shared. The talent sharing may be mutual or only in one direction e.g. a grandparent helps a grandchild to learn to bake while the grandchild helps the grandparent to access their favourite TV programmes OR a parent helps a child to learn to paint and decorate OR a child helps a parent to shop on-line. Each talent exchange should be recorded on a card and be entered into the appropriate category to be exhibited at the end of September. There will be a £2 charge for each entry and prizes will be awarded for the three best entries in each generational group as judged by the Minister, the Session Clark and the Stewardship Convener.

## **WALKING GROUP MARCH – APRIL 2016**

The first walk this year was held on **19<sup>th</sup> March** when 5 Holy Strollers, Anne, Margaret, Morna, Jane and Jenny, walked from Lower Largo to Elie. We set out from Temple car park in Largo along the disused railway line which is now part of the Fife Coastal Path. It was a beautiful sunny day and we were able to appreciate the good views across the Forth to East Lothian, Berwick Law and the Bass Rock. At Dumbarnie Links Wildlife Reserve we veered off the coastal path which at this point makes its way through the dunes or along the sandy beach. Our chosen path was a continuation of the old railway line as it passed through farmland. After West Muircambus Farm we found a suitable picnic spot in a wooded area. On leaving the woodland we skirted round the perimeter of Shell Bay Caravan Park, up the gentle slope of Grangehill and down a minor road beside Elie House Golf Course. The final section of our walk was along Earlsferry High Street and Elie High Street. We returned to Lower Largo by bus and had a pleasant walk along the Main Street to the car park. Fellowship continued with a stop for refreshments at Janes' Coffee Shop in Lundin Links.

Anne, Morna and Jenny were blessed with another lovely sunny day on **16<sup>th</sup> April** for their walk from Perth to Luncarty along the banks of the River Tay. We arrived in Perth by train and from the station we walked past South Inch to reach Tay Street and the river. North Inch Golf Course was busy with golfers. The Tay is one of the most famous salmon rivers in Scotland and there were several fishermen casting from a standing position in the river. On the far bank parkland belonging to Scone Palace and also the Race Course was visible. At this point the path diverted from the Tay and took us along by the banks of the River Almond for a short distance under the railway and a bridge carrying the A9. We crossed a bridge and returned by the opposite bank to the Tay where we found a suitable picnic spot for our lunch break. The next section of the path went through woodland, was narrow and close to the water's edge. The path soon widened and left the trees to become flanked by fields. Finally we reached the outskirts of Luncarty. We returned to Perth by bus and then train to Kirkcaldy. During the walk we were very aware of birds singing, an abundance of spring flowers and trees coming into leaf and realised that spring had finally arrived.

Future walks are scheduled for **21<sup>st</sup> May; 18<sup>th</sup> June; 16<sup>th</sup> July; 20<sup>th</sup> August; 17<sup>th</sup> September and 15<sup>th</sup> October**. Please contact Jenny McLeod (01592 268415 / [j.mcleod415@btinternet.com](mailto:j.mcleod415@btinternet.com)) or visit the Abbotshall Church web site for details of walks.

## **Fellowship Report**

At the February meeting we welcomed Dave Frew who told us about his journey walking the Camino de Santiago (Way of St James) to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. The route is well marked by either arrows or scallop shells (or both). The walk takes you along the rugged paths, hilly sections, plains and barren parts, vineyards and cornfields. En route villages and towns, churches and cathedrals were visited. Scenery changed daily and everyone taking part walked an average of 12 – 15 miles per day. Although Dave was taking part in the walk alone, each day he teamed up with other people and usually it was a different group each day. He met people from all over the world making many new friends. The groups stayed overnight in hostel accommodation and you had to be early in the queue to get a bed! Sometimes you were lucky to enjoy the luxury of bed and breakfast. Getting together over an evening meal was also a good time to forge friendships. At the end of each day and at each church/cathedral visited you got your 'Journey Passport' stamped and at the end of the journey everyone received a certificate. A total of 700 miles was travelled over the course of 8 weeks.

A small group met in March to chat over family memories, holidays etc. A very interesting time was spent and we enjoyed hearing of family history and employment and the way that surnames are spelt in different parts of the country. How looking at family trees you found

why people had to move around for employment. Three of our members found they all had links with regions in the North of Scotland which led to memories of childhood. Memories of musical associations with photos of Gilbert & Sullivan productions were of interest. All afternoon we were learning something new and although our numbers were maybe depleted we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

We welcomed Jenny Featherstone to our April meeting. Jenny is our missionary partner and last visited us in March 2013 when she told us about her work in Zambia and the different projects being carried out. She brought us up-to-date with the projects at Chodort – at the moment they have 9 carpentry students, 17 tailoring students and 8 IT students. They are now also producing bricks which they will sell and they also built a wall round the new classrooms. Friends in Germany helped build housing and money from the Church of Scotland is helping to pay staff wages – all staff are now on a living wage! Some children receive education but hundreds do not so a new project is underway called “Play for all”. Children come along and enjoy playing games etc. and through play they are learning and they are happy. There are still issues with water and electricity and Jenny described the difficulties experienced with both. Hopefully with more funding and income from the carpentry and tailoring sections they will be able to train more students. We enjoyed hearing all the news of Chodort from Jenny and wished her well in her work.

## **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 14 May, 10.00am** – Coffee morning

**Sunday 15 May, 11.00am** – Christian Aid Service

**Thursday 19 May, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group.  
Speaker – Helen Mackenzie, Growing Up in a Manse

**Saturday 21-Friday 27 May** – General Assembly

**Sunday 22 May, afternoon** – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens  
[www.heartandsoul.org.uk/](http://www.heartandsoul.org.uk/)

**Wednesday 25 May, 7.30pm** – Kirk Session meeting

**Sunday 29 May, 11.00am** – Young Church Service

**Sunday 5 June, 9.00am and 11.00am** – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

**Tuesday 7 June, 7.00pm** – KART AGM in Abbotshall Church Hall

**Saturday 11 June, 10.00am** – The Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea and Coffee Party

**Thursday 16 June, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group, Picnic in the Park

**Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm** – Congregational Board meeting

**Sunday 10 July, 11.00am** – United Service in Bennoch Church

**Sunday 17 July, 11.00am** – United Service in St Bryce Kirk

**Sunday 24 July, 11.00am** – United Service in Linktown Church

**Sunday 31 July, 11.00am** – United Service in Abbotshall Church