

Christ's Kirk Chronicle

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue
Glenrothes
KY7 6SU



May 2018

Do This in Remembrance of Me



The Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be celebrated here at
Christ's Kirk on the
27th May 2018
Everyone is invited to attend.
The service begins at **10.30am.**



The service will be conducted by Rev David Denniston

Prayer Call

LORD we pray for those who know the hardship of poverty,
the parents unable to feed their family never knowing where the next meal is coming
from, with whom they will eat it, or when.

For those who suffer from the depressing and lonely effects of not having a job and being
part of a community.

For the misunderstanding of friends and family.

Pray for those who suffer the effects of war, feeling powerless in the face of death and
destruction

For those who are ill, sick or bereaved.

Yet, amid all life's trials and hardships there is
the beauty of flowers and birdsong,
the pleasure of music,
the joy of colours,
the happiness of laughter,
encouragement of unbroken friendship.
And you our Lord blessing us with restoring healing.
Amen

Isabelle Farquhar

“My favourite form of exercise is jumping to conclusions” said Danny Kaye the once great and famous American entertainer. And he is not alone.

The Nobel Prize winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman identifies two distinct systems of decision making. In System One for example we see an angry person and we do not calculate or deliberate, we just know instantly that they are angry. In System Two we need to think, focus, concentrate; it takes mental effort like multiplication, what is 24 x 17? System Two is needed for a pin number, filling in a tax return or looking for a friend in a crowd. It takes an act of will and mental energy to focus. System One is automatic, quick and easy and gets us by in many circumstances, a car approaching or a barking dog causes us automatically to avoid an identified hazard.

In how we evaluate the world though this may cause confusion if one system is dominant and the other is suppressed. Consider this statement, “All roses are flowers, some flowers fade quickly, therefore some roses fade quickly.” Not so! It is possible that there are no roses among the flowers that fade quickly. The quick and intuitive answer is wrong. It is a favourite form of exercise. It will be a concern to anyone who is aware of their own potential to get things wrong that this can lead to serious misjudgements about the world about people, about faith and beliefs. Combine that with the fact that people will see an argument as valid when it supports a conclusion they already believe to be true and we have identified further grounds for never having absolute certainty. We humans have the great gift of reason but our thinking is never as reasonable as we like to think it is.

One result of this is the appearance of barriers between us many of which are manifested in the Gospel stories, between men and women, Samaritans, Gentiles, those who were ill, poor, lepers, slave and free, the ritually impure, the menstrual discharge, those who felt defiled, the mental derangement illness or whatever. Jesus’ last words on the cross were for forgiveness for enemies, gentiles, occupiers, torturers. Jesus might have been saying “Don’t jump to conclusions about these men” The cross breaks down the barriers.

The Great Commission at the end of Matthew’s Gospel commands that followers of Jesus “Go into all the world.” not just to the Jews and John tells us that “God so loved the WORLD.” Paul trumpets the call that there is “neither Jew nor Gentile, slaves or free men, men or women but all are one in union with Christ”.

After Easter, Pentecost. From all around, nations were represented in that long list of those present, the barrier of language was blown away. The curse of divisions expressed in that powerful Tower of Babel myth was revoked and reversed by an experience of the Spirit of God. How we need that today and in the church here. The barriers are less language or culture, more personal. Unpicking our first thoughts and impression, being aware that our knowledge of situations can only ever be partial and bringing a healthy scepticism to our own conclusions, might even be the way the Spirit of God can move this Pentecost.

Ken Froude



God asks us to jump from our secure perches, to stop calculating the risks . . . Don't insist on knowing exactly what comes next but trust that you are in the hands of God, who will guide your life."

- Henri Nouwen

Courage Brother, do not stumble

Glenrothes and District Churches Together organised, for the first time, a Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Locally, this involved a group of us leaving from Christ's Kirk, in the north of the town carrying a cross and heading to St. Columba's where we were to meet up with fellow walkers from churches around Glenrothes.

On the run-up to the date we only had half a dozen names willing to take part on the walk and I remember emailing Mary McIndoe, who was one of the organisers and telling her of my sadness at the lack of numbers. On reading my email a thought popped into her head and her reply to me was "Courage, Brother, do not stumble". How right she was!

Despite the bad weather, more walkers arrived from Markinch and Thornton church, Leslie Baptist church, St. Columba's and King's Covenant Fellowship and in the space of ten minutes our numbers increased three-fold. After a cup of coffee (to fortify us before battling the elements), a reading from **John 18: 28 – 40** and a prayer we headed out carrying the cross. Our route took us past Glenrothes hospital and then onto the Irises at Leslie roundabout where we heard another reading from **John 19: 1 - 11a** followed by a photoshoot. It was really heart-warming to see people from other churches engaging in fellowship with each other.



We carried on down Leslie road where I noticed drivers rubber-necking so I guessed we had been noticed and crossed over into Riverside Park taking it in turns to carry the cross. Not to be outdone young Fraser insisted on carrying it too. We then made our way up the steps and headed onto Napier Road and eventually arrived safely at St. Columba's thanks to the sterling work by our stewards George Carratt and Alan Milnes. Despite being the furthest away we

were the first group to arrive and took shelter in the church and waited for the arrival of the other walkers.

It was estimated at this point approximately 100 people had taken part in the walk which was well in excess of expectations. After another reading from **John 18: 17 - 27** we continued onto the new Glenrothes Baptist church to join others swelling the numbers to around 200 in a Good Friday service which included a reading from **John 19: 28 - 37**.

The experience of worshipping and celebrating the Easter message with around 200 other Christians from all over Glenrothes was a most exhilarating experience and one I hope will be repeated annually

Ian Morgan



A concert sponsored and organised by the Rotary Club of Glenrothes in aid of Glenrothes Churches Together and Rotary projects will take place on Saturday 12th May in St. Columba's Church at 7.00pm. Tickets may be had from Ron Page, or at St. Columba's on the night. The Cantamus Choir are presenting the "Magic of the Musicals" and "The Great American Songbook" and tickets are priced at £10 which includes interval refreshments.

Joint Services

As in previous years the Kirk Session agreed to participate in the Joint Services during July. We will have our normal service on the 1st July, then we will worship on the 8th at Leslie Trinity, St. Margaret's on the 15th, St. Columba's on the 22nd and then we all come together here at Christ's Kirk on the 29th July.

All services begin at 10.30am.

Ally's Update

Dear Friends at Christ's Kirk,



Throughout the year, some of my favourite lines from the Hymnary to reflect upon come from the wonderful second verse of Thomas Chisholm's *Great is Thy Faithfulness*:

"Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest; Sun, moon and stars in their courses above; Join with all nature in manifold witness; To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love".

Having recently survived 'Beast from the East' (both I and II) these words seem like a particularly apposite reminder that God's wonder is often revealed to us in nature and through the seasons. Whilst the extreme weather and conditions may, at times, have seemed like a nuisance, they leave us with a reminder of the beauty of creation (in all its fullness and variety).

As we journey through the seasons and through the variety that comes with them, God remains a consistent source of blessings and grace. And that is apparent to me, not only in the work that I do in Glenrothes, but also in my personal life. I am delighted to report that my lovely wife is keeping very well and that we are very much looking forward to the imminent arrival of our son or daughter. What better an example of God's blessings being poured out?

Here in Glenrothes, I continue to feel blessed by the opportunities opening up within our schools and parishes, and by the encouragement and support of those within each of the churches. My involvement, alongside such a fantastic group of colleagues, in each of the three high schools continues to be fruitful, with weekly Scripture Union groups and drop-ins taking place, regular assemblies and opportunities for class visits. These activities extend to many of the primary schools across Glenrothes, where colleagues and I are always met with a very warm welcome. On Monday evenings, I am still delighted to be involved in the 'Monday Club' at St. Margaret's, which is led by Ruth Livingstone and the rest of the brilliant team there. I enjoy leading 'Kreative Kids' on Tuesdays for primary school-aged children and 'illum8' on Thursdays for secondary school-aged children (both at St. Ninian's).

I'm also enjoying other commitments, such as Messy Churches (at St. Columba's and now at St. Margaret's), visits and talks to church groups and facilitation of workshops – most recently in Dundee as part of the Church of Scotland's Year of Young People initiative. I'm also looking forward to taking part in some of the upcoming Summer Mission activities across town.

Knowing that God remains that constant source of goodness and blessing, among all the goings-on in Glenrothes and throughout the seasons, is something that motivates me to talk about His love and demonstrate my faith.

As we journey towards summer, I'd like to thank you as always for your continued prayer and support for Christian youth work in the area and I wish you every blessing for the months ahead,

Alastair Stark

Ministries Development Worker (Youth and Children)
Glenrothes and Leslie

Guild News



We have come to the end of the 2017 – 2018 Guild Session, with the AGM having just taken place.

Over the past couple of months we have been privileged to have with us : -

Bob Doherty, who took us on a tour of the Hebrides and Orkney islands, recounting happy memories of visits to those places.

Oskar Forbes the Outreach worker from “GROW” who gave members an insight into his work with young people in Glenrothes and within Glenrothes High, Glenwood High and Pitcoudie Primary Schools.

Mary Welsh gave an interesting and humorous talk on her experiences as a warden in Dunfermline Abbey.

The Holy Week Service was arranged and led by Sheila Jackson, assisted by Guild members.

Sadly, some of our members have not been present at meetings due to illness and have been missed. We remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

The office bearers and committee are already planning the syllabus for the next session.

We have a new strategy: ” One Journey, Many Roads” and the theme is: ”Seeking the Way.”

An interesting and hopefully fruitful year ahead.

There will be an outing to Dunkeld followed by a high tea in Perth on Saturday 23rd June 2018. Everyone is welcome. If interested please contact Evlyn Allsop or myself.

Jenny Catlin

Glenrothes Foodbank

Food is always needed: and at this time of year items such as tins of chicken soup, vegetables and tomatoes are especially sought, also eggs and cooking condiments.



Some Facts: since 2013 Glenrothes Foodbank has given out more than 12,000 food parcels, with over 4000 of these to families with children.

Reasons for this need: Benefit delays; low income; reaction to new benefit changes; unemployment; domestic violence or homelessness.

You can help by leaving items in the boxes in the vestibule in the church.

Fabric

Work has been carried out to the manse to bring it up to the specification required, also work has been carried out on its garden.

The Fabric Committee/Convener thanks those church members who donated £894 for this, allowing the work to be completed quickly.

There have been some recent problems with the heating in the church, and two Services had to be held in the church hall, which is fortunately heated by a different system.

I'm happy to say that after the replacement of a couple of thermostats everything is now working okay.

Matt Smart
Fabric Convener



“The strongest people are not those who show strength in front of us but those who win battles we know nothing about.”

Since June of last year, it has been my privilege to serve Christ's Kirk as Interim Moderator. These have been challenging days for all concerned and there is work to be done still but I have found it worthwhile and very rewarding to be with you and particularly to work with the Kirk Session. Thank you to the many who have worked hard and who continue that commitment to the church here. For many, should we meet in the future, I will regard you as friends.

Under the capable leadership of Rev David Denniston as your Interim Minister, you now have a great opportunity to step forward together as the Pilgrim People of God, to better love one another, to serve your community and to worship Him in obedience and joy. May you know the Blessing of God in all that is to come and thank you.

Ken Froude

Message from the Interim Minister

Dear all,

It seems a little strange to be writing this introduction of myself in advance of my actual arrival amongst you! However, by the time you read this I will have begun my time with you as your Interim Minister. I officially began at Christ's Kirk on Monday 23rd April, will moderate the Kirk Session the following evening and conduct worship on the morning of Sunday 29th April, and the Service of Introduction will take place that afternoon.



So you could say it is a busy start to my ministry with you! As some of you will know, I am not a stranger to Fife. From 1986 until 1996 I enjoyed ten very happy and fulfilling years as Minister in Kennoway. Before that I had ministered in the East End of Glasgow (my home city) in what was then an area of multiple deprivation. Following my time in Kennoway I was Minister at the North Church in the centre of Perth before going to Edinburgh and the ancient city centre charge of St Cuthbert's, just next to Princes Street Gardens.

I began as an Interim Minister just over two years ago, and for these two years served in the parishes of Fowlis Wester, Madderty and Monzie with Gask in rural Perthshire. Looking back now over these almost 40 years of ministry, I cannot imagine a more varied set of congregations, parishes or situations!

My wife, Jane, is also a Minister and having served for many years in the central offices of the Church in various roles (but notably in working with those training for Ministry) she was called in 2016 to the Parish of Campsie in Lennoxton, just north of Glasgow. We have three adult children (one of whom stays with us), two Labradors and the kind of hectic lifestyle that people of our age should be avoiding! I have several interests, most of which I struggle to find the time to indulge, including music (listening to and playing/recording prog rock in particular!), fishing, steam locomotives, history and current affairs and so on and on...

But I am not here with you to encourage you to listen to progressive rock music, play my guitar or enthuse about steam locomotives (you will be relieved to learn!) but to journey with you for a while as an Interim Minister.

As you may know, Interim Ministry placements are usually relatively short term (typically 1 to 2 years, although the precise length depends on many different factors.) The aim of this period is that together we work towards helping the congregation get to a place where you can move onto calling another minister.

At some point over the coming weeks the 'Transitional Support Group' (appointed to support the Interim Minister and the congregation through this period) will hold a meeting with the congregation in order to determine goals and objectives towards which we will all seek to work. In other words it is you, the congregation, who will set the aims for this time.

Continued on next page

My primary role is to lead you in this process. However, Interim Ministers are also the 'Minister for the time being' – which means that I will be conducting Sunday worship, responding to pastoral needs and convening meetings just as any parish minister would do. But it will not be my role to (for example) initiate new projects, undertake significant work in the community etc. etc. except inasmuch as these things may help us towards our agreed goals.

Increasingly, members of the Interim Ministry team are required to undertake additional responsibilities apart from their primary placement and so, while I am with you I will also be involved in consultancy work with a congregation in Glasgow Presbytery, possible consultancy in another congregation, involvement in many training courses, team meetings and whatever else may come my way! All of this makes it even more important that my time with you is focused on our agreed aims and objectives rather than on other matters.

However, all that said, I am here for you during this period, and any matters of urgent pastoral need can be brought to me. I have put my mobile telephone number and my email address below, so that you can get in touch with me as required.

I am looking forward very much to working with you.

Yours,
David Denniston
Interim Minister

DDenniston@churchofscotland.org.uk

07903 926727

Heart & Soul

The General Assembly this year opens on Saturday 19th May and closes on Friday 25th May. As in the recent past there will be a "Heart & Soul" celebration in Princes Street Gardens in the afternoon of Sunday 20th May and the theme this year will be "Peace be with you"

North Glenrothes Fun Day

Saturday 2nd June - 12noon

This is the annual big and successful community event in Gilvenbank Park. Dancers, fairground, stalls, food and much more for all ages.

Last week some of our church members supported Christian Aid by participating in the Annual Crossing of the Forth Road Bridge - a much quieter experience than in previous years due to traffic now using the Queensferry Crossing.

In addition there will be a soup lunch here at Christ's Kirk immediately after the service on 13th May. Tickets are priced at £4.

Don't forget to bring your Christian Aid envelopes with you that morning.



13th - 19th May

Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive future publications of the church newsletter electronically, please send an email with your name and home address (your email address will be at the head of your email) along with a short notification to the newsletter editor at christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com and we will send it to you.

If anyone would like to join our team, please speak to me or get in touch at the email address above,

Ian Morgan

Events diary



May

Saturday	5th May	10. am - 12noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday	6th May	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	13th May	10.30am	Worship & Christian Aid lunch
Sunday	20th May	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	27th May	10.30am	Communion

June

Sunday	3rd June	10.30am	Worship
Saturday	9th June	10.00am - 12noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday	10th June	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	17th June	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	24th June	10.30am	Worship



July

Sunday	1st July	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	8th July	10.30am	Leslie Trinity
Sunday	15th July	10.30am	St. Margaret's
Sunday	22st July	10.30am	St. Columba's
Sunday	29th July	10.30am	Christ's Kirk

**Joint
Services**

August

Sunday	5th August	10.30am	Worship
Saturday	11th August	10.00am - 12noon	Coffee Morning
Sunday	12th August	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	19th August	10.30am	Worship
Sunday	26th August	10.30am	Communion

CONTACTS

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