

**THE MAGAZINE OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
KIRKCALDY**

*The Manse
25 Bennoch Avenue*

December 1994

Dear Friends,

On a sunny morning in mid-July, I was standing in a security car park in Stockport, while waiting for transport to Manchester Airport to fly to Cyprus for a short holiday. Looking around, I noticed a row of what appeared to be new cars lined up against one side of the perimeter wire fence. To my astonishment, one had an "M" registration, a full fortnight before the registration letters changed. It was the same with the car beside it, and the next, and the next On closer examination, there turned out to be two or three long rows of similar cars all with the new "M" registration. My curiosity got the better of me and I went back to the office to ask the young man there what it was all about.

He said that looking after tourists' cars was only a small part of their business. Their main income came from looking after these "new cars" until it was time to deliver them to garages.

From the dusty look on them, I would think these "M" cars had been parked there for some time. Yet they would be presented in showrooms or to eager customers as "brand-new cars", all fresh and shining.

It made me wonder if any product is really new. The young man let it slip that sometimes not all these cars are sold, and some are returned to the car-park, their number plates removed, to be wheeled out again months later when demand increases, this time round with an even newer registration number

Is it the case that many things we buy as "new" are second- or third-hand, their pristine newness tarnished with long storage?

Does Christmas reach that stage, also? Many children - myself included - used to probe around cupboards, look on top of wardrobes or under beds when the family home was empty, to see if the Christmas parcels were secreted there already. Given Time and Opportunity, these parcels could be scrutinised, or even opened, and the contents played with in stealth.

Doing that gave a kind of illicit thrill, but definitely spoiled Christmas Day, when the elements of Surprise and Novelty were inevitably destroyed, bringing a sense of let-down to the whole festival.

As a society, we seem less inclined to wait, for anything. Brides and Bridegrooms setting up their first home will not now settle for less than a completely furnished house. There is little sense of acquiring things gradually, or saving for furniture and household equipment. I tell them how, in our first home, my wife and I had a black-and-white TV set made up from the best bits of two old ones. When the wind was strong, the picture flapped as if it was beamed on to a bedsheet badly secured! The young ones look at me as if I came out of The Ark!

Sometimes, I wonder how many young couples split up perhaps because they have too much of everything.

Children also are treated in similar fashion. Since last Christmas, three Walt Disney videos have been issued: "Jungle Book", "Aladdin", "Snow White".

Each time, the shops have been full of advance publicity about the date of issue, encouraging customers to reserve their copy. On one such date when the videos went on sale, I happened to be in the store and was amazed at parents or grandparents purchasing the tape and handing it over directly to the child.

Nothing wrong with that, is there? Not so long ago, such tapes would be put away for Christmas gifts, when children looked ahead to getting them on Christmas Day. Now it seems they **MUST** have it the very day it goes on sale, because every other child will have it too. By Christmas Day, there is nothing to look forward to: it becomes "just another day".

Advent is the season to prepare for Christmas. The Bible tells us that before Jesus was born there was a great sense of Anticipation, of a time when God would send his Saviour King to redress Wrongs and Injustices before ushering in His Kingdom of Life, Love and Peace.

For this momentous event, people had been waiting for centuries, not simply for a few weeks. Techniques of Patience and Faith had been adopted to help control the sense of Frustration and Exasperation often revealed in the Scriptures. In time, Patience and Faith were justified when God's Son was born as a human being among human beings, as St. Paul said:

*"In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son,
born of a woman"* (Galatians, 4,4)

Nothing detracted from the newness of God's greatest gift to His Creation. No selfish anticipation spoiled the beauty and glory of such a gift.

Christmas ought to be a time of great newness in all things and in all our lives. Let no foolish anticipation detract from its wonder and beauty!

Let us learn, also, the necessity to wait with Patience and with Faith, until God chooses His own time to give us his greatest gift, the Word of God made flesh.

Wishing all a Happy Christmas, and a Good New Year.

Yours sincerely,



S.M. McNaught

REMOVED BY DEATH

09.05.94 Miss R. Wilson, 12 Regent Place, Balfour Street
21.06.94 Mrs. A. Naismith, 6 Hendry Road
27.06.94 Mrs. A. McMahon, 18 Stanley Park
07.94 Mrs. Forrester, 7 Hendry Crescent
02.07.94 Mr. J. Bayne, 77 Mellerstain Road
31.08.94 Mrs. H. Chalmers, 17 Nicol Street
17.09.94 Mrs. P. Page, 75 Valley Gardens
28.09.94 Mr. P. Moodie, 6 Baldwin Crescent
29.09.94 Mrs. Duncan, Wilby House, Loughborough Road
10.10.94 Mrs. C. Kennedy, 8 Mona Terrace, Elgin Street
12.10.94 Mrs. Chalmers, 11 Strathkinnes Road
19.10.94 Mr. D. Winton, 69 Woodlands Road
29.10.94 Mr. G. Brodie, 1 Winifred Street
01.11.94 Mr. T. McMahon, 16 Winifred Street
03.11.94 Mr. T. Nicol, 61 Winifred Street

ADMITTED BY CERTIFICATE

28.07.94	Mrs. Casey, Marchmont	from	St. Columba's, Glenrothes
09.10.94	Mr. W. Blake, 58 Viewforth St.		St. Fothad's, Cardenden
09.10.94	Mr. J. Stewart, 2 Culzean Cres.		Blairgowrie

TRANSFERS FROM ST. JOHN'S

02.07.94 Mrs. Balshaw, 13 Montgomery St. to Linktown, Kirkcaldy

CRADLE ROLL

01.05.94 Gavin Robert Watt, 5 Murray Terrace, Octavia Street
12.06.94 Peter Robin Martin Darroch, 92 High Street, Kinghorn
17.07.94 Andrew Ian Logan, 33 Broom Gardens
07.08.94 Alison Morton, 6a Nelson Street
07.08.94 Ashley Ross, 92 Strathallan Drive

WEDDINGS

- 04.06.94 Wendy Dewar, 16 Elgin Street, to
Ewan Watson, 267 Valley Gardens South
- 25.06.94 Susan Aitken, 96 Redcraigs, to
Colin Thomson, 1 Jordan Lane, Edinburgh
- 02.07.94 Gillian Motion, 157 Craigmount, to
Alex Simpson, Dalgety Bay
- 23.07.94 Nicola Howarth, 115 Valley Gardens South, to
Darren McDonough, West Mill House, Mill Street
(by Rev. J.H. Millar, M.A.)
- 30.07.94 Tracy McKay, 9 Hazel Avenue, to
Allan Grieve, 74 Hendry Road
- 06.08.94 Katrina Howell, 6 Bennochty Gardens, to
Gordon McLeod, 6 Strathallan Drive
- 12.08.94 Lee Gibb, 55 Redcraigs, to
Alasdair McLean, 26 Balfour Street
- 27.08.94 Eleonar Earlie, 99 Balsusney Road, to
Martin Coles, R.A.F. Somerset
- 03.09.94 Laura Wood, 6 Dunnottar Place, to
Anthony McClelland, Glasgow
(assisted by Fr. Jim Smith, Burntisland)
- 09.09.94 Martina McAvoy, 73 Nicol Street, to
Stefan Hayward, 9a Nelson Street
- 10.09.94 Carol Forsyth, 13 Kennedy Crescent, to
Douglas Reid, 9 Cumbrae Court
- 01.10.94 Audrey Stevenson, 81 Barry Road, to
Derek McGowan, 23 Canmore Gardens

ROOF FUND

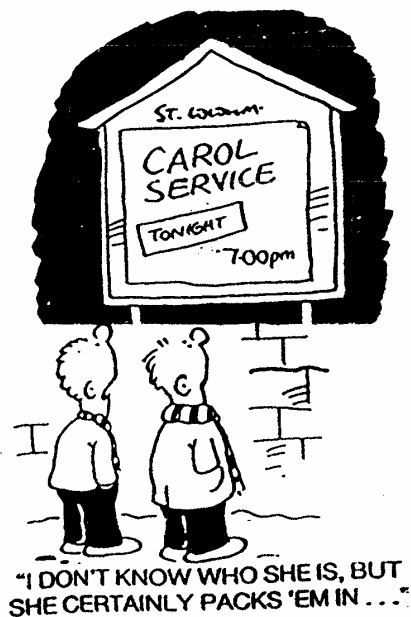
At the time of writing this article at the end of October, work had just commenced on the Church roof and, hopefully before too long, work will commence on the Hall roof. The total cost of the Project is £90,000, and detailed below is information of the funding to date.

1.	<u>Church Roof</u> - cost of repairs		<u>£39,640</u>
	<u>Funded</u>	<u>£</u>	
	Roof Fund	14,040	
	Grant from Church of Scotland General Trustees	10,000	
	Loan from Church of Scotland General Trustees repayable over 4 years - interest-free	4,000	
	Loan from Church of Scotland General Trustees repayable over 4 years - interest at 4% p.a.	4,000	
	Revenue Account with the Church of Scotland General Trustees (surplus on sale of former manse)	<u>7,600</u>	<u>£39,640</u>
2.	<u>Hall Roof</u> - cost of repairs		<u>£49,725</u>

Professional fees of £9,972 have been incurred and paid from the Roof Fund. A sum of £35,000 has been raised for the Roof Fund, and after meeting the cost of the professional fees (£9,972) and £14,040 for the Church roof repairs, there is a balance remaining of £10,988 available to meet the outstanding costs of £39,753. This means that we still have approximately £29,000 to raise. However, this may not be as bad as it seems, as the Church of Scotland General Trustees have still to be approached for assistance for this part of the project.

It is therefore very important that we continue to fund raise and make donations to the Roof Fund. If you have not already donated, wish to give at least £250, and pay income tax, please consider giving by using the Gift Aid Scheme (see separate article for details). In addition, please remember that we still have to meet the half-yearly repayments on the loans until September 1998.

Brian A. Booth
Treasurer



HOSPITAL VISITATION

With the reorganisation of hospitals within Fife Health Board, it is becoming increasingly difficult for ministers to keep track of where patients are situated. At present, some patients are taken to Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline, for casualty procedures, as well as Ophthalmic and Urology Surgery. Only by travelling to Dunfermline to look at the computer printout of Admissions is it possible for ministers to know whom of their churches is a patient at that time. Although travelling time from Kirkcaldy by car is not excessive, it might be regarded as a waste of time and money to go to Dunfermline to find no-one there.

Equally, the situation Mr. McNaught found himself in not long ago, was when he went to visit one person whom he knew to be there, he found 4 others on the list of whom he had no prior knowledge, nor had any relatives or friends informed him of the situation.

The latest change is for Gynaecology patients to be treated at Forth Park Hospital. Certainly this is on the "doorstep" of St. John's, and may not be too problematical, but other changes are in the pipeline with more far-reaching consequences.

Mr. McNaught asks for the help of the congregation in several ways:

1. Better he should be told six times about the same person than not at all.
2. Please inform him whenever anyone is taken to hospital as a "casualty", or, if there is prior warning, please let him know as soon as possible.
3. Please, please, tell him if a patient is discharged sooner than expected. There is nothing more frustrating or wasteful of time than to go to a hospital only to find the patient has been sitting at home for the last three days!
4. Remember, he does NOT have a "sixth sense" on these matters. Telephones are there to be used. If informed, he will do all he can to visit the patient as long as necessary.
5. If any relation or friend has transport problems, particularly to Queen Margaret Hospital, or Cameron, the minister will gladly give help by mutual arrangement.

Hopefully these guidelines will help resolve some potential problems and result in satisfaction to the majority.

S. McNaught

ST. JOHN'S RAINBOW GUIDES (by Andrea Ladyka)

On 12th October, along with the Brownies and Guides, we planted a Cherry Tree in the Church gardens in memory of Peggy Page, and each Rainbow planted a bulb around the bottom of the tree. Mr. McNaught and some of Peggy's family and friends attended the Service and, although it was a sad occasion, we tried to remember all the happy times that we had all had with Peggy. In the spring time, we will be able to see the bulbs coming through and the tree begin to blossom and it will be something we can all share, along with our happy memories.

I would like to tell you a little bit about the three young people who help at Rainbows. Liz Grubb has been with us for two and a half years now and has completed her training and is now a warranted Rainbow Guider. Over the summer holidays, Liz changed job and is saving up for furniture for her new flat. Claire Haxton, who originally came to us a Young Leader, celebrated her 18th birthday in the summer and has left school and now attends College full time. Claire is now training for her Rainbow Guide Warrant. Sarah is in 4th year at Balwearie, and is studying for her Standard Grade Prelims (with what time is left between doing her hair and running up our phone bill!). We hear a lot of bad things about the youth of today, yet, here are three young people, all at different, yet important, stages in their lives who give of their time and energy (how I envy their energy!) every week to come and add their very valuable talents to the running of our Rainbows.

Yes! we've been to the Fire Station again, and Yes! we all got very wet again! We held a Sponsored Jokeathon to raise money for Christmas, when the Rainbows had to tell jokes non-stop for half an hour and, as well as having a brilliant laugh, we also raised much needed funds. We are having a visit from the Cat Rescue Charity soon and all the fun and activity that surrounds Christmas will be upon us in no time.

As always, we are running with maximum numbers and we have more little girls waiting to join Rainbows than available places. This is our fourth year and it looks as if we will be here for many years to come.

ST. JOHN'S BOYS BRIGADE (by John Methven)

We are now into our winter session and our numbers in all three sections are very good, with the total number of boys reaching the seventy mark.

We have two new members of Staff - Mrs. Fiona Freeman has joined the Anchor Boys to help Mrs. Waddell, and Mr. Stewart McLearie has joined the Company Section to assist Mr. Methven - and Mr. Gibson has now taken charge of the Junior Section since Mr. Bain retired.

I would like to thank Mrs. Harma Smart, who has retired from the Anchor Boys, for the work she has done over the past few years, and wish her all the best for the future.

We have a new First Aid Class in the Company Section, organised by Mrs. Traill, and we are very grateful for all the work she has done in preparing her Class and organising a visit to Victoria Hospital, which proved very successful, and I am sure impressed and helped the boys to realise how important the Class is.

The Company Section boys visited Grangemouth Sports Centre on the evening of Saturday 5th November to play in the National 5-a-side football competition, and I am glad to report that we won our section and now await our future fixture to see where we travel next.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Effie Ritchie is not too well at the present time and the Boys and Staff wish her a speedy recovery.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD - WHAT A LAUGH? (by Janet Ferguson)

Is this your attitude? - please read on. The Woman's Guild was set up at a time when women were allowed no say in the running or work of the church and was an immediate success, providing friendship and an outlet for work in the church for women. Many of the older women who worked so hard in the Guild would probably have been elders or on congregational boards now. We are well aware that our organisation is not perfect and a countrywide survey is taking place now on the future of the Guild and the way it is run. All Guild members are to be asked next year to give their views and a consultation paper, with suggestions, is at present in circulation. Why not come and join us and put your ideas in for consideration?

Over the years, the Guild has supported both the National Church and their own individual churches and each year for many years past the Guild has supported an annual project, the money going to such diverse causes as mission hospitals, alterations to St. Colm's in Edinburgh, a fund to provide newly qualified ministers with money for reference books, to name but a few. Last year £137,000+ was raised for Church of Scotland schools abroad. In our own congregation, I recommend a look at past Church accounts and donations given by the Guild, Young Women's Group and the Workparty - a guild-related organisation. Without support and younger members to replace older members, we cannot carry on and the congregation will have to find the money somewhere else to remain solvent. What are you going to do to make up for donations lost? Increase your giving? Start fund raising? Still laughing?

A very big thank-you to all those who helped make our recent Coffee Morning a success, whether by helping, donating goods or coming along, and to the faithful band of men who help with tables and chairs and bringing older members each week.

ROOF FUND (by Brian A. Booth, Treasurer)

Now that work has commenced on the Church roof, this would seem to be an appropriate time to remind everyone about Gift Aid.

During 1993, we received 15 donations to the Roof Fund under the Gift Aid Scheme, and we were able to claim back £1,572 tax from the Inland Revenue. However, in 1994 only one donation has been received under the Scheme, and we shall only be able to claim back £133.

I am therefore taking this opportunity to remind you of the advantages of donating to the Roof Fund using the Gift Aid Scheme. Gift Aid is a tax relief for single cash gifts made to a charity. Each gift must be at least £250. Donations may be made by cash or cheque. All you do is make your donation to the Roof Fund, and complete a very simple Certificate so that the tax on your donation may be claimed back from the Inland Revenue. A donation of £250 enables us to claim back £83 from the Inland Revenue, making your donation worth £333.

If you have not already donated to the Roof Fund, please consider using the Gift Aid Scheme. If you require further details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MEN'S ASSOCIATION BOWLING CLUB (by Jim Christie, President)

We had another very successful outdoor season this year. The weather was excellent most of the time and we had a good turnout most Mondays.

We started a new single-hand competition for a very nice Shield, which was donated anonymously. The competition was won by Jim Marshall, after a hard-fought semi-final with Tom Dickie.

We are now well into our indoor carpet bowls and all bowling nights have been well attended.

FLOWER FUND (by Senga Booth)

I wish to thank everyone who has donated to the Flower Fund or kindly given the flowers for the Church, Sunday by Sunday, over the past year.

The Flower List for 1995 will be in the Church vestibule from mid-December.

CHOIR (by Brian A. Booth)

As a result of the recent appeal for additional choir members, two ladies and three gentlemen came forward, offered their services, and are now established members of the choir. We are very grateful to these people and hope that some others may yet be persuaded to join us.

As a result of matters outwith our control, the Musical Evening arranged for November had to be cancelled. Instead, we are having a Burns Supper, on Friday 27th January 1995, at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale after Christmas.

WOMEN'S GROUP (by Irene Wood, Secretary)

We have had a most successful session so far, with Christmas Dinner at the Royal Hotel, Dysart on 13th December, ending our meetings for 1994. As usual, our syllabus is varied with demonstrations, speakers and visits.

Among our meetings still to come in 1995 we have Tea Tasting, Bowling with the Men's Association, a theatre visit, Fashion Show on 14th March by British Home Stores, a visit to Carmalite Monastery, Dysart, and a speaker from Alzheimers Scotland. On 25th April, the Group are having a Musical Evening with entertainment by the ladies of the Group, the Church Choir and members of the Scottish Country Dance Group.

We are always looking for more ladies to come along to our meetings each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the New Hall. Please contact Mrs. Edith Chapman, President (tel. 203002) or Mrs. Irene Wood, Secretary (tel. 267995) if interested. A warm welcome awaits!

WORK PARTY (by Jenny Walker)

The Ladies Work Party meets on Tuesday afternoons at 2.15pm in the Church Hall, when any new members will be made most welcome.

We have lost one of our most loved members through death - Mrs. Peggy Page. Her talents were numerous and she will be sorely missed, especially with our Christmas Fayre coming up on 26th November.

A few of our members have been troubled with illness, either themselves or in their families, so our numbers have been small. Hopefully, everyone will be able to be with us soon. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

GET TOGETHER (by Effie Ritchie)

The Summer Outing took place at Blair Castle, with High Tea at the Tilt Hotel. On our return journey, we went on an ice-cream trail without success, but the following Thursday, to everyone's surprise and delight, the ice-cream was delivered to the club.

Numbers are keeping up well and new members are always welcome. We now look forward to our Christmas Party on 15th December.

ADVANCE NOTICE - CHOIRS' CONCERT - IN AID OF ROOF FUND

On Tuesday 16th May 1995, there will be a concert in the Church presented by the following two choirs:

1. The KEVOCK CHOIR, which is regarded in Britain today as one of the best choirs. They have toured throughout the British Isles, several times in Europe and also in Canada and North America.
2. A MALE VOICE CHOIR from Zwolle in Holland - this choir comprises approximately 70 men and it is considered one of the best choirs in the Netherlands.

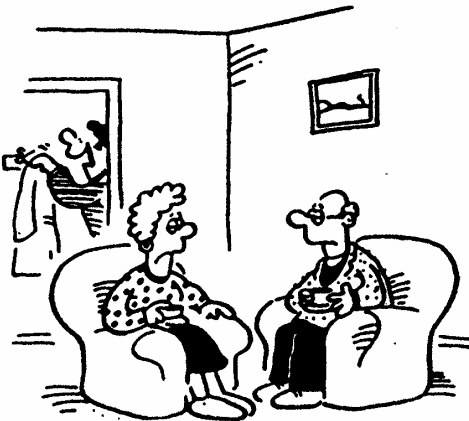
This will be Kirkcaldy's music event of the year and we look for the full support of the congregation in filling the Church to capacity. Please note this event in your diary and make sure that you will be there.

WORLD MISSION - PARTNER PLAN

Good news that Alice Duthie is well again and living in Innerleithen and, although resigned from World Mission, hopes at some future date to go out to Malawi again.

No news as yet of our new Mission Partner, but hope to hear of one soon.

M. Struthers, World Mission Delegate
M. Simpson, Partnership Correspondent



**PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! I JUST SAW THE
MINISTER ON THE STREET BUT I MANAGED
TO GIVE HIM THE SLIP....**

THE COURTS OF THE CHURCH

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

The Congregational Board is made up of the minister, with all or a certain number of elders, and a number of members elected at the Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation over 18 years of age. The number elected is decided by the congregation, but must not be more than the number of elders. A third of the elected members stand down each year, but can be eligible for re-election.

The minister is chairman of the board, but if he or she does not wish to undertake this task, a member of the board can be appointed chairman. The chairman has a casting vote only. The board also has a clerk, who keeps the minutes of board meetings and also the Stated Annual Meeting. The board meets when summoned to do so by the chairman.

The main functions of the board are to oversee the financial and fabric matters in the congregation. The treasurer reports to the board on all financial matters, including the initial presentation of the annual accounts. The board has a duty to ensure that all payments such as stipend, Mission & Aid, Presbytery dues etc. are made to the central offices or to the Presbytery. It is also responsible for determining the level of pay of church officials such as the organist, cleaner etc., but such people are employed by the Kirk Session. The board should also ensure that the weekly Freewill Offering Scheme is working properly, along with the Deed of Covenant procedures. It is responsible for auditing the church accounts and presenting them to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting. Most churches have Finance and Stewardship Committees and they will report to the board on all financial matters, fundraising plans etc.

The board is also responsible for maintaining all church property and must seek approval from Presbytery for any major alterations. It should also keep all property fully insured. Normally, the board also deals with all requests for the let of halls.

The Congregational Board plays an important role in churches which have adopted what is known as the Model Constitution. It ensures that church members, in addition to elders, have a say in the running of a congregation.