

# Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

## Church Flower Rota

April	3rd	Mrs. Mhairi Stewart
“	10th	Mrs. Angela Learmonth
“	17th	Mrs. Margaret Simpson
“	24th	Mrs. Catherine Walker
May	1st	Mrs. Ellna McAllister
“	8th	Mrs. Eilidh Young
“	15th	Mrs. M. Kirkland
“	22nd	Mrs. Barbara Haddow
“	29th	Miss Eileen Barton
June	5th	Miss Helen Baynham
“	12th	Mrs. Anne Reid
“	19th	Mrs. Angela Learmonth
“	26th	Mrs. Nancy Stein

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## Contacts

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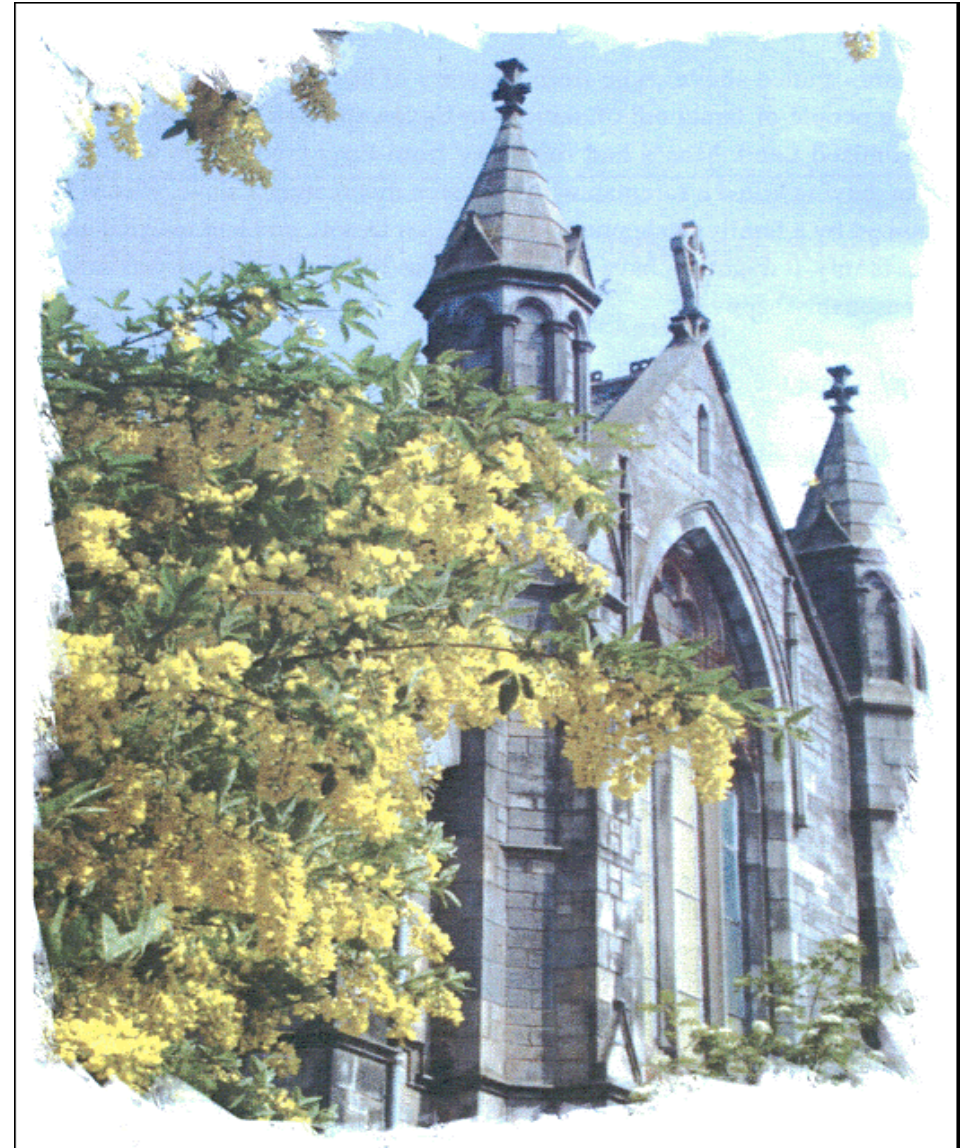
President: Mrs. Molly Millan, tel. 01506 652268

Secretary: Miss Aileen Baird, tel. 01506 632047

Treasurer: Mrs. Eilidh Young, tel. 01506 631094

Website: [www.BathgateEUURC.org.uk](http://www.BathgateEUURC.org.uk)

## *Newsletter Easter 2011*



## Letter from the Minister – Easter 2011

**Jesus said to him: “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23: 42)**

My friends,

The moment of greatest physical pain for Jesus, when he is dying on the cross, is also the moment when he is concerned for the well-being of his fellow-sufferer. “Today you will be with me in paradise.” The word ‘paradise’ is of Persian origin, and means ‘a garden’ – a peaceful and pleasant environment, far removed from the hustle and bustle of the street or market place, and certainly different from the horror of crucifixion. For us, who read the Bible, the word “garden” immediately evokes the Garden of Eden, the place where all was perfect until the man and the woman disobeyed God. But we might also look ahead in the Gospel story and find a reference to the garden in which Jesus, risen from the dead, met the women who went to the tomb, expecting to anoint his body, preparing it for final burial. The word “paradise”, therefore, points us in the direction of peace, beyond suffering, to a world restored to perfection.

On the cross, Jesus took upon himself the sin of the world. We tend to underplay the horror of sin, until we ourselves are personally confronted with its evil. Sin means “being separated from God.” The effects of our separation from God are all around us – whether it be in the wars that ravish nations, or in the silly things which separate us from our neighbours, or in the degradation of so much of the world in which we live. It was our separation from God which both caused Jesus’ death (we rejected Jesus and caused his crucifixion) and it was in or-

## Easter Services

The following arrangements are in place as we go to press:

**Palm Sunday, April 17th:** We are invited to join Avonbridge United Reformed Church at 3 p.m. for their afternoon service. If you would like a lift, please speak to the Minister, or to Aileen Baird, our Church Secretary. The morning service will take place in Bathgate as usual.

All Bathgate Churches are invited to join the Baptist Church in our Church Hall on **Palm Sunday evening** (7 p.m.) for a meditative celebration (or celebratory meditation!) at the start of Holy Week.

**Throughout Holy Week, April 18<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>,** there will be a service every evening at 7 p.m., at Boghall Church.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>,** there will be a Service of Holy Communion at St. John’s Church, starting at 7.30 p.m.

On **Good Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>,** starting at 7.30 p.m., there will be a Service at the High Church.

**On Easter Day, April 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7 a.m.,** Bathgate Churches Together will be holding a service at The Knock. This will be led by our own minister, and it would be good to see lots of you there!

**At 11 a.m. on Easter Day, April 24<sup>th</sup>,** we will be joined by members and friends of Avonbridge United Reformed Church, for a Service of Holy Communion. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in the hall.

## Stamp Collecting

Eileen Barton writes;

I was never interested in stamp collecting as a hobby – nor were any of my friends. However, in recent years my attitude has changed and I save all the stamps I can for the Leprosy Mission. The money raised - in 2010 the grand total of £75,382 in ordinary stamps and collectables - helps to treat and cure leprosy.

Please keep on saving stamps for the Leprosy Mission – and ask your friends too! Please remember to leave a border (c. 1 cm) round the stamp. Thank you all for the efforts you have made so far!

Eileen Barton

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## Bathgate Christian Bookshop

As you may already know, the Bathgate Christian Bookshop has returned to St. David's Church in George Street. It occupies the ground floor foyer and entrance is via the main doors. Opening hours are Thursday and Friday 10 – 2, and Saturday 10 – 12. Remember that the Bookshop can easily order something for you, should your requirements not be immediately on offer. We look forward to seeing you soon!

der to defeat sin, and re-unite us with God, that Jesus died in our place on the cross (taking our place, or coming to be with us and thereby rescuing us from our situation of death as he rose to new life).

“Today you will be with me in paradise”. We have a foretaste of what that paradise might be whenever we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, including every time we share the Lord's Supper. So may this period of Lent and the coming Eastertide be a time when you find peace, when you can imagine yourself with our Lord and all his people, rejoicing in the new heaven and the new earth, which he has won for us on the cross.

A Happy Easter to you all!

Your friend,

*John S. Bremner*

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## Church Roll

At a brief Church Meeting, held on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, the request by Mrs. Fiona Cameron to be accepted into Membership of the Church was unanimously agreed. All being well, Fiona will be received into Membership on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If any reader feels he or she would like to explore the possibility of Church Membership, please contact the Minister.

### The EU Church Dramatic Club 1953 – 2001: Part 3

(All our yesterdays – or at least some of them)

Stuart M. Learmonth remembers.....

The happiness of the Dramatic Club and the pleasure it gave was summed up many years ago by photographer Tom Rankin (husband of one of our cast, Jean Rankin) who produced a collage of photos of various plays mounted on a large board. It was placed at the entrance to the Church halls on play nights for several years and was entitled 'Merriement Hall'

The Dramatic Club was a social event for the cast rehearsing every Friday, October to January and Fridays and Sundays, February to production time in April, culminating in 5 nights of performances. A member of the cast, name withheld, once said "Why waste 7 months of rehearsing by having the performances"? This was half joking, whole earnest, I hope!

Many of our past cast members are no longer with us, some of whom I have mentioned earlier in my reminiscences, and none more poignant than the death of Rebecca Heigh who, as a young girl, appeared in our later plays and gave much joy to all. I have only seen our Church Hall full on two occasions, once at a "Jesus Rally" conducted by former minister Rev. Raymond Whittle and the other at Rebecca's funeral (a young life so vibrant and lost so prematurely).

Many of the cast members of these plays are still with us and they along with the audiences who witnessed the fun will hopefully have fond memories of the E.U. Church Dramatic Club, which entertained around 400 people over 5 nights every year for a period of 48 years.

Christian Outreach takes many forms and the Dramatic Club, for almost 50 years, and the Autumn Show for a further 10 years, have reached out to the members of our Church and to the people of Bathgate and beyond in a unique way. Long may it continue!

Stuart M Learmonth

Tanko

Tanko, one of our sponsored children in Ghana, has written to us. Aged 12, he is now in a "Primary 4" class at his school. He thanks Iona and Alex for their letters and hopes that we are all keeping well.

He wants to know how we celebrated Christmas (his letter took a while to reach us!), and he asks for our prayers, as he will soon be taking exams which, if he passes, will allow him to study in Secondary School.

His letter concludes with a drawing based on the Exodus story. We see one of the Hebrew slaves being ordered to work harder by an Egyptian slave-master. The caption reads "Moses hears God's call". Tanko reminds us, through this, that God calls on us to act for justice in the world. Sponsoring Tanko and Noemi in Ghana is one thing we can do in response to God's call. Collections in support of Tanko and Noemi take place when we have tea and coffee after the service. Please give generously, remembering that if you pay income tax, put your money in an envelope with your Free Will Offering number, we can add reclaimed tax to what we give!

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#### Christian Aid

For more years than she cares to remember, Eileen Barton has organised our Christian Aid Collection, in conjunction with Bathgate Churches Together. She now feels the time has come to hand over this job to someone else. The commitment for this roll is limited to a couple of meetings, and two weeks of hectic activity each year. Please speak to either Eileen or the minister if you would like to be our next Christian Aid Collector. Christian Aid Week this year starts on May 15<sup>th</sup>, and Eileen would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to help.