



## News from the Circuit's– April 2009

### WHO ATE ALL THE DO'NUTZ?

The empty carton lies abandoned. Five minutes earlier it contained 15 chocolate doughnuts...but that was five minutes ago.....and 15 chocolate doughnuts don't last long when there's a group of young folk the room.

It's Sunday morning at Dunbar Methodist Church, the church service has finished, as has the Sunday School, and we're all gathered in the hall for a cup of tea or a bottle of irn bru, depending on your age. Adults and young folk equally at home in the church surroundings, nothing strange about that.....except that none of the youngsters belong to the adults!

Surprisingly, these young people, some as young as 5, get themselves up and ready on a Sunday morning and make their way to Sunday School without any encouragement or assistance from their parents. The parents have no interest in or connection with the church, other than perhaps attending a special service at Christmas or Easter, if their children are taking part.

Why do the youngsters come? I guess because they have fun...but I think it's more than that. They belong, they are a valued part of our church community and we set aside a lot of time and effort in giving them the care and attention they crave.... the care and attention they deserve. We are pleased to have them involved in any part of the church life that they wish to be, for example, receiving Holy Communion, attending a Church Council Meeting, participating in the outreach services at the local retirement homes.....

As well as the Sunday School we run a Friday afternoon Youth Club with games, crafts and stories. In August we have 2 weeks of Summer Clubs where we are assisted by Richard Taylor the Dunbar Youth Worker and Scott Davison from the Faith Mission.

It is a delight to watch as these young people grow in confidence, challenging us with their opinions and questions and often surprising us with the depth of their understanding. It was a further encouragement to us as we came to realise that they share what they have learned with their friends and families.

Dunbar Methodist Church  
Edinburgh & Forth Circuit  
by Joan Hancock

Spring 2009 sees the launch of a DVD which looks at the arts project 'The Other Side of Air' that formed the Inverness Riverside Churches contribution to the Highland Year of Culture 2007. The project received a £5000 grant from the District Advance Fund. Inverness Methodist Church was involved throughout the year long celebration. Del Whitticase, the first of the three artists in residence, worked with the church and the neighbouring Trinity church of Scotland congregation. He also spent time in the local Merkinch community near the Huntly Street building. His involvement with community groups lead to an exhibition of decorated umbrellas that used the glass fronted entrance area of the Methodist Church to excellent advantage. In the DVD the Revd Peter Howson is interviewed and speaks of the benefits for all concerned that came from the meeting of art and spirituality. He also expressed a hope that the project would lead to further examples of this. A copy of the DVD can be obtained from Dr Howson.

INVERNESS CIRCUIT  
January 2009



## "250 years of Methodism in Aberdeen"

"250 years of Methodism in Aberdeen" celebrations, which will culminate on May 23-24 2009 with the following events:

### Saturday 23 May:

In the morning: a seminar including contributions under the theme "What Methodism means to me" by Andrew Walls (history), Howard Marshall (theology) and Douglas Paterson with the Social Responsibility Group on Methodism in the City.

In the afternoon: an hour of Witness and Worship by the Mercat Cross (where John Wesley preached) with Ken Morgan (health permitting), David Rogerson and the Salvation Army band.

### Sunday 24 May:

United morning service with St Mark's Church of Scotland.  
4 p.m Circuit "Songs of Praise", featuring hymns by Methodists from Charles Wesley to Andrew Pratt, followed by tea.

Rev Dr Paul Ellingworth  
Aberdeen Circuit

*If you have any circuit news you wish to share with the District through the Newsletter. Please send to your Superintendent who will pass it on to the District Office or email me direct.*

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