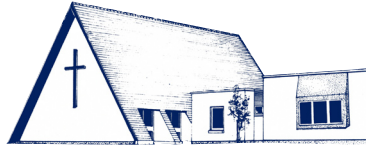


St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church
– celebrating 50 years of witness in Rosyth –



19 The Anglican Church,
69 HM Naval Base, Rosyth



worshipping at 20
Rosyth Methodist Church 19



St Margaret's 30 years ago ...



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of St Margaret's Church, Rosyth

17 November 2019

Very Rev Kenny Rathband
Rev Dr Michael Paterson

St Margaret's 50th anniversary

Mary Kidd, a member of both St Margaret's and Rosyth Methodist Church, writes:

Earlier this year it was suggested that we have a cause to celebrate this year – the 50th Anniversary of its founding in the Rosyth Naval Base. Ideas and suggestions were mulled over, decisions made, and plans were put into operation to see how best this might be done.

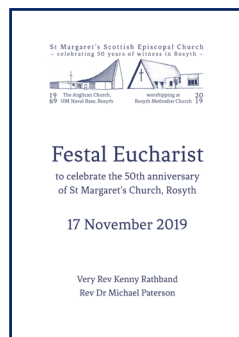
It meant a lot of planning, research, correspondence, phone calls, e-mailing and so on. All the members of the vestry, choir and the congregation had some part to play in it all, and this contributed to it being a successful and memorable occasion.

And so it was on 17 November, the day after St Margaret's Day, that we celebrated our Patronal Festival. Former members of the congregation and friends were invited to join us with Methodist guests with whom we share an Ecumenical Partnership and worship regularly. As the only member of both congregations it was for me a very joyful occasion.

Everyone was involved in the service: Kenny preached and presided; Michael led the intercessions; the choir provided introit, anthem and communion hymn. We remembered Easter, lighting the Paschal candle and using our Easter settings for the Eucharist. And, as almost our first act, we re-dedicated the candlesticks given to St Margaret's by Captain M S Drewett RN, *HMS Caledonia*, in 1972, which had been refurbished.

A celebratory lunch followed at the Garvock House Hotel, organised by Alan Taylor. A splendid meal and service was much enjoyed by those present, and there was an opportunity to purchase a souvenir mug!

Lesley gave a speech prior to cutting the Anniversary cake, and Adrian Masson recalled some of the history of the church before proposing a toast to its future.



A decade ago we were reminded by our then Bishop Michael Henley of the church's origin as a green tabernacle – a Nissen hut in the dockyard. With the expansion of the married quarters the MOD took the wise decision to build three new churches at the crossroads of what was then the naval community, and thus St Margaret's, the upside-down boat, was born. I prefer to think of it as a Bedouin tent rather than something sinking!

The town of Rosyth and its churches had to deal with the problems which arose with the closure of the Naval Base, who were 'homeless' following the Base's closure. The building still exists, unlike the other two, and is now a Recording Studio called St Margaret's House. One effect of the changes was to bring the Episcopal Church of Scotland into the Methodist church building. Four years later they became a formally recognised LEP during the Millenium.

However, we are often reminded that the church is not just a revered building but also a family of people. As well as looking back, as a partnership with a team of clergy we are looking forward to travelling further together, and we have a group who are looking at new ways for us to work more effectively in our mission in partnership.

"We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come".

Alan Taylor, a member of St Margaret's since just before our move from the Naval Base, and our Lay Representative for many years, writes:

It seemed appropriate to have a celebration lunch on the day of our Festal Eucharist and we decided to hold this at the Garvock House Hotel.

We invited the Methodist leadership team and other Methodists and Episcopalians we have known over the years, including former members of the Naval Base Church and friends from neighbouring SEC churches.

Members of St Margaret's at the meal whose memories went back to the early 1970s were Lesley Yellowlees and Julie Denning, joined by Barbara Hand, now living in Edinburgh. 47 joined us – sadly two were poorly on the day and couldn't be there – but we had a “baby” who had been baptised at the Naval Base Church!

We wanted our lunch to be very special, and, while I initially considered having something like “wedding tokens” for each guest, we agreed to sell a bone china commemorative mug. This has appropriate wording and familiar images of the Naval Base Church and of Rosyth Methodist Church, and was designed by Martin Tarr.

The commemorative menu card carried a photograph on the back of the wonderful wooden statue of St Margaret, carved in Orkney, carried to Rosyth on HMS Orkney, and used at the Naval Base Church, but sadly now disappeared.

Like all good corporate events, we had a celebration cake, beautifully created by Baynes the Bakers in Rosyth, which Lesley, as our longest-serving current member, cut after a very touching short speech. Not to be outdone, Adrian took us beautifully over events in our past 50 years, ending with a toast to St Margaret's.



On the day, the weather was remarkably good, the food and service was excellent, and everyone had a very happy time. I have to say, the happiest (noisiest?) table was the one at which I asked the serving clergy. But wasn't that indicative of how much everyone enjoyed themselves? Many congratulations, and Happy Birthday, St Margaret's! Here's to the next 50 years!

Bishop Ian's message

This congratulatory email from Bishop Ian was received by our Vestry Secretary:

Dear Sandra,

It is so wonderful that St Margaret's is celebrating its golden birthday on Sunday. I send my love and congratulations to everyone in the congregation for the anniversary, and my thanks for fifty years of faithful witness to God's love in the community of Rosyth.

I would far rather be saying this in person and be with you at the service and the lunch on Sunday, but I have to be in another church celebrating Confirmation, which had already been arranged when I heard news of St Margaret's celebrations.

So please would you pass on my best wishes and blessings to everyone on Sunday! I'll be praying for you, and giving thanks.

Warmest regards,

Bishop Ian



A wider selection of images can be accessed in the Dropbox at <https://tinyurl.com/vv35vgy>.

A huge thank you

Sandra Young has a message of thanks:

It is with great joy that we celebrated 50 years of St Margaret's in Rosyth. The way since the Naval Base closed in 1996 has not always been smooth, but St Margaret's congregation have showed their resilience, and it is to their credit that we have reached our half-century.

Both the Festal Eucharist and the lunch at Garvock House Hotel, made for a memorable occasion. A huge amount of work went into

the preparation for the occasion and our special thanks go to Sue for her thoughtful selection of music which she taught the choir, to Alan for organising the lunch and numerous other tasks behind the scenes and to Martin for the designing and preparing the service sheets, menus and lots more besides, not least our commemorative bone china mug!



This wooden sculpture of St Margaret and her children was carved in Orkney and transported to Rosyth on board HMS Orkney in about 1986/7. It used to stand on a wooden plinth placed towards the back corner to the right of the altar. When the Dockyard church closed, the sculpture then went to the Naval Church at Faslane, also dedicated to St Margaret, and afterwards was given to St Margaret's Hospice, a charity providing hospice care in Somerset. The image became their logo for some time, and the sculpture remained on display in their Yeovil Sanctuary room until this was remodelled around five years ago. Sadly, its present whereabouts are not known.