

Easter 2018

Kirkcaldy Congregational Churches

Newsletter



Pathhead Congregational Church
West End Congregational Church

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INSIDE FRONT COVER

No. 409

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Dear Friends,

The Christian thinker and author, Brian McLaren writes, *"The Christian story, from Genesis until now, is fundamentally about people on the move - outgrowing old, broken religious systems and embracing new, more redemptive ways of life ... It's time to move again."* He's right, and McLaren is one of many at this time suggesting that the church is moving through one of the great phases of transformation which seems to happen every half a millennium or so. This sounds like a grand claim, but the broad pattern is clear. In the fourth century the Church became the official faith of Empire; in the eleventh century there occurred the great schism between East and West; in the sixteenth century the Reformation and, in the twenty-first century ...?

It is a movement which takes us beyond the constrictions of denominations and theological camps. It is less concerned about people being unified around a set of doctrines or structures, and more concerned that whatever we believe, we find this expressed in being more open to the Divine, and to one another.

This is not to suggest that the Church in its various forms will disappear or that Christians will no longer debate and argue over doctrine and dogma – sadly these temporal manifestations have some mileage in them yet! But within, and around the Church universal there are appearing new and radical forms of spiritual life.

We need discernment; not all is what it may seem! For example we may come across churches which *seem* fresh and vibrant, but chip away the veneer and below is the same extreme, exclusive literalism, which demands conformity – albeit now dressed in more casual clothes. In the other corner may be churches which *seem* to maintain tradition, but have been emptied of meaning and purpose, as belief is jettisoned in an attempt to keep the sinking ship afloat a little longer.

As a newly fashioned community of faith, we find ourselves moving into, and through a period of (re)formation. It will take us time to find our feet. There are still issues we need to finalise, there is still a building we need to reformulate so it can be used more creatively. And there is the unfinished, unfinishable business of who we are? What is it that draws and holds us together?

We are not a secular gathering, but a community of faith, quite specifically framed within the Christian faith, yet not bound by dogma or denomination. A community seeking to work out what it means to be open to God and transformed by love... where unity is expressed as we celebrate diversity. A community alive to fresh understanding and new possibilities. A community embracing resurrection and life!

Wishing you each every blessing,

Kevin

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



It always seems a little strange to be reflecting back to Christmas as we approach the season of Resurrection! It was our first Christmas together as a congregation, and we sought to carry forward some of the familiar, whilst also taking a fresh



approach in some ways. Our theme for the season was *Christmas for all*. The entrance to the church was illuminated to highlight the lovely nativity scene, which for many years was a feature at Pathhead, and looked perfect in its new location. A small squad had assembled to decorate the Christmas trees, though it was no easy job to rein in those who seem to have a thing about tinsel! Thanks as always to the folk at Raith Fruits for the donation of a beautiful tree.



Our Advent Communion was a time of reflection. For the first time we were invited to get up and move around and greet each other. The initial looks of terror gave way to a time of mixing and chatting, and the challenge then became getting folk to take their seats again for the service to continue!

The following week we welcomed the guides and brownies for our family service and Nativity. It was a lovely service, the girls,

as always brought a sense of fun to our time together, we enjoyed some Goggle-box, and a breathless rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas. In the afternoon we held our Carol Concert with the Carers Choir. It was good to have an opportunity to sing lots of the familiar carols, and to enjoy the music and readings they brought to us.

Drinks in the Doorway was back for a second year, as we set up stall in the doorway of the church to offer hot drinks and mice pies to shoppers as they passed. It is always difficult to gauge the impact, but we handed out around 60-80 bookmarks, inviting people to our Christmas services. The next day we joined together for our Gift Service, and were quite amazed at the volume of gifts that folk brought along. These were passed on during Christmas week to Fife Women's Aid for distribution.



Christmas Eve fell on the Sunday, and we all came together for our Carol Service. The Christmas quiz clearly wasn't difficult enough for a congregation of such wisdom and intellect! The Christmas story gradually built up as the youngsters set out on a nativity hunt to find the characters from the nativity tales. After the service we enjoyed lunch together. In the evening we gathered again in a warm candlelit atmosphere for our Christmas Eve reflection. We sang some of the less-

well-known carols, and reflected on the *Bethlehem Boy*.

Then came the big day – the select gathering all participated in our DIY Christmas service. We watched a *Bohemian Nativity*, and we received a visit from the Archangel Tam,

bringing glad tidings of joy.

The season then came to a close on the final day of what had been a significant year for us, with a service of Readings and Carols, which drew on on the writings of Henri Nouwen to guide our thinking.

As always a big thank-you to everyone who contributed to a memorable time. To the young people and their parents/ grandparents who brought them, to those who prepared

tea and coffee and lunch, those who decorated and those who then removed the decorations, to Jim for lovely music, backed up by Vikki.

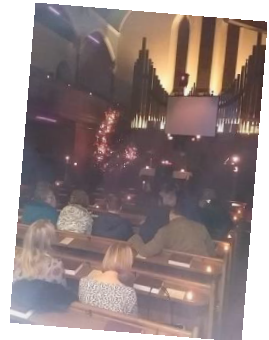
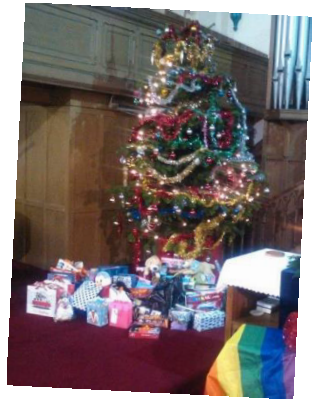
And to everyone who came along to support what was happening – thank you!

CHURCH ROLLS

A number of folk associated with the congregation have passed away in recent months:

Ann Campbell
Winnie Tarbet
May Aird
William Lowe
Neil Kinninmonth

We give thanks for their lives, and for those who served faithfully in the Church, and we continue to remember their loved ones.



DATES AND ROTAS

| Date | Theme | Key Reading | Team | Church Officer |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|------|----------------|
| March 4 | Communion | John 18: 12-27 | 5 | D Galloway |
| 11 | <i>Mothering Sunday</i> | John 15: 1-12 | 1 | R MacMillan |
| 18 | Lent 5 | John 19: 1-16a | 2 | L Crouthers |
| 25 | <i>Palm Sunday</i> | John 12: 12-27 | 3 | D Brown |
| April 1 | <i>Easter Day</i> (Communion) | John 20: 1-18 | 4 | I Hutchison |
| 8 | | John 20: 19-31 | 5 | L Bushnell |
| 15 | | Acts 9: 1-19 | 1 | S Muir |
| 22 | | Acts 16: 16-34 | 2 | A Adamson |
| 29 | | Acts 17: 16-31 | 3 | D Fairgrieve |
| May 6 | Communion | Philippians 1: 1-18a | 4 | E Kirkhope |
| 13 | <i>Visit of Philip Holmes</i> | | 5 | S Allan |
| 20 | <i>Pentecost</i> | Acts 2: 1-21 | 1 | D Allan |
| 27 | <i>Trinity Sunday</i> | Isaiah 6: 1-8 | 2 | L Crouthers |
| June 3 | Communion | 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 | 3 | D Brown |
| 10 | | 1 Samuel 8: 4-11 | 4 | D Clark |
| 17 | | 1 Samuel 15/16 | 5 | D Galloway |
| 24 | Summer Family Service | | 1 | R MacMillan |
| July 1 | Communion | 2 Samuel 1: 1-27 | 2 | A Adamson |
| 8 | | 2 Samuel 5: 1-10 | 3 | D Fairgrieve |
| 15 | | 2 Samuel 6: 1-19 | 4 | I Hutchison |
| 22 | <i>Ruth's story</i> | Ruth 1: 1-22 | 5 | L Bushnell |
| 29 | Church meeting | Ruth 2: 1-23 | 1 | S Muir |
| August 5 | Communion | Ruth 3: 1-18 | 2 | L Crouthers |
| 12 | | Ruth 4: 1-22 | 3 | D Brown |
| 19 | <i>Beginnings</i> | Genesis 1: 1 – 2: 4a | 4 | E Kirkhope |
| 26 | | Genesis 2: 4b-25 | 5 | S Allan |
| September 2 | Communion | Genesis 3: 1-24 | 1 | D Allan |
| 9 | | Genesis 4: 1-16 | 2 | A Adamson |
| 16 | | from Genesis Ch. 6-9 | 3 | D Fairgrieve |
| 23 | | Genesis 11: 1-9 | 4 | D Clark |
| 30 | Harvest Family Service | | 5 | D Galloway |

Door Duty Teams:

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Roddy MacMillan | Sylvia Muir | Diane Allan |
| 2 | Andrew Adamson | Lilian Crouthers | Anne Collins |
| 3 | Dave Brown | Dave Fairgrieve | Maureen Gove |
| 4 | Don Clark | Irene Hutchison | Erica Kirkhope Sandra Adamson |
| 5 | David Galloway | Liz Bushnell | Stella Allan |

(Team members should arrange cover if they are unable to be present)

| Communion | Flowers | Tea & Coffee |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| L Bushnell & S Allan | V Flett | |
| | S Allan & N McLean | I Hutchison & V Flett |
| | S Adamson & I Hutchison | |
| | A Wood & C&D Watt | A Allan & D Allan |
| I Hutchison & D Clark | M Terras & L Crouthers | |
| | S Muir | M Kelly & C Watt |
| | I Hutchison | E Kirkhope & I Hutchison |
| | I McMahon & Z Wright | L Crouthers & E Kirkhope |
| | | |
| I Hutchison & E Kirkhope | E Brady | |
| | A Allan & I Hutchison | A Wood & E Kirkhope |
| | E Walker & S Forsyth | |
| | D Coghill | E Kirkhope & D Allan |
| D Brown & D Fairgrieve | J Inglis & Z Wright | |
| | E Rennie | |
| | E Kirkhope & M McCleary | |
| | E Thomson | |
| A Adamson & L Crouthers | S Adamson & E Mair | |
| | N Carstairs & V Flett | |
| | J Hutson & S Allan | |
| | D Allan & M Simm | |
| | | |
| A Adamson & L Crouthers | G Skinner | |
| | M Fairgrieve & I Hutchison | |
| | L Crouthers | |
| | A Friend & Z Wright | |
| D Allan & R MacMillan | I Cunningham & E Walker | |
| | D Brown & M Fairgrieve | |
| | | |
| | E Mair | |
| | D Brown & M McCleary | |

Contacts:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Flower Rota | Irene Hutchison (01592 652486 or mobile 07940762015) |
| Coffee Day | Sandra Adamson (01592 654064) |
| Tea & Coffee | Diane Allan (07728764537) |
| Craft Group | Christine Watt (01592 590163) |

MALAWI KNITTERS



For a few years now some of our women have been busy knitting children's jackets, jumpers and hats for sending out to Malawi. This supports the work of a project *Feeding Malawi's Children*,

which is run by a Kirkcaldy couple, Sandra and Alan Skene. The project operates as an



outreach effort from a local hospital near Blantyre in southern

Malawi. Contact is made with mothers and children in rural areas, offering food as well as nutrition advice for people in vulnerable situations.

Contact with Sandra a few years back highlighted the need for warm clothing for the children, and so the ladies got busy with their needles, and we recently received some photos of some of the kids in their warm jumpers and cardigans!

BILL LOWE

It was with real sadness that we learned of the passing of Bill Lowe in February. Bill had been a loved and faithful member of the West End church since 1959. In addition to a long period as a Deacon and Trustee, Bill served the Church as Treasurer for over 25 years, though as he remarked on occasion, he had said to Jim Proudfoot, when asked to consider the role, that he would take it on for five years!

Bill lived a very full and active life, professionally achieving a senior role within the Scotch Whisky industry, and in his spare time taking great interest in many things from fishing to whisky. Married to Louie for 59 years, together they brought great warmth and love which enriched our life as a fellowship, and was a real blessing to many.

Many people talked of how Bill had encouraged and helped and listened; and the well filled church on the occasion of Bill's funeral was testimony to the esteem, respect and love in which Bill was held.

Beautiful words of tribute and remembrance were brought by the family, which transformed a naturally sad occasion into a time of joyful celebration and thanksgiving. Our love and ongoing care continue, as we remember Louie, as well as Louise and David and their families in coming weeks and months.

PROGRESS TOWARDS A SINGLE CHURCH

As we continue our journey towards becoming a single Church there are two broad areas of work that we must focus our efforts on. There is the need to establish a single charitable body and also the work required to refurbish the interior of our building.

At our last church meeting in November it was reported that the initial application to set up the new Church as a charity had been agreed by the regulator. This was the easy bit! The challenge comes in dealing with the two existing constitutions and trust deeds. The folks from OSCR, the regulator, offered to meet with us, and this was very welcome, and very helpful. Different options are before us, primarily deciding what particular legal form the new charity should take, as this then impacts on what we do with the existing charities. We withdrew our initial application as we reconsidered the way forward.

After some thought and discussion, the leaders from both churches have agreed to recommend to the Church Meeting that we seek to reorganise existing arrangements. If members are in agreement, it involves two steps. First we reorganise West End, adopting the constitution agreed back in July (with some minor alterations), including changing the name to Kirkcaldy Congregational Church, linked to this is the need to revise trust deed. We would then submit an application to OSCR for this reorganisation to take place. If this is agreed, we would then reorganise the Pathhead arrangements. This would entail bringing the trust to an end (which essentially has occurred already with the sale of the building), and transferring the assets to the newly formed Kirkcaldy Congregational Church. Again an application for reorganisation would need to be agreed by OSCR. It is unclear how long these processes will take, but folk will be kept up to date with progress.

Then there is the upgrading of the building. Initial plans were brought to the November meeting, and there was agreement that we would concentrate our resources on ensuring the ground floor of the building was accessible and flexible throughout. Plans for the upstairs hall and gallery would be set to one side at this stage, though what we do now would keep in mind potential development of these areas in the future.

The architect met with the leaders in January and will now work towards the congregation's priorities. Modified plans are available (on the website, restricted page, password is still kirkcong2016) showing the potential layouts of the entrance area, and members will be asked to make a decision about this. Once the architect has a clear instruction from the church, she will then draw up the detailed plans. These will be brought to members for final approval, and submitted to planners for agreement.

Depending on planning consent, it is hoped this work could begin before the end of the year. It is likely that the project will be undertaken in two phases, with work being done to upgrade the hall and its surrounding facilities (toilets and kitchen in particular), before then moving to the upgrade of the main church. Again, everyone will be kept informed about developments, and members will ultimately have responsibility for agreeing what work should be done.

Linked with this is the Development Fund which opened for contributions in December. We have received a number of donations, and the fund currently sits at £3275.

DATES TO NOTE

- Church Meetings:** The next scheduled church meeting will be on Sunday 29th July. This will be a combined Church meeting following the service.
- Communion:** Communion is held monthly, normally on the first Sunday of each month.
- Newsletters:** The next Newsletter is planned for August.
- Coffee Days:** Coffee Days will be held on the second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Please come along to support if you can. If you would like to help, please speak to Sandra.
- Tea & Coffee:** Tea & coffee will be served following the service on the second and fourth Sundays each month. Please speak to Diane if you can help out with this.
- Family Services:** We will aim to have around 4 Family Services each year. The next Family service, followed by lunch, is planned for June 24th.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

This year it has been good to revive our links with the other Town Centre Churches for Lent and Holy Week. During Lent we shared in a series of Conversations, based around the film *The Way*.

During Holy Week, we host the joint evening service on Monday, as well as inviting folk along to our long-established Good Friday reflection. We were surprised by the attendance last year, and we'd encourage everyone to come along for a time of thoughtful reflection on this special day.

On Easter Sunday, there are different services taking place earlier in the morning, which everyone is welcome to attend, and then our own ***Easter Day Family worship*** will take place at 10.30am, this will include communion.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>time</i> | <i>activity</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Sunday 25 th | 10.30am | <i>Palm Sunday Service (followed by AGM)</i> |
| | 7.00pm | <i>Showing of the film, The Way, Congregational Church</i> |
| Monday 26 th | 7.00pm | <i>Holy Week Service, Congregational Church</i> |
| Tuesday 27 th | 7.00pm | <i>Holy Week Service, Bennoch Church</i> |
| Wednesday 28 th | 7.00pm | <i>Holy Week Service, St Bryce Kirk</i> |
| Thursday 29 th | 7.00pm | <i>Maundy Thursday Communion, Abbotshall Church</i> |
| Good Friday | 10am-4pm | <i>The Linktown Church will be open for reflection</i> |
| | 2.30pm | <i>Good Friday Reflection, Congregational Church</i> |
| | 7.00pm | <i>Good Friday Service, Linktown Church</i> |
| Easter Day | 6.30am | <i>Sunrise service, Auchtertool Church</i> |
| | 8.30am | <i>Easter Service, Beveridge Park (near the fountain)</i> |
| | 10.30am | <i>Our own Resurrection Day Service, with communion</i> |

INSIDE BACK COVER

CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

All services and activities are held in the High Street building

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Worship | Sunday 10.30am (unless otherwise intimated) |
| Brownies | Tuesday 6.00pm |
| Guides | Wednesday 7.00pm |
| Craft Group | Wednesday 7.00pm |
| Coffee Day | Second Saturday of each month 10.00am – 2.00pm |

Tea and Coffee are served after worship on the second and fourth Sundays.

Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

The table is open to all, including children.

Minister

Revd. Kevin Flett

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Secretary West End

Mr David Fairgrieve

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Mr James Kelly

18 St Fillans Crescent, Aberdour

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Secretary Pathhead

Mrs Irene Hutchison

5 Kilgour Avenue, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 01592 652486

Treasurer Pathhead

Mrs Stella Allan

14 Masereene Road, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 01592 591803

If there is any information that you feel would be helpful to the minister or other office bearers in carrying out their duties, please get in touch using the contact details above.

Of particular help would be pastoral information about anyone who is ill at home or in hospital or others requiring a visit. Also it is helpful to know of any changes in contact details (address, phone number, email).

For up to date information on Church activities, please visit the website:

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

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