



**LIFE
WINS**

**DEATH HAS
BEEN DEFEATED**

CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

Worship	Sunday 10.30am (unless otherwise intimated)
Brownies	Tuesday 6.00pm
Guides	Wednesday 7.00pm
Craft Group	Wednesday 7.00pm
Open House (call 07957572281 for details)	Third Friday 10.00am
Coffee Day	Second Saturday 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
46 Mid Street, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 07751596981
email: minister.kirkcong@outlook.com

Church Secretary

Mr Dave Fairgrieve
54 Ralston Drive, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 268787

Joint Treasurers

Mrs Stella Allan
14 Masereene Road, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 591803

Mr Jim Kelly
18 St Fillans Crescent, Aberdour
Tel: 01383 860115

Property Convener

Mr Dave Brown
131 Recraigs, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 200330

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Lilian Crouthers
6 Edzell Park, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 07729623322 / 01592201866

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.

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
www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong/



Congregational News

Issue 002 – Lent & Easter 2019

From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

Each year as Easter comes around, many people inside and outside of the church experience a sort of pensiveness.

Instinctively people love the festival, and all that it stands for, the focus on life and light, along with the rebirth of hope.

There are echoes of, and parallels with what is happening in nature at this time of year (at least in the northern hemisphere!) The theme of resurrection seems so appropriate and relevant. Yet there are many who struggle with the concept as it has traditionally been portrayed in Christian thought.

Traditionally we are encouraged to think in terms of physical resurrection, indeed belief in the bodily resurrection of Jesus can be a litmus test for orthodox Christian faith, and this is where many people today struggle to maintain intellectual integrity.

There are two New Testament words normally translated as resurrection. One describes standing up from a reclining position, the other normally describes *coming to* or gathering your faculties after being asleep. We can't be sure if, when the early Christian writers

employed these words, they were thinking like the Pharisees, who had concluded that for a people persecuted, resurrection was a matter of eternal justice. In short, this current life is bad, but justice will prevail, because God will resurrect to a new life.

When Paul writes to the Christians in Rome, he uses the metaphor to relate to the here and now. In our conversion from the old life (symbolised in baptism), we are resurrected (raised) to new life here and now. But he also referred to the resurrection of Jesus, as did the gospel writers a few decades afterwards. And this is where the concept becomes difficult. There is no single, consistent account of the events of the first "Easter" day.

Interestingly, Paul (the earliest writer) never mentions an empty tomb, and in personal terms he describes a Damascus Road encounter with the risen Jesus, though this was clearly not a physical meeting but a spiritual one. Another great metaphor in use in the early church was that they were the *body of Christ*, and some scholars are examining the interplay between the two powerful metaphors, *raised up* and *body of Christ*. I await with interest their emerging conclusions!

In the interim, I am happy to proclaim that death did not have the last word in the story of Jesus, and to declare that no matter how destructive humankind can be, new life is always possible.

Wishing you each every blessing.

Kevin

Pastoral List

Recently we have lost one member from the Church Roll to death:

Martha Watson (Cawdor Crescent)

We remember Bob & Ann Martha's son and daughter in law and their family at this time. Martha featured in last summer's edition of the Newsletter, where she shared memories of her service in the ATS during World War 2.

Church Business

Work has been ongoing over the winter months to take forward our plans to update our building. As previously reported, the architect has submitted the various planning applications to Fife Council, and we await final consent before we can commence. We are hopeful we will receive this in the next few weeks.

Work is now underway to prepare for quotations, and also to prepare applications for some grant funding to cover some of the costs. If you haven't completed a Questionnaire, which will help to inform our funding applications, please can you do so, as a larger number better reflects how we have involved church members and others in the planning. We meet with the architect early in March to move things forward.

Our AGM is planned for Sunday 19th May, following the service. This will be our first AGM as a new church, and there are various items of business we will have to deal with. One of the main

ones is the appointment of our Deacons.

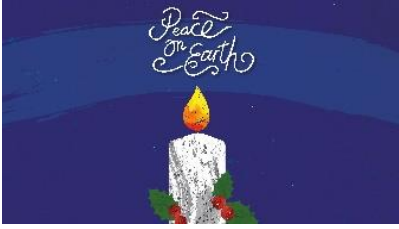
Presently we are operating with an interim diaconate, formed from all the deacons, elders and trustees from the two churches. Our interim deacons have been asked to consider if they wish to be nominated for election, and some have already indicated that they wish to step down. Nomination papers will be available around Easter, to allow time for names to be gathered.

You may wish to consider becoming a deacon at this stage, if so, please have a word with Kevin.

In addition to our planned AGM, it is likely we will call a brief meeting in the interim if there are further decisions required on the building project.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, there is mention of shared events with our friends from Dunfermline URC. Previously it was agreed that we explore how we might re-establish relationships between the two churches, which were lost when decisions were taken about joining with the URC/Congregational Federation. A small group representing both churches has met to explore how we can share together informally at this stage. We have been invited to their Film & Supper Night on the 1st of March, and we will host a shared service on Palm Sunday, where members of the shared URC pastorate across Fife and Tayside will gather with us – this will be a special occasion.

Christmas 2018



December was a busy month, with a range of activities planned for Advent and Christmas. We took the theme of *Peace on Earth*, and began on the first Saturday in the month “dressing” the church for the season. As always we had a lovely tree, donated by

Raith Fruits, which was duly decorated, along with our Nativity Scene in the vestibule to remind passers-by of the story at the heart of the season. People gave generously to the **Gift Service**, bringing toys and gifts for mums and families supported by Fife Women’s’ Aid.

The following Saturday the **Christmas Coffee Day** was a great success, with larger than usual numbers attending. On the Sunday we welcomed the Guides and Brownies for our **Nativity Service** – always a joy to behold, and the girls (along with some press-ganged brothers), brought us their usual alternative take on the Nativity tale.



The Saturday before Christmas was **Drinks in the Doorway**, which gives us the opportunity for interesting conversations with shoppers who are passing. The **Carol Service** was a time of celebration, when, as always we enjoyed lovely music (thank you Jim), and then lunch together afterwards (thank you to all

the servers, soup makers, setter outers and others!)

The mood quietened for our **Carols by Candlelight** on Christmas Eve, which was attended by some young families, which was lovely, and we rounded off our celebrations with a **Christmas Day DIY** service with a twist, as participation was “encouraged” by pass the parcel!

For the final service of the year we joined with the local Church of Scotland congregations at **St Bryce Kirk**.

A big thank you to all who supported and contributed to the Christmas season. It was good to support the Foodbank with donations, as well as the community lunch at the Linton Lane Centre on Christmas day



Lent 2019

For too long the Bible has been used as an instrument of domination and death.
Let's change that.

MANNA AND MERCY for Lent

You have questions about faith?
You want your faith questioned?



**Six open meetings Sundays 7- 8:45pm from 3rd March
You're invited.**

Dates: Sundays 7pm to 8.45pm:

3rd March Abbotshall church hall, 10th March Bennoch Church,
17th March Linktown Church, 24th March Congregational Church (High St),
31st March St Bryce Kirk, 7th April Abbotshall church hall.

Everyone welcome - as often as you can;

With Justin Taylor, supported by Catriona Morrison, Kevin Flett, Robin MacAlpine, Ken Froude,
Marc Prowe and congregations of the venue churches; Congregational and Church of Scotland.

For further information, contact: Marc Prowe, marc@linktown.org.uk

Venues in March 2019:



A Book / Graphic novel way ahead of its time
we'll use.
It's available
beforehand;

'Manna and
Mercy' utilises
both clever,
dynamic artwork
and
profound prose
to tell the story
of the Bible in a
condensed form.



Film Night



6.00pm – Friday 1st March

Dunfermline URC

We have been invited to join with our Dunfermline friends for their “Chippy Tea and Film Night”.

The film is the 1986 version of *The Mission* starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons.

A Chippy menu is available for pre ordering, please let Kevin know asap, so that he can pass your Chippy order on! There is currently some space left in Kevin’s car for a couple of folk!

Holy Week & Easter



Spring Coffee Day, Saturday 13th April

10.00am – 2.00pm

Tea and Coffee, Home Baking, Sandwiches, Soup and Stovies

Palm Sunday, 14th April

10.30am

Joint Service with the URC Congregations from across Fife and Tayside.

Followed by Tea & Coffee



Holy Week

Monday, 7.00pm, Service in Linktown Church

Tuesday, 7.00pm, Service in the Congregational Church

Wednesday, 7.00pm, Service in Bennochry Church

Maundy Thursday, 7.00pm, Communion Service in St Bryce Kirk

Good Friday, 10.00am – 4.00pm, Open Church, Linktown Church

2.30pm, Good Friday Reflection, Congregational Church

7.00pm, Good Friday Service in Abbotshall Church

Easter Day, 21st April

5.45am, Sunrise Service, Auchtertool Church

8.30am, Easter Service, Beveridge Park

10.30am, Family Communion Service, Congregational Church

