

A watercolor illustration of a night sky. The sky is a deep, textured blue, filled with numerous small white stars. A single, larger, bright yellow star with a four-pointed shape is positioned near the top center. The words "Peace on Earth" are written in a white, cursive, hand-drawn font across the upper half of the sky. The word "on" is smaller and positioned between "Peace" and "Earth".

Peace  
on  
Earth



## **Congregational News**

*Issue 005 - Advent 2021*

### *From the Vestry*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first newsletter in quite some time. Over these past months we have sought to keep in touch by email, and by post as required, but it is good to be preparing a more regular communique!

As we approach another winter season, we do so a little nervously, remembering how last year, politicians gave us headlines telling us that Christmas was saved, we could celebrate together, only to have to change tack completely at the last minute, leaving many disappointed and distanced from their loved ones.

Things seem a little more hopeful this year, with the success of the vaccine roll out, but there are still little rumblings of caution that we must remain aware of.

Christmas clearly means many different things to different people, but perhaps the desire to gather with those we love is common to many. And this human need for physical contact with others has become heightened in these recent

months of enforced separation and seclusion for many.

Since ancient times, human beings, especially those engulfed in the darkness of northern climes, have valued the opportunity to gather, safe from the dark and cold, to share the joys of warmth and community.

Christians shrewdly saw the opportunity to mix this yuletide longing with their tales of faith to create a festival which has come to dominate winter celebrations around the globe.

A dozen or so years ago some folk were intrigued by reports that Richard Dawkins, the evolutionary biologist and evangelical atheist quite happily celebrates Christmas each year – I'm assuming he still does – with singing carols (religious ones – not vacuous secular ones about Santa, Rudolph and the like), wishing others a Merry Christmas, giving gifts and enjoying Christmas Day lunch with family.

I certainly don't begrudge him his Christmas, the more opportunities that are taken for celebration and joy at this time of year - and especially this year - the better. And the more we recognise our need of others, and to be there for others, the better...

*come, God of every moment,  
come, God of every person,  
that we might be  
the people others  
need to find  
in every moment  
of their lives.*

*(Thom M Shuman)*

Wishing you each every blessing,  
Kevin

## Pastoral List

As reported to our AGM, our church roll has undergone its annual revision:

Church Roll (members)	85
Supplementary Roll & Pastoral List	22
Children & Young People	7

Whilst in practice we make no real distinction between our rolls, it is always encouraging when folk formally 'join' the church. If anyone would like to formally become a member of the church, please have a word with Kevin.

Over the past two years we have lost a number of members and friends to death:

Georgina Wallace (January 2020)  
Donald Watt (March 2020)  
Helen Hird (April 2020)  
Alan Finlayson (April 2020)  
Robert Wallace (April 2020)  
Ronald Hogg (July 2020)  
Elli Thompson (September 2020)  
Dorothy Hogg (September 2020)  
William Dobell (November 2020)  
Derek Mustard (December 2020)  
Inge Hastings (January 2021)  
Isabel Kinninmonth (February 2021)  
Catherine Dingwall (March 2021)  
Esther McLeod (April 2021)  
Zena Wright (May 2021)  
John Campbell (June 2021)  
Effie Prentice (October 2021)

We continue to remember each of their families, as well as others in our church who have lost loved ones, including Gerry Skinner, who lost her son, Jim (in Australia), Valerie and Bill Graham who lost their son, Martin and Erica Kirkhope who lost her mum Anna.

## A Service of Memories



Over much of the past two years, there were tight restrictions placed on the arrangements for funerals, and many folk were unable to say goodbye to their loved ones in the way that they may have wished.

We are arranging a short **service of memories**, a time for reflection, music and stillness, which we hope will give an opportunity for those who may wish to, to gather to remember their loved ones.

The service isn't restricted to those who have experienced loss during the time of the pandemic, but for anyone who perhaps finds Christmas a difficult time...

### Service of Memories

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

2.30pm

... everyone will be made very welcome.

## CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

Worship	Sunday 10.30am (unless otherwise intimated)
Rainbow, Brownies & Guides	Tuesday from 6.00pm
Craft Group (summer period)	Wednesday 7.00pm
Coffee Morning (as announced)	Second Saturday 10.00am – 12.00noon

Tea and Coffee are served after worship most weeks.  
Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.  
The table is open to all, including children.

### *Minister*

Rev. 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

### *Property Convener*

Mr Dave Brown  
131 Recraigs, Kirkcaldy  
Tel: 01592 200330

### *Treasurer*

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

### *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](http://www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk)

(changing to [www.kirkcaldycongregational.org](http://www.kirkcaldycongregational.org) in the New Year)

[www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong](https://www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong)



## Church Rededication



It was certainly a long time coming, but we formally rededicated our building for worship on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Though we were still being careful about the numbers congregating in the building, it was good to welcome friends from other local churches and faith groups, our local councillor, and folk from our sister churches in Dunfermline and Newburgh.



Also on the 'guest list' were our architect Rosalind Taylor and Lynn Watt from John Smart and Son, the main contractors.

One of our senior members, Janette Hutson was joined by one of our youngest, Lucy Wood, to unveil a commemoration plaque, after which



Revd Alan McGougan from Dunfermline offered prayer.

Other members of the congregation took part,

including Beth who introduced our worship. We were particularly delighted to welcome Revd John Sanderson as our guest preacher, John



was brought up in the then West End church, and is now minister to the URC congregation in Rutherglen. John encouraged us to make good use of the building and not to try to keep it looking too pristine!



A new focal point in the church is a lectern, designed to reflect the history and character of the church, made from timber reclaimed from some of our pews. This was dedicated for use by Graeme and Jessie Tarbet from Dundee Congregational Church, in memory of Graeme's step mum, Winnie, whose bequest had made much of the renovation work possible.



The new facilities were put to good use afterwards as we were able to serve a socially distanced lunch throughout the church and the main hall.

## Remembrance Sunday



In the course of the renovation, the war memorials from Pathhead and West End Churches needed to be relocated. The original doorways into the church were to be blocked off and this created two alcoves to accommodate the memorials.

From the Pathhead records available to us, the memorial was first dedicated on Armistice Day 1921, and we assume



that the West End memorial would have been unveiled at a similar time, meaning that this year marks their centenary.

Also discovered during the renovation was that originally the West End memorial sat in the vestibule, facing the front door, so it has now been returned close to its original location.



Our remembrance service focussed on themes of peace and reconciliation, with a moment for remembrance

timed for 11am. This formal act of remembrance was led by Don Clark, who is currently on home leave from the RFA. We were also grateful to Lucy Ordway for lighting our candles of remembrance, before the poppy sprays were taken to each of the memorials.

## Congratulations!

We offer our congratulations to a number of folk in the congregation!



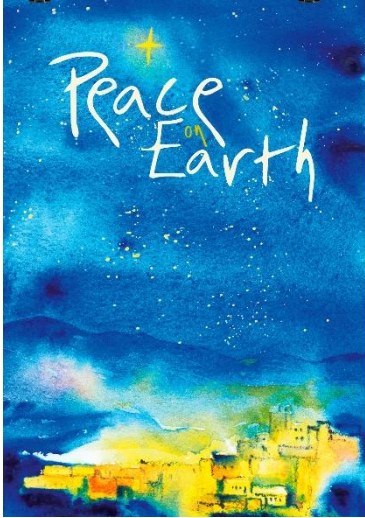
First of all wedding congratulations to Drew Goodsir on his marriage to Yvonne, and to Roddy MacMillan on his marriage to Aileen. We wish both couples all the very best for their future happiness.

We also say well done to Rachel Crouthers, who became a prefect at Kirkcaldy High school this year – quite an achievement! Be warned, she has also started driving lessons!



For a number of our young folk it has been a time of moving up and moving on! Zola has just started university, Lucy O has moved up to secondary school and Elise has just started school. We missed out on Lucy W starting school last year, and also Andrew, in France, moving up to secondary school!

## Advent and Christmas Arrangements



The theme over the Advent and Christmas seasons this year is *Peace on Earth*. Information cards have been printed, please take one for yourself and another for a friend or neighbour by way of invitation. Information is also on the website and the Facebook page.

Our first Sunday in Advent is on 28<sup>th</sup> November, when the service will be followed by Tea & Coffee. Then on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December we meet to dress the church up for Christmas. Each year we have a lovely tree donated by the Brady family, and this year we will have fun working out where it will sit! We have an **advent communion** service on the 5<sup>th</sup>,

and also on the 5<sup>th</sup> a special reflective service, a **Service of Memories** at 2.30pm (information is over the page). On Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> we have our **Christmas Coffee Morning**, 10am-12pm. This will be the first time hosting such an event in our new setting, so we'd encourage folks to come along and support, and also to encourage others along by selling tickets at £3. The money raised will support the local Foodbank. Please make a special effort to support if you can. On Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> we have our **Gift Service**, when we are encouraged to bring along toys, and gifts for adults, which will be offered to Fife Gingerbread, who will pass the gifts on to local families. **(Please note that gifts should be new, and unwrapped)**. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> we welcome the Rainbows and Brownies for the **Christmas Carol Service**, the girls' contribution is always enjoyed by everyone! The Carol Service will be followed by lunch in the hall. In the evening of Christmas Eve we have **Carols by Candlelight**, commencing at 7.00pm. Those who came along in previous years enjoyed the lovely atmosphere, which can only be further enhanced in our new setting. Then on the big day, **Christmas Day** we have a short celebration at 10.30am, which will once again be a **DIY service**, where everyone who wishes, can participate in some way! There will be offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to support the work of Fife Women's' Aid. This year for the Sunday between Christmas and New Year (26<sup>th</sup>) we will join with the town centre Church of Scotland Congregations for their **joint service** in Abbotshall Church at 11am.

## Letting of Church Halls

Following the major renovation, we now have a lovely suite of halls and rooms which are available for let, either on a regular basis or ad hoc. With the newly re-vamped website, due to be launched soon, we hope to highlight what is available. We will also print information leaflets and posters to advertise. Some lets have already been agreed, and word of mouth is one of the best ways of making the availability known.

If you know of any local organisations or groups which are looking for a venue or base, please let them know that we are here!

