

All good gifts
around us are sent
from heaven above





Congregational News

Issue 003 – Harvest 2019

From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

After having discussed the matter for some time, the hope is that in the very near future work will begin on the major renovation of our building. Some work has already been done to refurbish the underutilised upstairs hall. This has created a new office and smaller hall, and we are indebted to Dave, Andrew and Gary for the work they have done to make this possible.

I came across a book called *Re-pitching the Tent*. It is about re-ordering church buildings to make them more suitable for use in the 21st century. (It is in the office if anyone fancies a read!) The focus is mainly on Anglican churches, and this means there is a strong liturgical emphasis when it speaks of the layout of the building and how the various elements need to be set out.

However, it got me thinking about our own theology as Congregationalist Christians. At the heart of our understanding of church is people, a gathering of people, who come together intentionally - not because we live in the same 'parish' or adhere to a particular dogma or creed, but simply

because we believe that we are called together in love, and to express love. It sounds easy, but we know it is not! Some may dismiss our way as idealistic, or simplistic, or unrealistic - in truth it can be all of these things, which is fine.

I came across a quote about *Sesame Street*, the animated TV show for children. It read: "Sesame Street's genius lies in finding gentle ways to talk about hard things – death, divorce, danger – in terms that children understand and accept."

I think I like that approach, and it has parallels with how we would seek to 'be' church. We surely should be a place (and more importantly a community) where the hard things we face in life are met with gentleness and love, not judgement and anxiety, the complex issues raised by faith encounter openness and honesty not dogma and platitudes.

Buildings can help us in this. At the most basic levels of human need, a place offering warmth and security more easily becomes a place where people belong and feel valued and loved. Where together we realise our fullest potential as people bearing the image of God.

As the vision unfolds in these coming months my hope is that we will all feel part of it. It will require hard work and a willingness to bear with disruption and change, but emerging from the hard work will be a place, which once again proclaims '*from floor to rafter: all are welcome in this place...*'

In love
Kevin

Pastoral News

Over recent months, funerals have taken place for a number of our folk:

Candy Westcott (Forth Park Drive)

Jean Walker (Southerton Road)

Evelyn Brodie (West Fergus Place)

David Blyth (Duddingston Drive)

Elizabeth Leslie (Muirdrum Gardens, Glenrothes)

We remember each of their families during these coming months.

We have said farewell to *Maureen Gove*, who has returned 'home' to Aberdeenshire. Maureen goes with our blessing and good wishes for the future.

Also we offer best wishes to *Ann and Don Clark* and to *Alex and Fay Yule*, all of whom have welcomed new grandchildren in these past months (and to *Bill Ketchion* on becoming a great-grandfather again!)

And finally we wished *Beth Aitken* all the best as she made her way up to 'big school' this summer - a big step!

Church AGM

The first AGM of the newly constituted church was held in May, when we received reports on the church's finances, and there was a final update on our applications to the Charity Regulator (OSCR) with whom all the necessary processes have been completed. We noted our thanks to Brian Wood for the work he has done for us relating to the legal aspects of the transition to the new church. There was also an update on the church roll, which stands at 96 (106 in March 2018), although the numbers on our active rolls (membership, pastoral

list and young people) remains steady at 85 (84 in March 2018).

We appointed our new diaconate, and at the communion service in June we welcomed them in, as well as marking the service of a number of retiring Deacons and office bearers, whom we recognised as Honorary Deacons. The meeting also confirmed the appointment of the Trustees; Stella Allan and Jim Kelly (Joint Treasurers), David Fairgrieve (Secretary) and Dave Brown (Property Convener), serving alongside the minister.

Much of the meeting was taken up with reports and discussion about the refurbishment of the building and about our developing relationship with the local URC congregations – reported elsewhere in the newsletter.

Building refurbishment

As reported at various times over the past few months, things are progressing with our building plans, albeit slowly in some aspects!

The necessary consents had been granted in the spring, leading to further discussions with the Architect and the Surveyor. Invitations have been sent to a number of contractors, and we anticipate quotes coming in for consideration during September. Once these are available, a Church Meeting will be called to formally proceed with the work. It is anticipated that work will commence in late October / early November. This will begin with the halls, and the toilets and kitchen.

However, work has already taken place over the summer months. We are fortunate that our Property convener,

Dave Brown has undertaken the full rewiring of the top hall, assisted by Andrew Adamson. This has been a major undertaking, involving the clearing of probably 40 year's worth of loft contents! Also Gary McLeod constructed a partition in the hall, to allow the office to be moved upstairs. The work has all been done to a very high standard and we are grateful for what has been achieved. We hope to get a squad together to decorate the upstairs hall and stairs, which will complete the first phase of our project. If you are handy with a paint brush, your help would be appreciated!

Behind the scenes, a number of grant applications have been prepared. We have received a grant for £15,000 from the trust fund of the Congregational and General insurers, and a further grant of £4800 from the Allchurches Trust Ltd. Other trusts have their meetings in the autumn, so we would hope to hear back about further applications towards the end of the year.

Forth Bridge Walk



On Sunday 12th
May we joined
with some of our
friends from



Dunfermline URC, who had invited us to join with them raising funds for Christian Aid, by walking across the Forth Road Bridge (and back again!)

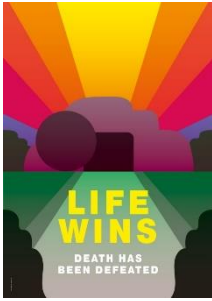


The weather was perfect, with warm sunshine and a gentle breeze. The walk took place on the old Bridge, which gave fantastic views of the new crossing. Seven of us joined with over a dozen of the Dunfermline folk (though some of us arrived late and met the others coming back!)

We managed to raise around £170, which along with Dunfermline's £435, meant a grand total of over £600 was sent to support this vital work.



Lent & Easter 2019



As in previous years, we joined with the local Church of Scotland town centre congregations to mark Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

During the weeks of Lent we participated in a series of studies, Manna and Mercy, led by Justin Taylor, the new minister at Abbotshall Church. These were

stimulating, and for many very challenging in causing us to re-examine aspects of our faith and our understanding of the bible.

MANNA
AND
MERCY
for Lent



On Palm Sunday we had the pleasure of sharing with the URC congregations from across Tayside and Fife, with the church well filled, great singing, and a lovely cuppa afterwards. During Holy Week, a service took place in a different church each evening, with us hosting the service on the Tuesday



evening. Our Good Friday reflection was well supported.

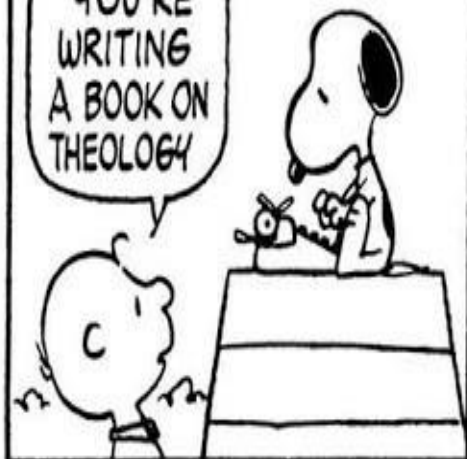
On Easter Sunday some of our folk attended a lovely Sunrise Service at the Auchtertool Kirk. The sun didn't disappoint, and the welcome was very warm (as were the filled rolls!) Others joined the later service in Beveridge Park before we came together for



our celebration of Resurrection with a Family Communion Service followed by tea and coffee.

PEANUTS

I HEAR YOU'RE WRITING A BOOK ON THEOLOGY



I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD TITLE



I HAVE THE PERFECT TITLE...



From "Read U.S. Pat. Off." - All rights reserved © 1976 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

"Has It Ever Occurred to You That You Might Be Wrong?"



What's on



Harvest Sunday will be held on 29th September. This year we will, once again, support the work of Sailors' Society with the proceeds of our **Hunger Lunch**, which will take place following the service (although with last year's lunch there wasn't much risk of hunger!) Soup and bread will be offered, followed by tray bakes and tea & coffee, and folks are asked to donate at least as much as they may have spent on their normal Sunday Lunch. The church will be open on the morning of Saturday 28th September to receive donations of fruit and veg (which normally goes to the Cottage Family Centre) or groceries which will be passed on to Kirkcaldy Foodbank.

Covenant Service

The church has agreed that we would enter into an informal covenant with the local congregations of the United Reformed Church, many of whom were previously our sister Congregational Churches. Over these past months we have enjoyed fellowship and worship together, which has been a blessing and an encouragement. To mark this covenant we will host a special service on Sunday 27th October. The preacher will be Revd Dr David Pickering, who is the Moderator of the URC National Synod of Scotland.



Shoebox Appeal. As we have done for some years now, we will support the Annual Shoebox Appeal through Link to Hope. This is a Christian organisation which sends gifts to Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Moldova. Unlike other organisations which use their distribution of gifts as a tool for proselytization, Link to Hope do not include any literature, and distribute the gifts to all regardless of their background. **Boxes have to be returned by Sunday 3rd November!**

Remebrance Sunday

This year marks a moving on in the nation's remembering of those lost during the wars of the past century. 2018 marked the centenary of the end of WWI, and in recent years, in the midst of remembering the sacrifices of the past there has arisen a deeper understanding of the need to focus on issues of peace, reconciliation and forgiveness. Our service will commence, as normal at 10.30am



Visit of Philip Holmes



ChoraChori

Philip normally visits each year to update the church on the work of Chora Chori. This year his visit is planned for Sunday 24th

November. Philip has written a book, *Gates of Bronze* telling his story, and this is available to purchase from Amazon and other retailers. If you have a copy and bring it along, he might even sign your copy! We make a contribution to the work each year, and this year we have again pledged our donation, which will be doubled through the support of other donors.

Contingency Planning

As we get closer to the work on the building commencing, we will have to prepare for some disruption! Initial estimates are that the work will take around 9 months to complete, being done in two phases. The halls and adjoining facilities will be done first, and then work will proceed on the main sanctuary. We will try to ensure that there is access to toilet facilities at all times, and that alternative arrangements are in place for the different groups and activities which use the halls at present. Access to the kitchen is going to be restricted, which means that we will have to re-think our coffee day during the period – information will be shared as it becomes available!



"No, no, that's not a sin, either. My goodness, you must have worried yourself to death."

FIFE InterFaith
Group



Saturday 12 October 2019

2 -4pm

Kirkcaldy Central Mosque

Cumbræ Terrace

Kirkcaldy KY2 6SF

"A chance to meet and talk informally from members of other Faiths and belief in the diverse communities in Fife.

Refreshments will be served and there is also a chance to learn about help you can receive in Fife."

Fife Interfaith Group—Email: fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk

Tel: 07887380601

<http://www.fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk/> Follow us on



EICSP

Edinburgh International Centre
For Spirituality and Peace



An Evening with Ewan Aitken, 14 October 2019



Chair: Peter Macdonald, Minister of Broughton St Mary's Church

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh, EH1 1EL

Date: Monday 14 October 2019

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm. Event: 7pm-8.45pm

Event Description: A former Convener of Education and Leader of Edinburgh City Council and CoSLA spokesperson on Education, Ewan has over 30 years' experience in the Public and 3rd sectors. He founded the National Prison Visitor Centre Steering group, the Ripple Project, the Youth Bus Trust and two Credit Unions. He is a member of Midlothian Integrated Joint Board and a Council member of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, chairing its Inspiring Communities Network.

An Evening with Prof Sir Tom Devine, 7 November 2019



Title: The Rise (and Fall?) of Anti-Catholicism in Modern Scotland

Chair: Simon Barrow, Director, Ekklesia

Venue: Sanctuary, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh, EH1 1EL

Date: Thursday 7 November 2019

Time: Registration: 6pm-6.30pm. Event: 6.30pm-8.30pm

Event Description: The question seems a rhetorical one. After all the Scottish Government promotes anti-sectarian policies and funds anti-sectarian charities. The press regularly publishes details of 'sectarian' incidents and surveys show that most Scots still believe that sectarianism exists.

This lecture looks at the evidence behind the claims and assumptions and asks whether or not the findings of scholarly research confirm the conventional wisdom on this controversial subject.

Sir Tom Devine retired from the Sir William Fraser Chair of Scottish History and Palaeography in 2015. He is now Professor Emeritus in the University of Edinburgh.

He has also held professorial chairs at Aberdeen and Strathclyde as well as visiting appointments at universities in Canada and the USA.

Tom Devine is the author and editor of over forty books (some of which have become international bestsellers and prizewinners) and numerous articles in learned journals and essay collections.

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

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Property Convener

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131 Recraigs, Kirkcaldy
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Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Mrs Lilian Crouthers
6 Edzell Park, Kirkcaldy
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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/