

No. 403**Spring 2016**46 Mid Street
Kirkcaldy
KY1 2PN

Tel: 07751596981

Email: minister.kirkcong@outlook.com

Dear Friends,

With the Christmas season barely behind us, we begin now to look forward through the season of Lent, to Easter and beyond.

First of all, however a genuine thank-you to all who contributed in various ways to all of the Christmas activities. It was the first chance for the two churches to plan together, we were able to ensure there were no calendar clashes, and a number of occasions when we could worship and celebrate together. We are already in Lent, and the hope is that Holy Week will give us further opportunity to share together with the Pathhead folk.

Easter Sunday – more correctly Resurrection Sunday – is the high point in the Christian calendar. It is an occasion of joy for Christian people. In Holy Week we are taken through the full gamut of human emotions. We almost live the experiences of an entire life in these few days – the hope of Palm Sunday, the uncertainty of Thursday, the fear of Friday, the grief of Saturday, then the joy of Resurrection Day.

I think it is true to say that none of the early disciples were really ready for resurrection. It certainly doesn't follow the normal pattern of human experience. On the Friday, two compassionate Jewish leaders - Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus – had taken Jesus' body from the cross before burial in a new tomb. Guards were put in place, as there had been talk of resurrection, and fear amongst the authorities of some trickery on the part of Jesus' followers.

Fast forward thirty-six hours, and there is the news the authorities dreaded, but which the disciples welcome with a mix of shock and disbelief. Reports of the happening were confused and contradictory - not surprising given the enormity of what was being claimed. For me the confusion confirms rather than undermines authenticity. There is no contrived official church account, just the rather mixed up memories of people grappling with a mind-blowing event which had touched them very directly, causing them to look at life in a new way.

The gift of resurrection is a very precious one. It requires careful consideration, and because of its centrality to Christian thought and theology we need to approach our reflection with a holy caution, and a sense of awe, engaging all of who we are - including our hearts and minds - in discerning its meaning for us today.

In Christian fellowship, and wishing you a happy Easter!

Kevin

CHURCH ROLL

2015

Death

Mrs Catherine Harvey, Methven House, Kirkcaldy

***** *****

FLOWER SERVICE ROTA



2016

March

6	Mrs D Hogg
13	Mrs N McLean
20	Mrs S Adamson
27	Easter

April

3	Mrs A Wood
10	Mrs M Terras
17	Mrs I McMahan
24	Mrs E Dawson

May

1	-
8	Mrs E Brady
15	Mrs A Allan
22	Mrs S Forsyth
29	Mrs D Coghill

June

5	Mrs J Ingles
12	Mrs E Rennie
19	Mrs E Kirkhope
26	Mrs E Thomson

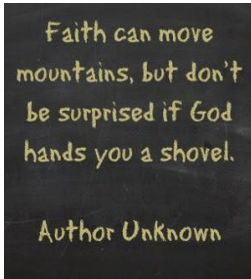
July

3	-
10	Miss N Carstairs
17	Miss J Hutson
24	Miss D Allan
31	-

Many thanks to the friends who so willingly supplied the flowers over the past months, as these bring so much pleasure to all and are greatly appreciated. If you would like to provide flowers for the church please contact Sonia Forsyth (651852).

***** *****

THE THINGS WE DO!



Sometimes we can begin to think that our faith is all about what happens in church, or expressed through our commitment to the church. In reality our faith should encourage us to look beyond just what happens as part of church life, and a number of our folk are involved through their work, or through voluntary activities in living out their faith in their day to day lives. From time to time we will include an article about how we live out our faith in the world, the first of which is below!

TEA FOR TWO



Many of us have experience of hospital, perhaps as a patient or possibly visiting loved ones. We all understand the benefits of a visit and a chat, especially during what can be a lonely and difficult experience. One of our own folk, Erica, has been involved for some time in a simple but effective initiative in the Victoria Hospital.

Interviewed for the NHS Fife website, Erica says, "I was a staff nurse for 38 years before retiring a year ago and I have a passion for old fashioned nursing. When I did my training in 1976 we were taught the importance of sitting and talking with patients. Therefore, during my time at the Vic I introduced 'Tea for Two', which encourages volunteers to sit and have a blether over a tea coffee with patients who may have no visitors. On Mondays and Thursdays I volunteer by taking part in 'Tea for Two'."

There are lots of benefits experienced by those receiving a 'Tea for Two' visit. There are benefits socially, and for peoples' feelings of well-being, but also for older people in particular, it helps to keep their fluid intake up, which aids recovery. 'Tea for Two' is also appreciated by relatives and friends, who know that their family member will be having some company, especially at times when they are unable to visit.

Erica says, "Volunteering gives me a great sense of satisfaction, joy, and the feeling that that I am doing something worthwhile. The role is stress-free and I also get to chat with so many different people."

This is a great example of love in action, and faith being lived out beyond the walls of the church!

NEWS UPDATE

Church Fair



Our Church Fair took place during some of the most miserable weather outside, but with a lovely atmosphere inside each day, and as people set up and prepared. So many folk worked so hard, there was no shortage of volunteers, and almost £1800 was raised.

It had been agreed that this would probably be the last time we followed this format, and a group met in early February to plan ahead. This year we will run three shorter fairs. A Spring Fair in May will hopefully include the sale of plants, an Autumn Fair in September will be linked to our celebration of Harvest, and include some

produce, perhaps jams and chutneys. Then we will hold a Craft Fair in November in readiness for Christmas. More detail will emerge nearer each event, but please support as best you can.

Christmas & Advent

The Advent and Christmas periods saw a mix of the familiar and the new. The gift service gathered a wonderful variety of presents for children round our lovely Christmas tree. These were passed on to Five Women's Aid. Also donated to Women's Aid was a cheque for £200, the offering taken at our Carol Concert with the Carefree Chorus. We had an informal "DIY" Christmas Day service, where almost everyone participated, and our two joint communion services – Christmas Eve at Pathhead, and New Year Sunday at West End – were really appreciated.



Building Survey

The winter weather, particularly the rain this winter, highlighted the urgency of dealing with our roof. The trustees have engaged a local company, Roofforce, to carry out emergency repairs on two key areas of the main church roof, and on the roof above the ladies toilet. Money is available to cover these costs, but further thought will be required regarding a more permanent solution, possibly the replacement of the church roof. We also are looking for quotes for the removal of pigeon debris from the roof space. There will be a full update and opportunity for discussion and questions at the AGM.

DATES FOR 2016

Mothering Sunday:	06 March, 11.15am (Communion)
Church AGM:	15 March, 7.30pm
Palm Sunday:	20 March, 11.15am
Holy Week & Easter (20-27 March):	Maundy Thursday Communion, 7.00pm Good Friday Meditation, 2.30pm Good Friday Service (<u>Pathhead Church</u>), 6.30pm Early Morning Easter Service (Time to be confirmed) Easter Day Communion Service 11.15am
Spring Fair & plant sale:	Thursday 12 – Saturday 14 May, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Pentecost Sunday:	15 May, 11.15am
Joint Family Service:	26 June, 11.15am. Followed by Church lunch
Church Meeting:	19 July, 7.30pm
Autumn Fair & produce sale:	Friday 23 – Saturday 24 September, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Harvest Sunday:	Harvest Family Service, 25 September, 11.15am Joint Harvest Songs of Praise & Harvest Tea, 4.00pm, held in the Pathhead Church
Craft Fair:	Friday 25 – Saturday 26 November, 10.00am – 2.00pm

General dates

Communion:	06 March; 01 May; 03 July; 04 September; 06 November
Newsletter:	Deadline for contributions, 05 June; 30 October. Ready for distribution, 03 July; 20 November
Coffee Days:	Second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Tea and Coffee are served following the service on the Sundays after Coffee Days.

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COMMUNION ROTA

Door Duty Groups:

I	R. MacMillan	A. Collins	D. Allan
II	J. Hutson	A. Adamson	D. Galloway
III	D. Fairgrieve	L. Bushnell	E. Kirkhope

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

		Group	Church Officer	Communion Servers
March	6	III	E. Kirkhope	D. Fairgrieve & L. Bushnell
	13	I	R. MacMillan	
	20	II	A. Adamson	
April	27	III	D. Fairgrieve	<i>L. Bushnell & E. Kirkhope (Easter)</i>
	3	I	R. MacMillan	
	10	II	J Hutson	
	17	III	L. Bushnell	
	27	I	D. Allan	
May	1	II	D. Galloway	D. Galloway & A. Adamson
	8	III	E. Kirkhope	
	15	I	R. MacMillan	
	22	II	A. Adamson	
	29	III	D. Fairgrieve	
June	5	I	D. Allan	
	12	II	J. Hutson	
	19	III	L. Bushnell	
	26	I	R. MacMillan	
July	3	II	D. Galloway	D. Galloway & A. Adamson
	10	III	E. Kirkhope	
	17	I	D. Allan	
	24	II	A. Adamson	
	31	III	D. Fairgrieve	
August	7	I	R. MacMillan	
	14	II	J. Hutson	
	21	III	L. Bushnell	
	28	II	D. Galloway	
September	4	I	D. Allan	R. MacMillan & D. Allan
	11	II	A. Adamson	
	18	III	E. Kirkhope	
	25	I	R. MacMillan	
October	2	II	J. Hutson	
	9	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	16	I	D. Allan	
	23	II	D. Galloway	
	30	III	L. Bushnell	

November	6	I	R. MacMillan	
	13	II	A. Adamson	
	20	III	E. Kirkhope	
	27	I	D. Allan	
December	4	III	D. Fairgrieve	D. Fairgrieve & E. Kirkhope
	11	I	R. MacMillan	
	18	II	J. Hutson	
	25	III	L. Bushnell	

OPERATION MANNA (PART 2)

In April 1945 Operation Manna was carried out, with the heroic RAF and the Americans airlifting over 11000 tons of food and supplies across the North Sea. The Second World War was weeks away from ending and the population in the

Netherlands were destitute and starving, forced to boil tulip bulbs to survive. The statistics are staggering. 55573 Bomber Command crew were killed, including 10000 Canadians. Of those flying at the start of the war only 10% survived. On a single night more lives were lost than did Fighter Command in the Battle of Britain.



On the morning of the Operation Manna 70th Anniversary Commemoration Service I attended in Lincoln, on 21st April last year, Lindum Construction were pouring concrete to the foundation of a Memorial Spire being erected at the new International Bomber Command Centre at Canwick Hill, Lincoln. On leaving the service in Lincoln Cathedral, I fell in to a discussion with another invitee from Lindum Construction. The wheel has turned full circle some 70 years since the

Second World War ended to commemorate Bomber Commands contribution to the war effort. The floral Mosaic created by the internationally renowned designer Jan Guidemond, which has been gifted to the city of Lincoln by the Dutch Government consisting of 40000 bulbs, will be replanted at The Chadwick Centre, Memorial Park.

Completed, the entire project will comprise The Memorial Spire, The Chadwick Centre and Memorial Park including the Operation Manna Mosaic.

It is all a fitting reminder of the bravery and commitment of Bomber Command's Air Crew and Ground Crew

WEST END CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

STANDING ORDER REQUEST

Bank or Building Society:

Sorting Code: [.] – [.] – [.]

Account Number:

Name of Account to be Debited:

Payment to be made to: West End Congregational Church
Account No. 00518006
Sorting Code 80 16 84
Bank of Scotland
PO Box No. 10,
Carberry Road,
Mitchelston Industrial Estate,
Kirkcaldy. KY1 3PA.

Amount: £.....

Frequency: [e.g. Monthly]

Payment Date: [e.g. 5th of Month]

Starting Date: [e.g. Today's Date]

Narrative:

[e.g. Offering - West End Congregational Church]

Customer Authority: Please Debit my / our Account with payments shown above.

Signature Date.....