



## **Kirkcaldy Congregational Church**

High Street, Kirkcaldy

[www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk](http://www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk)

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## **From the Vestry**

Dear Friends,

We are issuing a shorter newsletter this time, to ensure that we manage to get all the information out before the Advent season begins!

Advent marks the start of another church year, and I am conscious that, if all goes according to plan, it will be our final Christmas in the Church before it undergoes renovation. If you wish to see the familiar Christmas lay out for one final time, come along, as next year there will be the excitement of everything looking rather different!

At the heart of this season is a story – made familiar in old prophecies and gospel readings, further embellished in nativity plays and other legends – a story of love and grace.

It is a story which asks us to imagine what it might be like if God came among us, and lived as we do.

It is a story which challenges us to imagine what it might be like if we found ourselves in the place of another – to be without a home, or a refugee escaping persecution, or a young, unmarried lass who finds herself facing the stigma of being pregnant.

Stories are the lifeblood of our faith. It's been suggested that *story holds faith more honestly and deeply than any doctrine or creed*. Stories contain seeds

of truth, which, given the right conditions, can germinate and grow.

When these faith stories blend with our own personal stories – growing out of our experiences, our traditions, our aspirations – exciting things happen.

The Christmas story is perceived in different ways. There is the lovely, literal understanding of the child, the questioning of accuracy and truth as people move through their teenage years, which if handled sensitively and honestly can lead to an appreciation of deeper truths that shape our living, so that we become part of *the change we wish to see*, (attributed – probably wrongly! – to Ghandi).

Our churches have been part of our unfolding stories over the years, and new pages are being written which reflect new understanding and fresh meaning about what it is to be the people of God in this place and time.

May we be open to the profound simplicity of the story during this lovely season, so that we are inspired to share its message of love and grace with others.

Wishing you every blessing  
Kevin

## **Pastoral List**

Recently, *John Fairgrieve (Campsie Crescent)* passed away. We remember Mary, Yvonne and Shotu, as well as David, Margaret and the wider family. Mary herself is in hospital at time of writing, following a stroke.

## Advent and Christmas Arrangements

Over the page is a list of the special services and events which are happening over the month of December. In addition to the dates, here is some further information for you to note.

This year we will repeat the **Reverse Advent**, which we did a couple of years ago. Instead of *getting something* (like chocolate from our advent calendars), we give *something* on each of the Sundays of Advent. This would normally be food items which will be passed on to Kirkcaldy Foodbank, or warm clothing (hats/scarves/gloves/socks etc.) which we can pass on directly to some of the folk we have contact with on the streets, or via the foodbank.



Our **annual gift service** will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, and as is our custom, we will pass on what we collect to Fife Women's Aid. Here is an extract from their poster of the sorts of things you can bring.

New Unopened & Unwrapped Gifts – Which can include some of the following ideas:	
Women	Children & Young People
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pyjamas</li><li>• Chocolates</li><li>• Perfume</li><li>• Cosmetics</li><li>• Clothing</li><li>• Jewellery</li><li>• Pamper sets/vouchers</li><li>• Activity vouchers</li><li>• Books</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity vouchers</li><li>• Arts &amp; crafts set</li><li>• Toys</li><li>• Books</li><li>• Sweets &amp; chocolates</li><li>• Clothing</li><li>• Shoes</li><li>• Fragrances</li><li>• Electronics</li></ul>

## Crafty Christmas....



During the Services in December, Erica has organised some craft activities for the children to make some decorations which will appear throughout the church – we await their creations with interest!!! (Well-behaved grown-ups may also be allowed to take part!)

# DATES AND TIMES

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>, 10.30am – Advent Communion Service**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>, 10am Christmas Fair – Dunfermline URC**

**2.30pm – Decorating the Church for Christmas**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – Nativity Service**

**with the Guides and Brownies**

(followed by Tea & Coffee)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 10am – 2pm – Christmas Coffee Day**

(this will be our final Coffee Day before the renovation  
work begins in January)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – Gift Service**

(see inside for more information – service followed by Tea & Coffee)

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, 11am – 12.30pm – Drinks in the Doorway**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 10.30am – Carol Service**

(followed by lunch in the Hall)

**Christmas Eve, 7pm – Carols by Candlelight**

**Christmas Day, 10.30am – Christmas DIY Service**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>, 11am – Service in Bennochry Parish Church**

We will require mince pies and shortbread for some of these events.

Please bring some along and pass these on to Sandra.

As in previous years, any excess will be taken along to the Linton Lane Centre, where lunch is provided on Christmas Day – thank-you!