

Congregational News

Issue 006 – Easter 2022

From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

As I write, it has been an amazing spell of weather over the past couple of weeks, though by the time the newsletter is circulated it may have turned cold again... as the old saying goes... “ne’er cast a clout, till May is oot...” (If you come from where I come from, make that July!)

I haven’t really got a favourite season, I like aspects of them all, and the movement and change. Amongst the special treats of Springtime is the appearance of my favourite flower – the snowdrop – appearing in various places. Signs of life emerging out of death, and hope arising from despair. Emblems in nature of a faith story which has been told and retold, imagined and reimagined over the centuries.

Ours is a story of a journey. In one sense it is linear, as time marches on, and we are aware that we cannot go back. Yet in another sense our story is cyclical, with twists and turns, revolutions that might take us back to where we, or perhaps previous generations were before.

We talk of journeying through Lent. It’s a journey we have taken before and one that we know very well. Our themes week by week give us a

sense that we journey with Christ as he travels towards Jerusalem. Each liturgical year is slightly different. We always begin with Jesus in the desert, facing temptation, but this year's themes lead us through many of Luke's stories and parables. Through these tales the disciples are taught, attitudes are challenged, revelation unfolds. The battle goes on between light and dark, life and death, goodness and evil, until all of these themes coalesce in the transformation from Good Friday to Resurrection Sunday.

As we travel this journey we are encouraged to look for new things that we are suddenly aware of, things that we may have not noticed before or seen before, things that speak to us again of grace and love.

I'm sure that many of us have watched the film trilogy 'The Hobbit.' In it, there is a moment when one of the characters, Bilbo, is deciding whether he should set out on a new and dangerous journey that Gandalf the wizard has suggested to him.

Bilbo asks Gandalf if he can guarantee that he will return from his journey, "No" says Gandalf "and if you do you will not be the same".

This principle holds true for so many aspects of life. As nature springs into new life, it is the same flowers and buds and creatures that appear, but different ones. As we emerge through dark times in our lives, illness or grief or some other experience, great or small, we are changed – the same people, yet different. And this is true of the spiritual journey through Lent into Easter and beyond. Fresh insights, renewed vision, altered views leave us changed, and with the changes our lives are enlarged our experiences extended.

There is something profoundly challenging yet also comforting in the words of John Crum, which speaks of the hope embedded in our stories of resurrection:

*'Love lives again,
that with the dead has been:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springs up green.'*

Wishing you each, every blessing

Kevin

Church Meeting

A special church meeting was arranged in January to discuss a proposal from the deacons that the church begin to consider how it might develop its ministry in the future.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, the minister was unable to be present, but it had been agreed that the meeting should still go ahead, discussing a paper that had been circulated during the previous month or more.

There was open discussion of the proposals, and it was evident that some disagreed very strongly with what was being presented, although clearly there was a degree of misunderstanding at the heart of some of the concerns.

A number of people found the meeting very difficult and unsettling, and at the following Deacons' meeting it was agreed that the matter be dropped at this time, as it had the potential to become rather contentious and divisive.

However, as with many churches, the situation we find ourselves facing post-pandemic is much altered to what had prevailed before, and the issues raised in January will not go away. We will have to face the future with open minds and a willingness to embrace new ways.

Our financial resources present us with opportunities that many congregations can only dream of. Our greatest responsibility is to use these resources faithfully and well.

Christmas 2021



In what has been such a topsy turvy period, it didn't really come as a surprise that COVID restrictions once again affected our Christmas plans!

As ever we were gifted a fantastic tree by the Brady family, which was duly installed on the first Saturday in December. We treated ourselves to some new decorations, and an additional tree was gifted (and put

up!) by Ron and Jennifer in the main hall, so we were well decorated for the season, and everything looked lovely in our new surroundings!

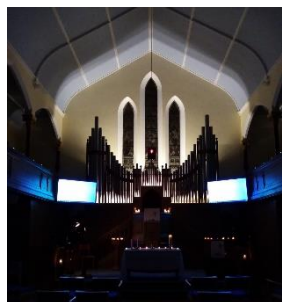
On the afternoon of the 5th, we held a special *Service of Memories*, where folk who had lost loved ones recently were able to gather for a quiet service of reflection. By we were aware of the we were required, but were still socially distanced *coffee* raised over £300 for Kirkcaldy



Saturday the 11th restrictions that able to host a *morning*, which Foodbank. The

day after we held our annual *Gift Service*, with a lovely collection of gifts brought along, which were passed on to the folks at Fife Gingerbread, who use our halls each week.

Unfortunately, COVID caught up with us, and as a result, the Rainbows and Brownies had to cancel their participation in the *Carol Service*, which everybody had been looking forward to. Sadly, we also had to cancel our Christmas lunch.



Our final 'physical' service of the year took place on *Christmas Eve*, when we met for our early evening candlelit service which is always a lovely gathering, and prepares us nicely for Christmas Day.

We then shared online services with the local Church of Scotland congregations until we were able to gather safely again early in the New Year.

Safeguarding

We will be updating our safeguarding policies over the next few weeks, in readiness for consideration and acceptance at the AGM, which is planned for June. This, and other policies are key to the effective operation of our church, and ensure compliance with the law. It is the responsibility of us all to make sure that all who use our facilities and services are safe and cared for.

Holy Week & Easter



Sunday 10th April

*Joint Service, Dunfermline URC, 11am
(no service here in Kirkcaldy)*



Monday 11th April

Holy Week Service, Bennoch Church, 7pm

Tuesday 12th April

Holy Week Service, St Bryce Kirk, 7pm

Wednesday 13th April

Holy Week Service, Abbotshall Church, 7pm

Thursday 14th April

Maundy Thursday Communion Linktown Church, 7pm

Friday 15th April

Good Friday Service, Congregational Church, 7pm

*Easter
Sunday*

Sunday 17th April – Easter Day

*10.30am – Easter Family Communion (Congregational Church!)
followed by Tea & Coffee and Cake*

Christians Against Poverty

christians
against
poverty

CAP

We will be hosting a **Money Course**, offering guidance and support to people who may be experiencing difficulties with their finances at this present time. This will be run by CAP, a highly effective and respected organisation. The dates are:

Thursday 21st April & Thursday 28th April

These will take place in the church each evening, further details will be available nearer the time. It is not only for those in debt, or struggling financially, but for those who wish guidance on how better to handle money. Please feel free to come along or to let others know about the course.

If you wish confidential advice on finances, please call CAP free on:

0800 328 0006

Kirkcaldy Foodbank



We continue to support the work of Kirkcaldy Foodbank. Before Christmas we were able to send them a cheque for over £300. If you wish to donate food items, many of the local supermarkets have a drop-off points in store, but you can bring items to church, and we will take them along to the distribution centre. Items required include:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Canned Fish | Long Life Milk (UHT) |
| Canned Meat | Long Life Fruit Juice (UHT) |
| Canned or Dried Fruit | Rice |
| Canned Vegetables | Pasta |
| Canned Soup | Pasta Sauce |
| Canned Beans or Spaghetti | Cereal |
| Tea and Coffee | |

Ukraine Appeal



Throughout March we arranged a retiring offering each Sunday, and folks have given generously, raising a total of £525, which the deacons have agreed will be match funded from general funds, meaning that we will send a donation of **£1050** to the DEC, the Disasters Emergency Committee (which includes organisations such as Christian Aid and Tear Fund).

This is a great effort by all who have given – there have been others who have indicated that they had already donated directly to the fund before we had arranged the offering – thank you to all.

We will continue to remember this terrible situation each week in our worship, and pray for a just and peaceful solution, and relief for those who are suffering greatly just now.

Recent Additions



Over the past few weeks, there have been some lovely additions which have further enhanced our building. Erica created a lovely cross, using pottery shards gathered from the shore – these were remnants of Kirkcaldy's once thriving pottery industry. The cross now hangs above our main entrance.

We have also been gifted two lovely flower stands in memory of our dear friend, Donald Watt. These have been fashioned by the craftspeople at the Grassmarket project in Edinburgh, using reclaimed timber from our pews.



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

Revd. Kevin Flett
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Church Secretary

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Property Convener

Mr Dave Brown
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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.kirkcaldycongregational.org

www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong

Church mobile: 07498448667