

Easter 2017

Kirkcaldy Congregational Churches

Newsletter



Pathhead Congregational Church, Pathhead Court, Kirkcaldy
West End Congregational Church, High Street, Kirkcaldy

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

INSIDE FRONT COVER

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Dear Friends,

'Come to the edge',
He said. They said,
'we are afraid'.
'Come to the edge',
He said. They came.
He pushed them, and
they flew.

These words, penned by the Italian-French poet, Guillaume Apollinaire sum up the experience of many people when facing the uncertainty of change, and perhaps are appropriate for our churches as we now look to the future. An account of the decisions taken at the church meetings is elsewhere in this newsletter, but it is also good to pause and to reflect upon this significant stage on our shared journey of faith.

I quite deliberately use the word 'faith'. Not in the sense that some might misappropriate the word, using it to denote certainty, even dogmatic conviction, where the person of faith, true faith, has no doubts, and believes what he or she believes absolutely.

I'm not sure this is the faith of the New Testament. Perhaps faith is best described in Hebrews 11, verse 1, where the anonymous writer states: "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." Here we sense some tension between sureness and hope, between certainty and not quite seeing. Nothing is absolute, but neither is life left dangling by some flimsy strand.

On reflection, this may describe where we are for the moment. Our church meetings took us to the edge, and we have stepped over. Bold decisions have been taken, especially by the friends at Pathhead, for whom the step was not just bold, but courageous.

Yet we do not step into the future utterly bereft. We take with us resources of faithful people, a building, finance – not unlimited, but significant assets which now must be used wisely and carefully. However, more than these temporal resources, we step into the future – some of which we don't quite see – with growing warmth and deepening fellowship, with an unfolding vision of a brightening future, and above all with the sureness and certainty of God, whose promise is found later in the Hebrews letter, "I will never leave you; I will never abandon you."

Wishing you each every blessing.

Kevin

CHURCH ROLLS**2016/17****Death****West End**

Dorothy Mackenzie (Kirkcaldy)

Pathhead

Letitia Paton (Kirkcaldy)

FLOWER ROTAS**2017****West End****Pathhead****March****5**

Mrs D. Hogg

-

12

Mrs N. McLean

Stella Allan

19

Mrs S. Adamson

Irene Hutchison

26

Mrs A. Wood

Christine & Donald Watt

April**2**

Mrs M. Terras

Sylvia Muir

9

-

Vikki Flett

16

Easter

Lily McLeod

23

Mrs I. McMahon

Zena Wright

30

Baptism

Elisabeth Mair

May**7**

Mrs E. Brady

-

14

Mrs A. Allan

Irene Hutchison

21

Mrs S. Forsyth

Evelyn Walker

28

Mrs D. Coghill

-

June**4**

Mrs J. Ingles

Zena Wright

11

Mrs E. Rennie

-

18

Mrs E. Kirkhope

Mary McCleary

25

Mrs E. Thomson

-

July**2**

Mrs S. Adamson

Elisabeth Mair

9

Miss N. Carstairs

Vikki Flett

16

Miss J. Hutson

Stella Allan

23

Miss D. Allan

-

30

-

-

August**6**

Mrs G. Skinner

Madge Hynd

13

Mrs H. Galloway

-

20

-

Lilian Crouthers

27

A Friend

Zena Wright

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) for West End and Irene Hutchison (652486) for Pathhead.

CHRISTMAS 2016



Rev Kevin Flett
Pathhead and West End Congregational Churches
Commercial Street
Kirkcaldy,
KY11 2PQ

Dysart St Clair Parish Church
West Port
Dysart
Kirkcaldy
Fife
KY11 2TD

7th January 2017


As 2016 fades and we move into the new year, we take time to thank everyone who has helped us during the last year to ensure that local people do not go hungry during a time of crisis.

As an independent foodbank funded wholly by donations from generous people of Kirkcaldy and its surrounds we are continually thankful and humbled by the huge community effort which enables us to provide emergency food parcels weekly.

Each month we spend a further £2,500 to make up the shortfall from our food donations to satisfy the growing demand for food parcels. Your contribution of food or money is so vitally important and however big or small it DOES make a difference and is still needed.

With our sincere and grateful thanks for all you have done in 2016 and the hope that 2017 will see a change both nationally and locally, an end for the need for foodbanks in this day and age and the hope that families and individuals can avoid the crisis points which give them few options and a need to come to us for help.

Your continued support and encouragement is greatly appreciated.


Kerry Horstburgh
(on behalf of Kirkcaldy Foodbank)

and mince pies to the shoppers and some sweets for the kids, along with Christmas leaflets.

Over the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we held a "Reverse Advent" in both churches, where everyone brought along a small gift for the Foodbank each week. It was amazing to watch the stock grow, and a good number of bags of groceries were taken along before Christmas for passing on to folks in need of a helping hand.

We also enjoyed coming together for a number of shared services to celebrate another Christmas Season!

It seems a long time since Christmas, when our theme was "Hope is Born". Both churches were involved in a number of activities, individually and together. Folk gave generously to the Gift Service, and a large selection of toys and parcels were taken to Fife Women's Aid for distribution to local families. A cheque was also sent, the offering taken at our lunchtime Carol Concert, led by the Carefree Chorus (the choir which rehearses each week in the Pathhead Church).

We made contact with lots of people on the High Street, as we opened the West End doors for "Drinks in the Doorway", when we handed out drinks



Fife Women's Aid

Stella Allin
Treasurer
Fife Congregational Church
Pathhead
Kirkcaldy
KY11 2PA

Dear Stella

22nd December 2016


I am writing on behalf of Fife Women's Aid to thank you and everyone involved in the Carers Choir Concert for the generous donation of cheque to the value of £111.

This money will go towards helping us to provide emergency food and clothing, emergency travel costs for families, and festive activities for our service users and their children in time for Christmas Day.

May I, on behalf of Fife Women's Aid, take this opportunity to wish you and your parishioners a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your support towards our work with women, children and young people who have experienced abuse.

Yours sincerely



Joy Patrick
Manager
Fife Women's Aid



Fife Women's Aid is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Co. No. SC716320
Registered Office: Suite 2, First Floor, Saltire House, Pentlands Park, Glenrothes, KY6 2AL
Registered Scottish Charity SC011889

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Both churches held their AGMs on Sunday 26th March. In addition to the general AGM business, which included financial, property and pastoral reports, and the appointment of office-bearers, the most significant item of business was consideration of the proposal from the leaders of both churches to their individual congregations.

Information, and the wording of the proposal was circulated well in advance, to allow everyone the opportunity to consider the decision needing to be taken. There was an outline of the discussions that had taken place over the past six months, which had been regularly reported to the congregations. At both Church Meetings in November, the leaders had been asked to begin to formally discuss the steps necessary to bring the churches together.

The overarching objective has always been *the continuance of a "theologically open and progressive Congregational presence in Kirkcaldy."*

In addition to the practical and legal process which the leaders had to consider, the most sensitive and difficult part of the decision was around which building a new church might use.

Keeping both would be difficult owing to costs, selling both may prove to be a challenge, so keeping one building was considered to be the most feasible option. Both buildings had been surveyed, and were assessed to be in broadly similar condition, with each presenting strengths and challenges. Thought then moved to what we hoped to become as a new church, and the conclusion was that we wished to be open and inclusive, with a building available for use by the wider community.

Gradually this vision began to coalesce around the town centre premises, which it was believed would provide the best opportunities to develop the church into the future. The Pathhead Board met in December, and then the Pathhead Church met early in the New Year to face this difficult prospect. There was a great deal of sadness, but a mature willingness to embrace the vision, which would be for the greater good of the church. Part of this vision is that the West End building will undergo some refurbishment, so that the facilities would be ready for future use. There is also recognition that further remedial work is required to ensure the building is kept in a sound condition.

The proposal was laid before both churches (it was the same proposal for both, with just the wording altered for each Church. The Pathhead proposal contained an additional clause about the sale of the building.

The board formally proposes:

- i. that a new church, which will be known as Kirkcaldy Congregational Church shall be formed, using the premises of the present West End Congregational Church for its activities;

- ii. that the premises of Pathhead EU Congregational Church will be marketed for potential sale;
- iii. that Pathhead EU / West End Congregational Church is wound up, in accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements;
- iv. that the remaining assets and liabilities of Pathhead EU / West End Congregational Church will be transferred to Kirkcaldy Congregational Church for the continuance of its charitable purposes.

Opportunity was taken for open discussion in both meetings, and prayer was offered, before both congregations voted unanimously for the proposal. A number of those who had given their apologies, had also indicated their agreement with the proposal.

Now we turn to carrying the proposal forward. The leaders will meet together again just after Easter to establish the steps that will be taken. Broadly speaking these will include:

- i. the work required to establish the new Church as a Scottish Charity, including the development of a new constitution, and then the winding up of the affairs of the two existing churches;
- ii. the valuation and marketing of the Pathhead building;
- iii. the renovating of the Town Centre building to provide improved access, upgraded kitchen and toilet facilities, better heating and a more flexible church sanctuary.

Once the way forward has been mapped out, some joint meetings will be planned for the congregations to meet to discuss and explore ideas together. Some decisions will still have to be taken by each congregation separately, but where possible we will seek to take joint decisions.

It has also been agreed that during the period of transition, when the minister is on holiday, and perhaps at other times, we will hold joint Sunday services, alternating between the two churches, so as to strengthen the links and build friendships between the folk of both congregations.

CONGRATULATIONS!



We congratulate **Archie and Nan McLean** on their Diamond Wedding in March, also **Graeme and Jess Tarbet** (now in Dundee), who joined us to mark their Golden Wedding. **Christine and Donald Watt** celebrated their Silver Wedding in February. Others have marked special birthdays (ages will not be given – please just guess!) - **Diane Allan; Madge Hynd** and **Stella Allan** – we do, however, offer some helpful advice from Mr Shakespeare: *“With mirth and laughter, let old wrinkles come.”*

CRAFT GROUP

The craft group continues to meet on Wednesday evenings in the Pathhead Church Hall, with folk attending from both churches. Work has started on a new project, creating a lovely “tree” which will mark the coming together of the two churches.



An ongoing project has been knitting lovely clothes for babies and youngsters. These are sent out periodically to a Christian project in Malawi, which is supported by a local couple, Alan and Sandra Skene, members of the Connect Church on St Clair St. The project aims to support mothers and babies, particularly with a daily feeding programme. The knitted goodies are very welcome, especially during cold African nights!

PATHHEAD 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Whilst we are currently considering the future of our churches, we are also marking this year, the 150th Anniversary of the Pathhead Church. Emerging in mid-Victorian times there were perhaps various forces at work leading to the formation of the new church. The villages around Kirkcaldy were expanding, and people preferred to worship locally. Also, evangelical expressions of Christianity were expanding at the time, and people belonging to the then Evangelical Union (EU) began to meet in the Pathhead Town Hall in 1865, until they resolved to form a church in August 1867. The original church had 23 members. In 1869 work commenced on the church building, which was opened for worship in July 1870. The church was a member of the EU, until in the 1890's the Evangelical and Congregational Unions amalgamated to form a single Congregational Union of Scotland, both Congregational Churches in Kirkcaldy were members, with the then Kirkcaldy Congregational Church altering its name to West End Congregational Church.



For many years the Pathhead Church has marked its anniversary each year in late Spring (even though the church was founded in September!). This year we will mark this special anniversary with a service on Sunday 14th May, which will be followed by lunch at the Victoria Hotel. The invitation has been shared with the folk at West End, who will gather with the Pathhead folk to mark the occasion. Further information will be available after Easter, but please hold the date!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

Holy Week & Easter:	9 th – 16 th April (All evening service are 7.00pm)	
	<i>Town Centre</i>	<i>Pathhead/ Dysart</i>
<i>Monday 10th</i>	Abbotshall Lenten study	-
<i>Tuesday 11th</i>	St Bryce Kirk	Dysart Convent
<i>Wednesday 12th</i>	Abbotshall	Pathhead Congregational
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	Auchtertool Communion	Pathhead Parish
	West End Cong. Communion	
<i>Good Friday</i>	2.30pm, West End Cong.	Dysart St Clair
	Bennoch Parish	
<i>Easter Day</i>	8.30am, Beveridge Park	9.00am, Ravenscraig Park



Church Meetings:	The next scheduled church meeting will be in July (dates to be confirmed), although additional meetings are envisaged to keep both congregations up to date with developments.
Communion:	Communion takes place in Pathhead on the second Sunday each month. In West End it will take place on 7 th May, 2 nd July, 3 rd September and 5 th November.
Newsletters:	Newsletters will be published in August and November.
Coffee Days:	West End hold their coffee days on the second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm.
Tea & Coffee:	Tea & Coffee are served at West End following the service on the Sundays after the Coffee Days. Tea & Coffee are served at Pathhead after the service on the third Sunday of each month.
Family Services:	These are becoming a feature of our church life. We will aim for a further three family services this year: Summer (18 th June); Harvest (24 th September) and Christmas (provisionally 17 th December).

WEST END 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	M. Gove
IV	D. Clark	E. Kirkhope	S. Adamson

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

		Group	Church Officer	Communion Servers
April	2	II	D. Galloway	
	9	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	16	IV	E. Kirkhope	<i>(Easter Sunday)</i>
	23	I	D. Allan	
	30	II	A. Adamson	<i>(Service of Baptism)</i>
May	7	III	L. Bushnell	L. Bushnell & D. Fairgrieve <i>(Joint Service at West End)</i>
	14	<i>150th Anniversary Service at Pathhead, no service at WE</i>		
	21	IV	D. Clark	
	28	I	R. MacMillan	
	4	II	D. Galloway	
June	11	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	18	IV	E. Kirkhope	
	25	I	D. Allan	
	2	II	A. Adamson	A. Adamson & D. Galloway
	9	III	L. Bushnell	
July	16	IV	D. Clark	
	23	I	R. MacMillan	
	30	II	D. Galloway	
	6	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	13	IV	E. Kirkhope	
August	20	I	D. Allan	
	27	II	A. Adamson	
	3	III	L. Bushnell	L. Bushnell & D. Fairgrieve
	10	IV	D. Clark	
	17	I	R. MacMillan	
September	24	II	D. Galloway	<i>(Harvest Sunday)</i>

The Pathhead Church follow a pattern of Communion on the second Sunday of each month, with an informal rota for Door stewarding and serving communion.

INSIDE BACK COVER

CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

Worship	Pathhead: Sunday 10.00am West End: Sunday 11.15am (unless otherwise intimated)
Rainbows (West End)	Monday 6.00pm
Brownies (West End)	Tuesday 6.00pm
Guides (West End)	Wednesday 7.00pm
Craft Group (Joint meeting at Pathhead)	Wednesday 7.00pm
Coffee Day (West End)	Second Saturday of each month 10.00am – 2.00pm

At Pathhead communion is observed on the second Sunday of each month.
At West End communion is observed on the first Sunday of alternate months:
January, March, May, July, September & November.

Minister

Rev Kevin Flett
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Tel: 07751596981
email: minister.kirkcong@outlook.com

Secretary West End

Mr David Fairgrieve
54 Ralston Drive, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 268787

Treasurer West End

Mr James Kelly
18 St Fillans Crescent, Aberdour
Tel: 01383 860115

Secretary Pathhead

Mrs Irene Hutchison
5 Kilgour Avenue, Kirkcaldy
Tel: 01592 652486

Treasurer Pathhead

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

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 using the contact details above.

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