

Peace
on Earth



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

Revd. Kevin Flett

46 Mid Street, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 07751596981

email: minister.kirkcong@outlook.com

Church Secretary

Mr Dave Fairgrieve

54 Ralston Drive, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 01592 268787

Joint Treasurers

Mrs Stella Allan

14 Masereene Road, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 01592 591803

Mr Jim Kelly

18 St Fillans Crescent, Aberdour

Tel: 01383 860115

Property Convener

Mr Dave Brown

131 Recraigs, Kirkcaldy

Tel: 01592 200330

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.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong/

PLEASE NOTE A SEPARATE ROTA SHEET WILL BE ISSUED IN THE NEW YEAR

Congregational News

Issue 001 - Advent 2018

From the Vestry

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the beginning of a New Year! The Church year begins with the season of Advent, a season quite distinct from Christmas, though clearly the two are linked.

Whilst Advent is best known today for calendars with chocolate treats behind little doors, it has a rich history stretching back over 1600 years. In the way that Lent readies the church for Easter, Advent readies the church for Christmas. Yet, there are some scholars who suggest that originally, Advent was the 40 day season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians, taking place on the feast of the Epiphany (in early January), with no link to Christmas as we know it today.

The word is Latin in its origin, *adventus*, meaning, *coming*, which in Greek is the word *parousia*, which has

theological links to the coming of Christ, and the traditional belief that Christ will come again.

In essence, Advent is the season of waiting. Many themes emerge during the season, with the Old Testament prophets, John the Baptist, and Mary the mother of Jesus bringing aspects of the season to life. Running through the season, connecting those themes is a story of exile – and hope!

As the exiled people of the Way, we are not where we are meant to be. We are uneasy with the world, longing for things to be better, and hoping, however faintly, that somehow they can be.

But the story takes a startling twist. Humankind is conditioned into

expecting power to be displayed in its old threadbare garb of human strength and military might. But a baby arrives, in whom we sense the presence of God.

This is a divine masterstroke! I, for one, struggle to look into the face of a child and not

sense hope.

A few years back the Dalai Lama was asked if he had hope for the future. He laughed and said, 'Of course I have hope. The future has not yet been decided.'

In the life of the child the future has not yet been decided, though sadly in many respects our world ensures



that the privileged child will continue in privilege, while the child born into poverty faces many challenges.

Advent reminds us that it does not have to be this way. Our unease with the world, our longing for things to be better, and that faintest of hopes, can move us to act, to create the world we long for.

The poet, John Philip Newel writes: *Everyone does not need to become a Christian. Everyone, however, does need to look to the Child if there is to be peace on earth.*

Wishing you each every blessing.

Kevin

Pastoral List

Recently we brought together the Church rolls and lists for the two churches. Currently the church family consists of:

<i>Church Roll (members)</i>	99
<i>Supplementary Roll & Pastoral List</i>	25
<i>Children & Young People</i>	7

If anyone would like to formally become a member of the church, please speak to Kevin.

In the past few months we lost two members from the Church Roll to death:

Fiona Begg (Ravenscraig Street)
Jean Spence (formerly Percival Street)

We remember Fiona's husband Charles and the family at this time. We also remember Jean's family near Glasgow. Jean was our longest serving member, having joined the West End Church in July 1948.



It was wonderful to have Philip Holmes with us in August to update us on the work in Nepal. We have supported a number of his activities for some time now, and Philip outlined how the work has developed and changed in recent years.

Currently ChoraChori (Nepali for 'children') is working with Nepali children and young people who have been trafficked into India, bringing them back to Nepal, though sadly not all are able to return to their families. Work is also developing to provide trauma support for young people along with education and vocational training. An interesting feature of the work at present is the creation of a contemporary circus.

Part of the vision is to evolve a not-for-profit business as an outlet for the products made by the young people as part of their vocational training. We continue to support this dynamic and vital work, and we look forward to future visits.

ChoraChori products





Harvest this year included a visit from Becky Haldane, from Sailors Society.

As always there was a great display of fresh and non-perishable food, including apples and veg from folks' gardens and

lovely produce donated by Raith Fruits. The fresh produce was passed on to the Cottage Family Centre, and the other food was taken to the Kirkcaldy Foodbank.

During our family service we enjoyed our music (thanks as always to Jim!), which included the deacons' annual boogie to the *Bear Necessities!*

Beth made us a pizza, which reminded us of how far our food travels to get to us, and Becky spoke to us about the work of Sailors Society.

After worship, we shared together in what was billed as a 'hunger lunch', where, for a simple lunch, people donate the normal cost of their Sunday lunch. We'll need to rename it next year, as there wasn't much evidence of hunger, as so much lovely home baking had been brought along (everyone had the chance of a doggy bag to take home!) A big thanks to everyone – it was wonderful to witness such generosity.

Kevin was on holiday for two weeks in October, during which time worship was led by our deacons, and by friends from the United Reformed Church in Dunfermline. October ended with a pulpit exchange where we welcomed Revd Alan McGougan from Dunfermline, while Kevin preached there. Both congregations seemed to enjoy the exchange, and it is something which we will most likely repeat.

As agreed at the Church Meeting in November, we have begun a conversation with our friends in the Dunfermline URC to explore how we can work together more closely and support each other. We are also developing our links with other local congregations, and have made contact with Dundee Congregational church to develop our friendship there.

Link to Hope

As we have done in previous years, we filled shoeboxes to be taken abroad to bring some seasonal cheer



to young people, families and older people. These have been sent to *Link to Hope*,

which is a Christian charity offering gifts and support unconditionally as an expression of love. Our prayers and good wishes go with our boxes, with the hope that others will be blessed.

Remembrance Sunday



On what was the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending the First World War, we shared in an act of worship which many people found meaningful and helpful.

Whilst remembering by name each of the men from the two congregations who were killed in the two World Wars (38 men in total), we also had a very clear focus on our commitment to peace in our world today, remembering the many people who suffer as a result of conflict at this time.

Using images and readings with some poignant hymns and beautiful music, we reflected on our calling to be people of peace.

Kirkcaldy Foodbank

The following are snippets from the recent Foodbank newsletter...



The number of food parcels has remained stable but child poverty is alarmingly high. Well over 800 food parcels were made up and given out in October. Figures also show the disturbing trend that the number of children in need has almost doubled - 629 in September 2018 compared to 363 in September 2017.

The good news is that Tesco in Cardenden has now added fresh food to supplement the parcels we make up. Also, staff from the Co-Op have kindly started giving a regular donation of food using their staff discount.

(There is) a questionnaire from the Board asking for feedback and suggestions as to how to improve our service. We hope you have taken the time to fill yours in. If not, and you have still good ideas, please share it with us using the Foodbank email on the website (www.kirkcaldyfoodbank.org.uk).

There is also a large supply of bags, but keep the donations coming. **THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED.**

Christmas Calendar

St Bryce and Linton Lane will be open on Thursday and Friday during Christmas and New Year weeks. The need continues!

On **Saturday 6th December** there will be a festive get-together in Dysart Church. **BRING AND SHARE BETWEEN 7.30 PM AND 10 PM.** Please bring finger food and something to drink! (A glass if you bring wine, or a straw, would be handy.)

Congregational Meeting

We met together on 18th November for our regular Church Meeting, this gave opportunity to keep everyone up to date about ongoing developments:

OSCR

The Charity regulator had informed us that the process for establishing Kirkcaldy Congregational Church is now complete. Brian Wood has been finalising the legal work required to formally transfer the property from the former West End Trustees to the new trustees.

Regarding the application to reorganise the Pathhead Church, OSCR have suggested a slightly different approach, namely that we revise the old constitution to give ourselves the powers necessary to dissolve the charity and transfer the assets. A church meeting has been called for the former Pathhead members to do this, and OSCR have assured us they will deal with the matter quickly on our behalf.

Property

There wasn't much to report about the refurbishment of the building. The formal planning application has been submitted to Fife Council, and we await their decision. Once consent has been granted we will get formal costings done, apply for some grant funding, and begin to engage contractors to carry out the work.

Church policies

A new suite of policies had been prepared, and circulated for a few months in draft form for members to

consider. Brian had updated the letting agreement for the use of the Church Halls. The policies were agreed, and adopted by the Church meeting.

Safeguarding

One of the policies covers Safeguarding (previously known as Child Protection and Adult Protection). This is a vital set of guidance documents, which ensure that we operate safely, with peoples' needs at the forefront of what we do.

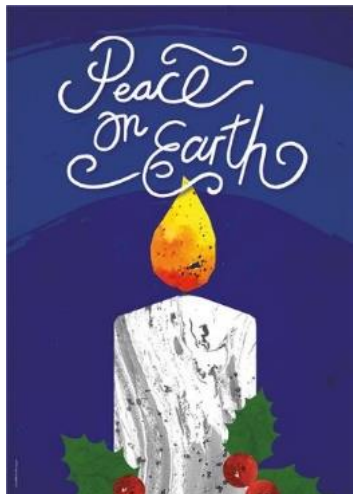
The meeting appointed Lilian Crouthers as our Safeguarding Coordinator, and Lilian will work to implement this policy in coming months (for example ensuring that the necessary checks are in place as required). We are grateful to Lilian for taking this responsibility.

Affiliations and Fellowship

As previously intimated, we discussed our affiliation with the Congregational Federation. The church felt that the benefits of affiliation did not reflect the cost that would be involved for fees etc, and it was agreed that we would not apply for membership at this stage.

People had appreciated the links with Dunfermline URC during October, and the deacons proposed that we seek to strengthen those links. This may lead to a covenant or friendship agreement being drawn up, and members were happy to see this progress. In addition we are happy for our links with local congregations to develop, and also potentially with Dundee Congregational Church (with whom we have a connection through the Tarbet family.)

Advent and Christmas Arrangements



The theme over the Advent and Christmas seasons this year is *Peace on Earth*. Leaflets have been printed, please take one for yourself and another for a friend or neighbour by way of invitation. Information is also on the website and the Facebook page.

We begin on Saturday 1st December as we meet to dress the church up for Christmas. Each year we have a fantastic tree donated by the Brady family, and last year we had great fun decorating it! We have an **advent communion** service on the 2nd, and then on the Saturday the 8th we have our **Christmas Coffee Day**, 10am-2pm. Please make a special effort to

support if you can. On Sunday the 9th we have our **Gift Service**, when we are encouraged to bring along toys which will be taken to Fife Women's Aid, who will pass the gifts on to local families. **(Please note that gifts should be new, and unwrapped)**. On Sunday 16th we welcome the Guides and Brownies for the **Christmas Nativity Service**, this is always enjoyed by everyone! On Saturday 22nd, we will host **Drinks in the doorway**, offering drinks and mince pies to shoppers passing the church door. This year we will do this in the morning, from 10.30am-12noon. Then on Sunday 24th we hold our annual *Carol Service*, which will be followed by lunch in the hall. In the evening of Christmas Eve we have **Carols by Candlelight**, commencing at 7.00pm. Those who came along last year enjoyed the lovely atmosphere. Then on the big day, **Christmas Day** we have a short celebration, which will once again be a **DIY service**, where everyone who wishes, can participate in some way! This year for the Sunday between Christmas and New Year (30th) we will join with the town centre Church of Scotland Congregations for their **joint service** in St Bryce Kirk at 11am. We're back together again on 6th January at 10.30am for our first service of the year which will include communion.

We will require some mince pies and shortbread for some of the events. Please bring some along and pass these on to Sandra – thank-you!