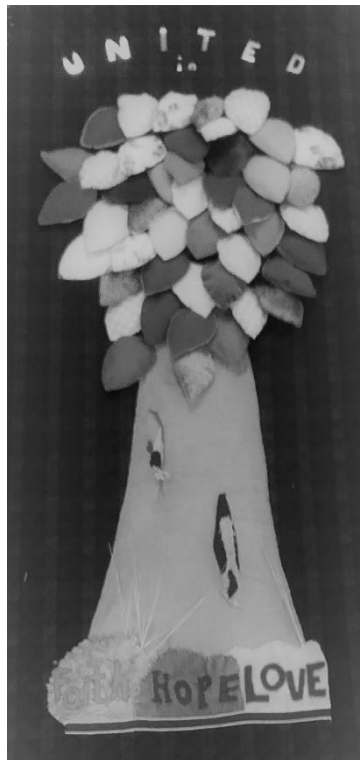


Autumn 2017

Kirkcaldy Congregational Churches

Newsletter



Pathhead Congregational Church
West End Congregational Church

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

INSIDE FRONT COVER

46 Mid Street
Kirkcaldy
KY1 2PN

Tel: 07751596981

Email: minister.kirkcong@outlook.com

*"To everything there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh..."*

Dear Friends,

It seems that since time immemorial, human beings have been conscious of the cyclical nature of human life, the philosopher reputed to have penned the words above (from Ecclesiastes 3), captures the flow of time and the turning of life's seasons in beautiful poetry that still resonates with people to this day – whether of faith or not.

The words were picked up by the song-writer Pete Seeger in the 1950's and used almost verbatim for his hit song, *Turn, turn, turn*, released in 1962.

Like many parts of scripture, they can be, and have been used to underpin opinions, viewpoints and stances on issues such as war and peace, hate and love, death and life. We must tread carefully. We are dealing with poetry, emerging out of the lived experience of a poet who has passed through many a season, and invites us to reflect on our own journeys.

Yet it has some limitation. It deals with opposites, extremes, whilst most of life is lived in between these. There is something in the passage that everyone may find some disagreement with, and this is most so if we forget that it is poetry, and assert it as doctrine. This distinction is important. As poetry it reminds us that in all of our lives there have been times when we have hated as well as loved, when we have initiated strife and instigated peace. As poetry it calls us to reflect, to confess, to repent – turn, turn, turn. However, as doctrine the passage becomes the justification for all sorts of dreadful behaviour. We misuse the beautiful verse to rationalise some ugly conduct.

And so I would call us to live more poetic lives, and ask that we too, reflect. As we move through a changing season in the lives of our churches (soon to be church) we give thanks for all that has been. For faithful folk who, like us, were not perfect – they would have embodied at times the opposites and extremes of the philosopher – but in the main, they simply sought to be faithful in their time, as we are now seeking to be in ours.

Wishing you each every blessing.

Kevin

CHURCH ROLLS

2017

Baptism

Elise Anne McClarence
Denver Rose Callaghan

Death

Charles Masson
Cecelia Ketchion
Margaret Grieg



FLOWER ROTA

2017

August

6 Gerry Skinner (West End); Madge Hynd (Pathhead)

13 Helen Galloway (West End)

20 Lilian Crouthers (Pathhead, joint service)

27 Zena Wright (Pathhead, joint service)

September

3 Isobel Cunningham (West End)

10 Mary Fairgrieve (West End); Dave Brown (Pathhead)

17 Lily McLeod (Pathhead, joint service)

24 Elizabeth Mair (Harvest Sunday)

October

1 A friend; Dave Brown

8 Nan McLean

15 Vikki Flett

22 Zena Wright

29 Anne Allan

November

5 Lilian Crouthers

12 Mary McCleary (Remembrance Sunday)

19 Dave Fairgrieve

26 Louise Lowe

December

3 Valerie Graham; Zena Wright

10 A friend; Elizabeth Mair

17 Evelyn Walker

24 Madge Hynd

31 Evergreens

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. Over the remainder of this year, Sonia and Irene will combine the rotas for the two churches. In the New Year we will have a single rota, trying to ensure that folk who have given flowers on particular dates in the past can continue to do so. If you would like to provide flowers for the church please contact Sonia Forsyth (651852) or Irene Hutchison (652486).

PATHHEAD 150

2017 has marked the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Pathhead Church. To celebrate the milestone, a Service of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday 14th May, when the Pathhead folk were joined by friends with past connections to the church, as well as being well supported by a good number from West End.



The theme for the service was, *Surely the Lord is in this place!* We watched some video footage from the past, and memories were shared by Fay Yule and Dave Brown. Our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession used images of our building, past ministers, past special events and current activities, as we gave thanks for those who have blessed us and enriched us over the years.

Following the service we reconvened at the Victoria Hotel, where we shared lunch and reminisced together, and where Lily and Beth cut the anniversary cake!

CONSIDER YOURSELF AT HOME



.... was the theme for our summer family service in June. We enjoyed quizzes about castles and about famous families, including the Browns, the Royales, the Simpsons, the Addams and the Waltons. As always, Jim excelled himself as we sang along to numbers from the musicals, including *Consider yourself at home!* from Oliver.

The more creative amongst us took the opportunity to decorate some socks to hang on the family washing line, and we pondered the question, *do you have any one in your family who is annoying?* before we remembered the fact that all of us are part of God's family, we all belong and are special.

Then, last of all, we rounded the morning off with a church family lunch in the hall!

FIFE INTERFAITH FORUM

West End Church played host to the Fife Interfaith Forum for its AGM in June. A number of people came together representing many of the faith communities across Fife. It was lovely to see such a varied gathering in the church.



KIRKCALDY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Recent Progress

Over the past four months the leaders of both churches have met regularly to take forward the decisions made at the AGMs in March, that a new Congregational Church be formed, and that the two existing churches be wound up.

The key areas for consideration included:

- developing a new constitution and preparing an application to OSCR
- arranging the marketing of the Pathhead building
- planning the developments required for the West End building

The development of the constitution took much of our time. We agreed to start with a clean sheet, creating a document which reflects the Congregational traditions of the churches, as well as a fresh vision for a 21st century church. We carry forward objectives and purposes from the past, but also seek to project a church which is open and tolerant in its values, and progressive in its theology. As a Congregational Church we aim for simplicity in our structures and in our approach to worship.

Copies of the draft constitution were circulated in advance to all members and adherents, and at the Church Meetings in July, both congregations agreed to the draft. This has now been sent to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), with supporting information and a formal application for charitable status. We await their approval, a process which normally takes around three months, so we hope to hear from them towards the end of the year.

The second area was the marketing and potential sale of the Pathhead building. We engaged the firm Graham and Sibbald to value the building and market it on our behalf, which was all arranged by mid May. We had anticipated any sale taking some time to go through, perhaps 12 – 18 months, as seems to be the norm with similar buildings. We were surprised when, towards the end of June, we were approached with an offer for the building. This was a cash offer, very close to the asking price (and well above what we had been warned to expect). The Pathhead Board met to consider this, and brought a recommendation to the Church Meeting in July that this offer be accepted. Understandably, some found this decision very hard, and found the speed of the process difficult. However, trustees of charities have a duty to ensure that they act in the best interests of the charity, and it was felt that this offer couldn't be turned down, as there was no assurance that another would be forthcoming, and certainly not an offer near the top end of the asking price. The sale was agreed by the Church Meeting.

The matter is now being progressed, working towards a provisional date of 1st October for handing the building over. The purchasers wish to use the building as a local centre for performing arts (film making, storytelling, drama etc.), and initially at least will keep the building in its current form.

The third area of activity has been to look at the West End building. There are two broad matters to be addressed. There is some final remedial work which needs to be undertaken to ensure the structure and fabric of the building is maintained. Dry rot

issues have been addressed, though we anticipate further work needing to be done as internal works progress. There is a residual leak in the roof below the steeple, which has been identified and will be repaired. An inspection of the steeple indicates work needing to be done to ensure that the building is safe, and that there is no major deterioration to the high level stone work. We are taking advice from our architects, and once quotes have been obtained, this work will be completed before the winter. This will be funded from the West End reserves.

There is also the work to upgrade the facilities of the church. The key features of this have been previously outlined in the proposal paper brought to the AGMs and agreed by the churches. Those key features include:

- improving access throughout the ground floor level of the church and halls, including the removal of the remaining pews downstairs
- improving lighting, heating and ventilation, especially within the church
- improving toilet and kitchen facilities

The architectural firm, Tod Taylor, have been engaged to develop plans, and these will be brought to the church for agreement, before proceeding. One or two folk have raised the issue of the removal of the pews. The response has consistently been that we require a building which is flexible and comfortable, and fit for future uses beyond just our own use for an hour on a Sunday morning. Retaining the pews restricts this, and to spend considerable sums of money simply to maintain a building for our own use is difficult to justify. There will be opportunity for discussion before decisions are taken, but the creation of a flexible modern space for worship and other activities is at the core of the vision which has developed in recent months.

This work will be funded largely by the proceeds of the Pathhead sale. However arrangements will be made to give opportunity to those who wish, to make a financial contribution to support this significant project.

The leaders will continue to meet on a monthly basis to ensure that progress is maintained, and as we have sought to do from the start, we will keep everyone informed, and ensure that all key decisions are taken by the churches.

Transitional Arrangements

As we work towards the sale of the Pathhead building on the 1st of October, we have drawn up transitional arrangements to cover our activities over the foreseeable future.

The final service for worship will take place in the Pathhead Church on Sunday **17th September at 10.00am**. This will be a joint service, and members of the West End congregation are encouraged to support the Pathhead folk at this challenging time.

The following Sunday, **24th September** will be our first service as a united congregation. This will take place in the High St. building, beginning at **10.30am** – please note the new time! This will be our Harvest Sunday, and will be followed by a church lunch.

For the Pathhead folk who wish to attend, there will be a final, reflective act of

worship on Saturday **30th September at 2.00pm**. This will be our last time together in the building, and we will seek to support each other through this difficult and emotional time.

There are also some practical arrangements to be made. The War Memorial in the Pathhead vestibule will be removed, for eventual re-siting in the refurbished building. The furnishings and various other items will be taken for storage in the upstairs hall. Some items (for example the communion table) will be incorporated into the West End sanctuary, pending the refurbishment, when we will take a decision on how to make best use of all the furniture and equipment we have at our disposal.

For the next few months we will function as a single church, however the two churches will continue to formally exist as separate bodies. For those who use Church Offering Envelopes or give by standing order, please continue to give as normal, each church's envelopes will be separated each week and banked accordingly. Also we will start to reflect on the things that we can do as a new church, for example how might we build on the current coffee days, which work very well.

Pending agreement from OSCR, it is envisaged that the new Church is formally established very early in the New Year, prior to the winding up of the affairs of the two existing churches.

We would also hope that by the Spring we are ready to commence the work to upgrade the building – this will also take a great deal of planning and co-ordination. More information will follow in due course!

CRAFT GROUP

The craft group took a break over the summer months, but will be up and running again in the autumn in the West End building, once the upheaval of relocation is over.

Recently some finishing touches have been added to the latest project, the creation of a lovely wall hanging, depicting a tree, which will represent the coming together of the two churches. The book of Revelation, offers a vision of the tree of life, where *the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations*. May that form part of our vision as we go forward together, seeking to bring healing to our fragmented world.

It is envisaged that the wall hanging will be displayed in the vestibule of the church, hopefully being unveiled on Harvest Sunday, 24th September, which will be our first Sunday as a united congregation.



LITTLE PRINCESS TRUST

The *Little Princess Trust* was launched in 2006 by the parents of Hannah Tarplee, along with help from friends and from Hannah's school. Hannah was the original Little Princess. Sadly she was diagnosed with having a tumour and after a brave battle, died in 2005.

At that time, finding high quality wigs for children was very difficult and only after a long search was a suitable company eventually found which made a wig for Hannah. She very much enjoyed wearing her wig, particularly on special occasions.

After Hannah passed away, so many people offered help, financial and practical. Hannah's parents decided that the most fitting way to use this was to launch a charity to provide specialist real hair children's wigs. Like so many Little Princesses, Hannah loved her hair and losing it was very traumatic.

Since its inception, the charity has helped thousands of children. Working with suppliers throughout the UK and Ireland, all of whom supply beautiful, real hair wigs.

And so to our local interest in the trust!

You may or may not, have noticed that Erica has been growing her hair in recent months, and is now ready for the **CHOP!** Erica will be donating her hair to the trust, and the cut will take place on the morning of **Saturday 10th September**. This is our monthly coffee day, and a draw will take place, to see which special person will make the cut! Erica isn't looking for donations on the day, but if you wish to make a donation to the trust, please visit their website: www.littleprincess.org.uk.

DATES TO NOTE

THE MAIN POINT TO NOTE IS THAT FROM SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER, THE MORNING SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10.30AM EACH WEEK

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Church Meetings: | The next scheduled church meeting will be November 19 th . This will be a combined Church meeting following the morning service. |
| Communion: | Communion will be held on a monthly basis from October onwards, normally on the first Sunday of each month. |
| Newsletters: | The next Newsletter is planned for November, and will include details of Christmas arrangements. |
| Coffee Days: | Coffee Days will be held on the second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. |
| Tea & Coffee: | Tea & Coffee will be served following the service on the Sundays after the Coffee Days. |
| Family Services: | These are now a feature of our church life. We will aim for a further two family services this year: Harvest (24 th September) and Christmas (provisionally 17 th December). |

STEWARDING & COMMUNION ROTA

Door Duty Groups:

I	Roddy MacMillan	Sylvia Muir	Diane Allan
II	Andrew Adamson	Lilian Crouthers	Anne Collins
III	Dave Brown	Dave Fairgrieve	Maureen Gove
IV	Don Clark	Erica Kirkhope	Irene Hutchison Sandra Adamson
V	David Galloway	Liz Bushnell	Stella Allan

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

		Group	Church Officer	Communion
October	1	III	D Fairgrieve/D Brown	D Brown & D Fairgrieve
	8	IV	E Kirkhope/I Hutchison	
	15	V	L Bushnell	
	22	I	D. Allan/S Muir	
	29	II	A Adamson/L Crouthers	
November	5	III	D Brown	D Brown & D Fairgrieve
	12	IV	D Clark	(Remembrance Sunday)
	19	V	D Galloway/S Allan	
	26	I	R MacMillan	
December	3	II	A Adamson	A Adamson & L Crouthers
	10	III	D Fairgrieve	(Gift Service)
	17	IV	I Hutchison	(Christmas Family Service)
	24	V	L Bushnell	(Carol Service)
	24	TBA	Christmas Eve Service	
	25	TBA	Christmas Day Service	
January	31	I	S Muir	
	7	II	L Crouthers	A Adamson & L Crouthers
	14	III	D Brown	
	21	IV	E Kirkhope	
February	28	V	S Allan	
	4	I	D Allan	D Allan & R MacMillan
	11	II	A Adamson	
	18	III	D Fairgrieve	(Thinking Day Family Service)
March	25	IV	D Clark	
	4	V	D Galloway	L. Bushnell & S Allan
	11	I	R MacMillan	
	18	II	L Crouthers	
April	25	III	D Brown	(Palm Sunday)
	1	IV	I Hutchison	D Clark & I Hutchison (Easter)
	8	V	L Bushnell	
	15	I	S Muir	
	22	II	A Adamson	
	29	III	D Fairgrieve	

INSIDE BACK COVER

CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

All services and activities are held in the High Street building

Worship	Sunday 10.30am (unless otherwise intimated)
Rainbows	Monday 6.00pm
Brownies	Tuesday 6.00pm
Guides	Wednesday 7.00pm
Craft Group	Wednesday 7.00pm
Coffee Day	Second Saturday of each month 10.00am – 2.00pm

Tea and Coffee are served after worship on Sundays following Coffee Days.

Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

The table is open to all, including children.

Minister

Rev. Kevin Flett

46 Mid Street, Kirkcaldy

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 Masereene 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