

No. 404**Summer 2016**46 Mid Street
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Dear Friends,

When people ask me if I have a favourite season, I'm never entirely sure what to answer. In truth I like all of the seasons for different reasons. Someone once described the four seasons in the following terms:

Autumn - wheezy, sneezy, freezy.

Winter - slippy, drippy, nippy.

Spring - showery, flowery, bowery.

Summer - hoppy, croppy, poppy.

Perhaps I actually enjoy the changing of the seasons, the transitions and variations that make up the movement of the year. The Spanish American philosopher, George Santayana, is quoted as having said, "To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring."

We, of course, face change in more than the seasons of the year. This past year has been a period of transition for us as a church, and I feel that we are approaching a new season in our life together. I believe that this can be an enriching and positive experience for us, but it won't be without challenges.

There are a number of aspects that we will need to reflect upon. There is the fabric of our building, which will require substantial investment in coming years to remain useable, and even greater investment if it is to be fit for renewed purpose. This must be considered against the trajectory of our membership. Though much reduced compared to previous decades, we are still blessed with a strong core of committed people with the gifts and abilities that can take us forward. However how we use those abilities must be shaped by the future and not the past. Also in the mix is our relationship with the Pathhead Church. The sharing of ministry across the two churches was never predicated on the churches merging, but as I talk with folk in both churches, there is a growing sense that this might be inevitable, even desirable. If this is so, would it not be best to be proactive, rather than to wait until one or both churches are no longer viable. This of course raises a whole range of other considerations.

It is worth remembering one of the underpinning principles of our Congregational way of being church, which is that no one can or will tell us what we must do. Any decisions regarding our future will be taken by us as a fellowship of Christ's people together. This also means that we carry the responsibility for taking decisions that will have far reaching consequences for our church.

I know that with many of you there is a deep affection for the church, a genuine love for a fellowship of people which has nurtured and sustained you in the way of faith over the years. There is also a deep affection for the place in which the church has met over these years, a place full of memories. Yet we must take care that our love is not a hopeless love bound up with nostalgia and a longing to hold on to what we have, simply because it feels good to us.

Dare we risk cultivating a happier state of mind which embraces the changing seasons of church life, believing that the arrival of a new season can herald a time of growth and renewal?

In these summer months we will begin to explore some of these questions together, in our worship, at our church meeting, and hopefully in honest and positive conversations which explore the way forward.

Wishing you each every blessing,

Kevin



CHURCH ROLL

Death

Mrs Chrissie Herd, Falkland
Mrs Jessie McEwan, Kirkcaldy

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FLOWER SERVICE ROTA



July	3	-
	10	Miss N Carstairs
	17	Miss J Hutson
	24	Miss D Allan
	31	A friend
August	7	Mrs G Skinner
	14	Mrs H Galloway
	21	-
	28	A friend
September	4	Mrs I Cunningham
	11	Mrs M Fairgrieve
	18	Miss D McKenzie
	25	Harvest
October	2	A friend
	9	Mrs N McLean
	16	Mr P Taylor
	23	Mrs V Flett
	30	Mrs A Allan
November	6	-
	13	Remembrance
	20	Mr D Fairgrieve
	27	Mrs L Lowe

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).

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THE THINGS WE DO!

Many of our members and friends are involved in interesting and challenging roles, through their work or as volunteers. In this issue we welcome some news from one our Deacons and a Trustee, Don Clark. Don has had a long career at sea – in the Royal Navy, and currently in the Royal Fleet Auxilliary, serving very much in a humanitarian role as a highly skilled Medical Technician. The following article is made up of extracts from emails Don has sent over the past few weeks, while on active deployment. We also continue to remember Don while he's away, as well as Ann and the family at home.

Chronicles from the Gulf

“... since joining, it's been non-stop. Went straight into an exercise immediately afterwards, going into a work-up to prepare the ship for its deployment.

Survived all that, and now we are making our way out to the Gulf to take up our tasking in fact we are alongside in Souda Bay, Crete with our sister ship,



conducting the handover off to do a bit of 'Occupational Health' monitoring – 'speak' later.

“Good Afternoon The ship finally arrived in 'The Gulf' We are in the full swing of supporting the Royal Navy presence out here. The ship is the UK Afloat Forward Support Base my particular

department and staff, look after the primary care of the Minesweeper crews out here, which started off with a rush of patients

The temperatures continue to climb as the Gulf summer establishes itself, with the daily reading exceeding 40°C (104°F). By the end of the month it will be reaching its zenith of 50°C at midday. Already by 06:00 it is getting too hot to go for a run, so it's early to bed in order to get up at 05:00 for my daily run – which makes me very tired by 20:00!

It's Ramadan, so we as the visitors have to be conscious of the various religious restrictions imposed, such as not eating or drinking in public during day light hours. In addition males are not to wear shorts ashore in public and females are to be fully covered. Fortunately my daily run is within the boundary of the port so I can get away with running in my 'go-faster' shorts!

There is an Anglican church (only Christian church here in Bahrain I believe) however Sunday is a full working day for me because the ship has adopted the Arab weekend routine – Friday is a Saturday and Saturday is a Sunday!

I have only two photo's from this trip so far. The first is of the HQ of Commander in Chief of Gibraltar Forces, Flag Staff House. This incidentally is the starting and finish position of the famous Gib Rock Race.



The second photo is of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at the head of Souda Bay, Crete. It so happens I visited it two days before the 75th of the airborne invasion of Crete by the Germans in WW2. The Allied forces suffered great casualties (majority being Australian and NZ Troops). Half of the graves are marked 'unknown soldier' due to the chaos and break down of a defeated Allied army.

If you look very carefully up the bay and to the left you may see my ship berthed at the Naval Base – or maybe not!

I'll sign off now as it's time for my afternoon cup of tea!

Regards

Don

NEWS UPDATE

Spring Fair

Our first Spring Fair took place in May, with a great selection of plants and various gardening goodies on display, along with lots of home baking, marmalade, books and bric-a-brac.

As ever a lot of folk worked very hard and we're indebted to them for making the Fair such a success.

Almost £700 was raised for church funds. Thank you!



Lent & Easter

The Lent and Easter period offered different opportunities for worship and reflection. It was good to be able to share with the friends from the Pathhead Church, and with some of the other local churches.

Our joint communion service on Maundy Thursday was well attended, as was the joint Good Friday service at Pathhead. The picture shows the table laid out for the service on Maundy Thursday.



Building Update

Everyone will be aware that a great deal of work has been ongoing over the past few months. We are hopeful that this phase of work will be complete soon, and the scaffolding will be removed. As we anticipated, when such work is undertaken, it can begin to expose other things which need to be attended to. Following successful repairs on the flat roof above the ladies' toilet and at the base of the steeple, it also became evident that there was a need for significant emergency repairs to be done around the roof vents where there was ingress of water, this was reported to the last Church meeting. The removal of the pigeons and the build up of guano (amounting to around 6 tonnes) was a difficult job, which required the services of a specialist company.

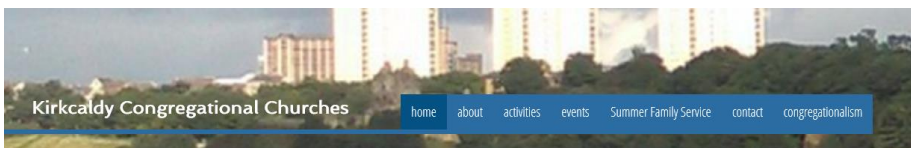
Once all of this work has been completed, the trustees will take stock of the situation, and begin to consider the other work recommended in the surveyor's report.

A full account of the work done to date will be given at the Church meeting in July, along with the opportunity to comment on plans to deal with the next phase of work.

Web site

A new web site for both churches has been "live" now for a few months now. We try to keep it up to date, with information about what is coming up and news of what has been happening. If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to pass these on to Kevin.

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk



DATES FOR 2016

Joint Family Service:	26 June, 11.15am. Followed by Church lunch
Church Meeting:	19 July, 7.30pm
Autumn Fair & Produce sale:	Friday 23 – Saturday 24 September, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Harvest Sunday:	Harvest Family Service, 25 September, 11.15am Joint Harvest Songs of Praise & Harvest Tea, 4.00pm, held in the Pathhead Church
Remembrance Sunday:	Sunday 13 November. Note service commences at 10:45am
Craft Fair:	Friday 25 – Saturday 26 November, 10.00am – 2.00pm
Advent 2016:	Sunday 27 November is the first Sunday in Advent

General dates

Communion:	03 July; 04 September; 06 November
Newsletter:	Deadline for contributions, 30 October. Ready for distribution 27 November
Coffee Days:	Second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Tea and Coffee are served following the service on the Sundays after Coffee Days.

Reflection

In these past weeks there have been some terrible events reported in the news, at home and abroad. Perhaps this prayer sits at the heart of the response of people of faith, especially as we respond to the call to be among those who practice love.

MAY THOSE WHO
PRACTICE HATE
GROW WEARY,
MAY THOSE WHO
PRACTICE LOVE
GROW STRONG.

SUNDAY 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	E. Kirkhope

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

		Group	Church Officer	Communion Servers
July	3	II	D. Galloway	D. Galloway & A. Adamson
	10	III	E. Kirkhope	
	17	I	D. Allan	
	24	II	A. Adamson	
August	31	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	7	I	R. MacMillan	
	14	II	J. Hutson	
	21	III	L. Bushnell	
September	28	II	D. Galloway	
	4	I	D. Allan	R. MacMillan & D. Allan
	11	II	A. Adamson	
	18	III	E. Kirkhope	
October	25	I	R. MacMillan	
	2	II	J. Hutson	
	9	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	16	I	D. Allan	
	23	II	D. Galloway	
November	30	III	L. Bushnell	
	6	I	R. MacMillan	
	13	II	A. Adamson	
	20	III	E. Kirkhope	
December	27	I	D. Allan	
	4	III	D. Fairgrieve	D. Fairgrieve & E. Kirkhope
	11	I	R. MacMillan	
	18	II	J. Hutson	
	25	III	L. Bushnell	

We welcomed Diane Allan and Erica Kirkhope as new deacons following our AGM in March. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this way. We also welcomed Don Clark back on to the diaconate, and said thanks to Ella Rennie, who has stepped down after a number of years as a deacon.

WEST END CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**STANDING ORDER REQUEST**

Bank or Building Society:

Sorting Code: [.] – [.] – [.]

Account Number:

Name of Account to be Debited:

Payment to be made to: West End Congregational Church
 Account No. 00518006
 Sorting Code 80 16 84
 Bank of Scotland
 PO Box No. 10,
 Carberry Road,
 Mitchelston Industrial Estate,
 Kirkcaldy. KY1 3PA.

Amount: £.....

Frequency: [e.g. Monthly]

Payment Date: [e.g. 5th of Month]

Starting Date: [e.g. Today's Date]

Narrative:

[e.g. Offering - West End Congregational Church]

Customer Authority: Please Debit my / our Account with payments shown above.

Signature Date.....