

No. 401

June 2015

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Dear Friends,

I'm not sure what message life is trying to send me, but the past few weeks seem to have flown by. Everyone has made us feel very welcome and at home, and for this we are grateful.

You were given a very full account of my personal story in the last newsletter, so hopefully you know a little about me. I have enjoyed beginning to get around the congregation, listening to your stories and I hope getting to know each of you a bit better. I'm trying not to rush round, but rather take time to listen and absorb as best I can. However there is a lot to take in! Please be patient, I feel a bit like Homer Simpson. When he learns something new, with his limited brain capacity something old has to fall off the other end to make room for the new information!

As a congregation we have been through a process of change, transitioning from a long and enriching ministry to a new ministry. As we look back with gratitude, so, simultaneously we look forward with ? Perhaps all of us will fill in the blank differently. As I speak with folk there is certainly a sense of anticipation, even expectation, but this is tempered by a degree of uncertainty, even apprehension.

This is natural, even healthy. The church, if it is the living body we like to think of it as, must be in a process of constant renewal. I was tempted to use the word change, but sometimes this raises unnecessary fears. I'm sure the church now is quite different from the church as it was 35 years ago and will be different from the church which will emerge and unfold in coming years. As we look back we cannot alter what has changed. Perhaps the most we are able to do is to alter our perspective, we can broadly celebrate or lament what has gone (I'd suggest there is much more to celebrate than lament!) However, when we look forward we face fresh opportunities. We are part of the process of renewal and can participate in shaping what will emerge in the future. I hope there will be opportunities in coming months for us all to participate in shaping our future as we seek renewed vision.

Jeremiah records God's vision for God's people at one stage, "I know what I am doing. I have it all planned out – plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for." (Jeremiah 29: 11, The Message)

Wishing you each every blessing

Kevin

CHURCH ROLL**2015****Deaths**

May	Nancy Wallace; 7 Barnet Crescent, Kirkcaldy
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Baptisms

April	Bailey Davies & Byron Davies; Valley Gardens, Kirkcaldy
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FLOWER SERVICE ROTA**2015**

July	5	J. Spence
	12	N. Carstairs
	19	J. Hutson
	26	D. Allan
August	2	E. Paterson
	9	-
	16	H. Galloway
	23	-
	30	I. Cunningham
September	6	M. Fairgrieve
	13	-
	20	Harvest
	27	W. Tarbet
October	4	D. McKenzie
	11	N. McLean
	18	J. Ingles
	25	V. & K. Flett
November	1	A. Allan
	8	Remembrance
	15	D. Fairgrieve
	22	L. Lowe
	29	-

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).

Service of Covenant

It was good to be able to share in fellowship with our friends from the Pathhead Congregational Church on Sunday 17 May in our Service of Covenant. Whilst partly the service marked the recognition of Kevin's ministry across the two churches, the primary focus was on the two churches formally agreeing to work more closely together.



For the avoidance of doubt, there are no plans for the churches to merge, the commitment is to recognise the continuing independence of each church. However, there are ways in which we can work more closely together, with a shared approach to ministry being a starting point. Throughout the year there may be opportunities to have occasional shared

services, and there may be other activities we can do together.

The covenant agreed at church meetings of both churches in March, and read out together on 17 May said:

As members of the two Congregational churches in Kirkcaldy, we covenant together in God's service. It is our purpose to work together where possible in ministry and mission.

We respect the continuing independence and autonomy of our churches, yet we seek through the Holy Spirit a deepening of our communion with Christ and with one another.

We rejoice in the traditions we have inherited and seek to share them more fully with one another in the unity which is the will of God.

We commit together to demonstrating the reconciling power of Jesus Christ in a divided world through our worship and witness in our town and beyond.

We therefore make this commitment to God and to each other.

The covenant was signed by Bob Terras on behalf of West End, and Irene Hutchison on behalf of Pathhead.

We record our thanks to those who contributed to making it a memorable day, bringing together various arrangements on the day, including a lovely lunch after the service (action shots included!)

We were blessed to have Revd. May-Kane Logan from the Congregational Federation in Scotland leading the service, and Revd. Andrew Rollinson from St Andrew's Baptist Church preaching.



Sunday Worship

To guide our weekly worship, as a general rule we will follow the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of readings covering the broad themes of the Old and New Testaments. It is used internationally and ecumenically by many protestant churches. It varies a bit from the lectionaries used in the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions, but helps to bring a sense of togetherness to Christian worship, for example folk unable to attend on a Sunday might listen to worship on the radio, and will often find the lectionary readings are being used.

Normally we will at least use the day's gospel reading and one of the Psalms. Occasionally we will use one of the various other readings. For those with an urge to see what might be coming, the handiest guide with all the year's readings is found following this link:

http://www.united-church.ca/files/planning/lectionary/lectionary_bulletins2015.pdf

We already have a small group of volunteers willing to do our readings on a Sunday, a few more would be welcome! It is hoped that over time there can be greater participation in worship.

Prayers for Home

These are linked to the lectionary for the month, and taken from the publication "Feasting on the Word."

Morning Prayers

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day.

Please help me to stay mindful of your creation and your teachings as I travel through it.

Empower me to see and spread the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

Lord Jesus,

help me walk blamelessly and do what is right, to speak the truth in love,

to avoid gossip and slander, and do good to all I meet,

that I may abide in your presence and dwell in fellowship with the Holy Trinity.

Amen.

Evening Prayer

Holy One, thank you for the gift of today.

Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory and learned your teachings beyond speech and words.

As I drift to sleep this night, may the meditations of my heart draw me closer to you, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.

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Sunday Door Duty & Communion Rota

Door Duty Groups:

I	R. MacMillan	E. Rennie	A Collins
II	J. Hutson	A. Adamson	D. Galloway
III	D. Fairgrieve	L. Bushnell	J. Thomson

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

		Group	Church Officer	Communion Servers
July	5	III	D. Fairgrieve	D. Fairgrieve & L. Bushnell
	12	I	E. Rennie	
	19	II	J. Hutson	
	26	III	L. Bushnell	
August	2	I	R. MacMillan	
	9	II	A. Adamson	
	16	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	23	I	E. Rennie	
	30	II	D. Galloway	
September	6	I	R. MacMillan	R. MacMillan & E. Rennie
	13	III	L. Bushnell	
	20	II	J. Hutson	
	27	III	D. Fairgrieve	
October	4	I	E. Rennie	
	11	II	A. Adamson	
	18	III	L. Bushnell	
	25	I	R. MacMillan	
November	1	II	D. Galloway	A. Adamson & D. Galloway
	8	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	15	I	E. Rennie	
	22	II	J. Hutson	
	29	III	L. Bushnell	
December	6	I	R. MacMillan	
	13	II	A. Adamson	
	20	III	D. Fairgrieve	
	27	I	E. Rennie	

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Notable Dates

Church Meetings:	July (Tuesday 14 July, 7.30pm) & November (date to be agreed)
Communion:	05 July; 06 September; 01 November
Newsletter	Deadline for contributions, 25 October 2015 Ready for distribution, 22 November 2015
Harvest Sunday:	20 September (11.15am)
Remembrance Sunday:	08 November (10.45am)
1st Sunday in Advent:	29 November (11.15am)
Coffee Days:	Second Saturday of each month

Pathhead Congregational Church

The Pathhead Church have a range of activities each week. Some are church activities, some are run by other groups using the church premises.

Sunday

Worship – held weekly at 10am, with Communion on the second Sunday and tea & coffee after the service on the third Sunday each month.

Monday

The Dog Club meets at 7.30pm

Wednesday

The Craft group meets at 7.30pm (there have been various projects including knitting for Malawi, banner making and craft making for the Christmas Fayre). The group is open, and anyone from West End wishing to go along would be very welcome.

Thursday

The “Care Free Chorus” meets in the church at 10am for rehearsal. The choir is for anyone from Fife who is an unpaid carer, they say they have a great time! Last year they sang at the Scottish Parliament!

From July one of the local groups of the University of the Third Age (U3A) will be using the hall for a monthly meeting. The church also runs occasional coffee mornings, and joins in with other local churches in the east of the town for joint services during Advent and Holy Week and for ecumenical Bible study groups.

Guides & Brownies

By the time this newsletter goes out, the Guides and Brownies will have finished another session.

As everyone will be aware, Elspeth is very keen to recruit new leaders in order to sustain these activities from the start of the new session in August. Regular help each week would be ideal, but support on a less regular basis would also be very welcome.

If this is something you might wish to commit to, please speak to Kevin in the first instance.

“When Day is Done”

(By Jimmy Sinclair, aged 103)

When day is done, and shadows fall,
If it is “Your will”, please hear “Our call”,
The way is dark, we cannot see,
Unless, O Lord we are with Thee.
We trust, O Lord, we are with Thee
The cross, O Lord you had to bear,
You died for us, O Lord, we care.

We need Thee Lord, when spirit’s low,
Or when we suffer from a blow,
You help us Lord, combatting sin
You help when we are giving in
We are secure, Lord by your side
When we have nothing for to hide.

When day is done
And shadows fall,
If it is Thy will
Please hear our call.



From Dysart St Clair Parish Church

Friends at Dysart St Clair will welcome the Osiligi Maasai Warriors on **Saturday 29th August** - 2pm at the Viewforth Building (just off St Clair St) and 7.30pm at the Dysart Building (West Wynd).

Tickets £8 Adults and £4 Under 16 and concessions. This is a great opportunity to see the Dance troupe and also to view and buy their crafts.

Tickets available from "T" rooms in Viewforth Church Building on Wednesdays 10am - 2pm and Dysart Community Cafe, Dysart Centre, on Fridays 10am - 3pm. Also, by phoning 01592 264390 or 561967.

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.....