



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis - December 2013

In her opening worship the Moderator, Myra Deas, talked about God's timing and ours and reminded us that God's timing is not always our timing. She also posed the question, 'Are we ready?'

Membership – Myra welcomed Mrs Elizabeth Gray, the new representative elder from Thornton, and Rev Dr George Nicol who has recently retired from St Andrews Presbytery.

New minister for Dysart St Clair - Presbytery sustained the Call to the Rev Maureen MacDougall, minister of Meadowside: St Paul's in the Presbytery of Dundee, to Dysart St Clair, subject to the approval of the Presbytery of Dundee. The service of Induction will be held on Thursday 23 January 2014 at 7.00pm in the Viewforth building of Dysart St Clair. The Moderator will conduct worship, and the Rev Alan Kimmitt will preach. Presbytery will meet at 6.45pm. In his address to Presbytery the Session Clerk, Raymond Domin, praised and thanked Rev Alexandra Rosener for all her help and hard work as Interim Moderator.

Retirement of Alex Forsyth – Members of the congregation of Markinch were present to hear their Session Clerk and the Moderator pay tribute to Rev Alex Forsyth who will retire at the end of January after 40 years in ministry. Both spoke warmly of his dry humour, his enthusiasm, his commitment and his strong desire to help people understand the word of God. Both wished him well in his retirement. Alex spoke briefly (because brevity is accounted unto you as righteousness) of his ministry, mentioning particularly the two charges he has served in this Presbytery – Leven: St Andrew's and Markinch. He made mention of the challenge of getting people to think theologically, the privilege of being with people in all the experiences of life.

Union of Markinch and Thornton Parish Churches - Presbytery approved a Union between the congregations of Markinch and Thornton with both congregations retaining their church sanctuaries and halls. The Basis of Union is to be drawn up by 31st March 2014.

Glenrothes: St. Margaret's - Presbytery granted the charge of Glenrothes: St. Margaret's leave to call on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure, as indicated in the Presbytery Plan.

Ministries Development Staff Posts and Job Descriptions – Following the decision made by Presbytery to reduce the number of Parish Assistants in Glenrothes and Leslie from 4 to 3 the congregations have worked together to decide on posts and draw up job descriptions. Presbytery approved these. Families Worker /Parish Assistant, Christ's Kirk and St. Margaret's, Glenrothes. Families Worker /Pastoral Assistant, Rothes Trinity Parish Grouping. Youth and Children's Worker – Glenrothes and Leslie Churches of Scotland.

Lead Water Pipes – Following an issue at Kirkcaldy: Bennochty Presbytery was asked to note that the maximum limit for the Prescribed Concentration or Value (PCV) for lead content in drinking water from a tap is currently 25 microgrammes per litre, and that this limit will be further reduced to 10 microgrammes per litre from the end of 2013. Any congregation that is aware of having lead water pipes in any of their buildings may contact Scottish Water Customer Service Helpline on 0845 601 8855 to request advice. Scottish Water may organize a water sample from the affected buildings. Scottish Water also have a Factsheet No. 7 entitled *LEAD EXPLAINED* which is available to download from their website. Advice may also be obtained by contacting Fife Council's Environmental Services Department.

Manse Condition Schedules – Following lengthy discussion Presbytery agreed to instruct Congregations to include in their Manse Conditions Schedule an energy performance certificate for the property, and requires appropriate action be taken within a reasonable time to reduce energy bills. (Free surveys available – see paper mentioned below.)

Energy and Environment - Presbytery encourages Congregations and Presbyters to consider its Church and Society Committee's paper "Easy Energy and Environment Resources" as a resource for saving and sharing energy responsibly. (appended)

Pulpit Interchange – The annual Pulpit Interchange will be on Sunday 9th February. Members of Presbytery have a copy of the rota.

Ministries Consultation - Rev Bryan Tomlinson represented Presbytery at the latest Ministries Council Consultation on Ministries Now and Tomorrow. He gave us a few statistics to note. As at October 2013 there are approximately 227 vacancies in the kirk. The number of serving ministers under 30 years of age is 1. The number of serving ministers aged 50 years and above – 84%! At present we have about 840 serving parish ministers and 92 MDS in post. A best 'guesstimate' about full time ministries 7 years from now is that we might have about 600 serving parish ministers and about 140/150 MDS.

Safeguarding - Andy Strachan of Dysart St Clair was appointed as a safeguarding trainer

Prayers for the Nation - Presbytery commends prayer times in 2014 (to be arranged by the Prayer Coordinator and the prayer network) as part in the Year of Prayer for the Nation, the dates and venues to be added to "The Stand" prayer calendar.

Praying Across Scotland – The Clerk has sent an extract minute to the Mission and Discipleship Council and the Assembly Arrangements Committee expressing the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy's deep concern at the lack of "official" prayer material being issued in the lead up to the General Assembly – along with some suggestions!

Maternity Leave - Rev Alexandra Rosener of Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk will be on maternity leave from early January. The Moderator conveyed the good wishes of Presbytery to Alexandra and her husband at this exciting time. Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison will serve as joint locums and Interim Moderators.

Celebrate and Discover – Gillian Paterson updated Presbytery on progress. The 10 week countdown begins on 12 January 2014. There is a need for stewards, musicians, singers, trained 'ski pad operators' (you'll know if you are one!!), workshop contributors....



"I am the vine and you are the branches"

Saturday 22nd March from 10am to 5pm

in Kirkcaldy High School

THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN!

Presbytery meets next at 6.35pm on Thursday 23 January in the Viewforth building of Dysart St Clair for the Induction of Rev Maudeen MacDougall and thereafter at 7.00pm on Tuesday 4 February 2014 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.