



# Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

## Presbytery Précis - December 2014

In his opening worship the Moderator, Rev Robin McAlpine, spoke of journeys and how Advent, the waiting time, is part of the journey of faith. 'Hold us in this place of Advent that we might wait on Immanuel, God with us.'

**Fife Carers Centre** - Lesley Childs from the Fife Carers Centre addressed Presbytery about the work of the Centre and the support that it can offer to carers. They are a small charity dedicated to supporting the unpaid carers of Fife. They believe that by supporting carers in a wide variety of ways they can help them to sustain their caring roles without harming their own well-being. They work one to one with carers or with common interest groups to help them to deal with some of the difficulties that often arise. They represent carers interests to local and national government and work hard to raise awareness of carers and the issues associated with caring. The Centre can be contacted at 157 Commercial St, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 2NS, 01592 205472, [www.fifecarerscentre.org](http://www.fifecarerscentre.org)

**Congregational Statistics Forms** – This year these forms will be sent electronically to Session Clerks for completion and return to the Clerk by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

**Delegated Powers** – To accommodate congregations Presbytery agreed to increase the powers delegated to the Fabric and Finance Committee from £20,000 to £30,000.

**Presbytery Accounts** - Presbytery approved the accounts for 2013/14 submitted by the Treasurer and Business Committee and approved the proposed budget for 2014/15 (£16,882 to be met by congregations within the bounds). Presbytery thanked Andrew Duncan and William Aitken for their independent examination of the accounts and approved their appointment for 2014/15. Presbytery warmly thanked Miss Jane Webster for carrying out the duties of Presbytery Treasurer with diligence and care.

**M&D Musings** – The first edition of this quarterly newsletter produced by our Mission and Discipleship Committee is just about to be sent out to publicity contacts, Session Clerks and Ministers. It will contain details of all the resources that are available to congregations, along with events that are taking place that may be of interest and help to churches. If your congregation is still to appoint a contact person please let Rev Gillian Paterson know when this is done.

**The God Question** – Rev Gillian Paterson, Convener of Mission and Discipleship, commended this new resource to Presbyters. An information evening will be held at a venue to be confirmed on Tuesday 3 February 2015 at 7.00pm for members of Presbytery and participants from congregations. Representatives of the company who produced the resource will be present to introduce their programmes and the accompanying study guide.

**Other Resources** – Two other resources were brought to the attention of Presbyters:

St Andrews University Lecture Series - <http://www.jamesgregory.org.uk/>

Edinburgh University – Science and Christian Theology Course - <http://www.docs.hss.ed.ac.uk/divinity/current-students/flyer/THET10010.pdf>

**Nuclear weapons** - The Faslane Easter Witness for Peace is to be held on Saturday 28 March 2015. The Church and Society Committee will explore transport options. Please contact a member of the committee if you might be interested in going.

**Jubilee Scotland** – Jubilee Scotland will be supported by the Big Give on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Donations made as close as possible to 10am on these days will be doubled.

<http://www.jubileescotland.org.uk/doubledonations/>

**Prayer for the Middle East** - Presbytery encourages congregations to pray for peace in the Middle East on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/mission\\_worldwide/get\\_involved/prayers-for-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territories](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/mission_worldwide/get_involved/prayers-for-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territories).

**Activism against Gender-Based Violence** - Presbytery encourages congregations to be aware of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (25 November to 10 December)

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/news/2014/church-to-launch-campaign-tackling-violence-against-women](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/church-to-launch-campaign-tackling-violence-against-women)). A related year round initiative for men working to end violence against women is the White Ribbon campaign (<http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk/>)

**Education Rep** - There is still a vacancy for a church representative for Education on Fife Council. The current term is until May 2017. Nomination to this role is open to anyone with an interest in education. There is an application process. For more details, please contact Rev Alan Kimmitt or the Clerk. Because of the structure of the council, the role is somewhat flexible. However, many of the relevant meetings are held on Tuesday mornings in Glenrothes.

**Lightning Conductors** - Congregations and Property Conveners are reminded that if any Church property has a lightning conductor installed it should be the subject of periodic inspection and testing by an approved person (every 15 months).

**Chaplain to Retired Ministers of Presbytery** - Rev Tilly Wilson has been appointed to serve as Chaplain to retired ministers of Presbytery.

**Chaplains to Football Clubs** - Presbytery noted that Rev Jim Reid was recently appointed to serve as Chaplain to Raith Rovers Football Club. Rev Richard Baxter has served as Chaplain to East Fife Football Club since 2011.

**Pulpit Interchange Sunday** – This will be held on Sunday 8 February 2015. Presbyters have copies of the rota. Host churches are reminded to make contact with their visiting minister in good time.

**Fewer Ministers More Ministries** - Presbytery received the report 'Fewer Ministers More Ministries' and instructed Kirk Sessions to discuss, complete and return the accompanying questionnaire to Rev Richard Baxter by 20 January 2015 (where possible) at the latest. Members of Presbytery have copies.

**Presbytery Plan** - The Presbytery Plan has been updated to take account of recent changes and developments. Presbyters have details and an electronic copy of the updated plan.

**Vocations Champion** - Rev Alan Kimmitt has been appointed Vocations Champion for the Fife Presbyteries. This is a new venture and Alan will keep us up to date on latest developments.

**Christmas Tree Festival** – Kinghorn Parish Church is holding a Christmas Tree Festival (16 trees decorated to portray Christmas carols.) The festival will run for three days. Opening times are Saturday 6 December, 3.00-7.00 pm, Sunday 7, 2.00-7.00 pm and Wednesday 10, 5.00- 8.00 pm. Entry for the event is £4 which includes a programme, refreshments and home made shortbread.

The Moderator prayed that all would know God's blessing over Christmas and the New Year.

*Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 3 March 2015 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.*