



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis-December 2015

Welcome to a new Minister - The Moderator, Rev Rosie Frew, welcomed to his first meeting of Presbytery Rev Scott McCrum, newly ordained and inducted to the charge of Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk.

In her opening worship, Rosie used the first verse of hymn 198 ' Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live... built of hopes and dreams and visions...', to speak of how much we need this time of Advent, waiting for Christ, to resource ourselves to open our hearts and minds so that 'all are welcome in this place'.

A Vocation within a Vocation – Rev Cole Maynard, Deputy Asst Chaplain General to the Army, addressed Presbytery about the work of a padre in the armed forces. He spoke of the uniqueness of the job – you wear the same uniform as the soldiers, you live where they live, you share their experiences, yet you are unarmed, for you belong to the church, not to the army. God calls you as a padre into some scary places, where you create sacred spaces with and for the men and women to whom you minister, hence the vocation within a vocation. He asked that as congregations we pray for the armed forces, support military families and care for those returning from conflicts.

Overture amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships (Act 1 2015) - Rev Rosie Frew, as Presbytery Clerk, explained the reasons for this second debate on this subject. With the passing of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Act 2014 permitting same-sex marriage Act 1 2015 is already in need of amendment to ensure that there is no anomaly in Church Law between those in a Civil Partnership and those in a Same Sex Marriage. Several points of view were expressed, and Presbyters then proceed to cast a personal vote in a secret ballot. 32 votes were cast for the amendments, and 20 against. *(Nothing in this Act implies that the Church permits or will permit its ministers or deacons to register civil partnerships or solemnise same sex marriages.)*

Service of Introduction - Presbytery welcomed Miss Iona Pringle who is the new MDS worker with the congregation of Kennoway, Windygates & Balgonie: St Kenneth's. Her formal service of introduction will be on Thursday 28 January at 7 pm.

Administrative Support - A small committee has been appointed to determine the best structure to support Presbytery in the future, pending the retirement of the current Clerks and Administrator.

Conference Follow-up - Conveners of the standing committees are encouraged to make contact with their counterparts in the presbyteries of Dunfermline and St Andrews, with a view to exploring possibilities for future joint working.

Stewardship & Finance - Information has been issued to Session Clerks and Treasurers, whose congregations prepare annual accrued accounts. Examples and guidance of the revised SORP reporting format has been issued and confirms the requirement for implementation of these changes in accounts prepared for the year ending 31 December 2015. The Stewardship and Finance department has also issued a useful checklist and reminder of changes to the Gift Aid schemes which are effective from April 2016.

Job Vacancy – The Convener of the Fabric and Finance Committee is due to stand down next summer. It is felt that ideally this could be a job-share for two people, each having experience and knowledge in one of the areas covered. These positions are open to any church member within

the Presbytery, not necessarily an existing member of Presbytery. Expressions of interest to the Presbytery Clerk.

Encouraging church twinning - Hearing about existing twinning arrangements is a good way to encourage new twinings, so the Church and Society Committee will be gathering information about existing arrangements from congregations who are already in twinning partnerships.

Mental Health - There is some excellent free training available on Mental Health from the NHS. This includes the Scottish Mental Health First Aid course and the ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Training). Information on these is available at www.healthyfife.net

Welcoming refugees - Presbytery representatives have met with Fife Migrants Forum. The situation regarding support of Syrian refugees is quite complicated at the moment and the requirement for practical support is currently limited. However, they are hoping to arrange three events in the new year with a Syrian speaker and an exhibition of pictures drawn by children in a refugee camp in Lebanon. The Place at the Table project is still active and more information can be found at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/place_at_the_table

Students for the Ministry – Following a recent recruitment drive “Tomorrow’s Calling”, the Church of Scotland has 27 new candidates for ministry. This Presbytery has two new students - Dawn Laing is already on placement with St Bryce Kirk, and the Moderator introduced Chris Hay, an elder in St Columba’s Kirk Session, who will embark on her studies next year.

Pulpit Interchange Sunday - This will be held on Sunday 7 February 2016. Presbyters have copies of the rota. Host churches are reminded to contact their visiting minister in good time.

Parish Ministers’ PVG Checks - All Parish Ministers within the bounds are instructed to ensure that they respond to requests from the Safeguarding Office to complete PVG checks in accordance with Act V11 2011(as amended).

Presbytery Plan - The Presbytery Plan has been reviewed and referred without amendment to the Ministries Council Planning Task group.

Youth Rep to General Assembly - Congregations are invited to nominate a Youth Representative (aged 18 – 25) to represent Presbytery at the General Assembly 2016. Applications should be with the Presbytery Clerk before 1 February.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection – Presbyters saw two video clips from this organisation as an introduction to ‘The Parents’ and Carers’ Guide to the Internet’ programme. Congregations are invited to send two representatives to a meeting on Monday 18 January at 7 pm in St Ninian’s Church, Glenrothes to view the video in full. It is expected the information will then be communicated to congregational members. Please contact Taylor Bell with names.

Local Church Reviews – The congregations of Kirkcaldy: Templehall and Kirkcaldy: Linktown w. Auchtertool will be visited during next year.

Christmas Carol Singing – There will be an opportunity for folks to come together at Morrisons store on Friday 18 December from 2 – 3 pm to sing carols and raise money for the Victoria Hospice and the Red Cross Appeal for Refugees. All welcome.

Congregational Statistics Forms – This year these forms will be sent electronically to Session Clerks for completion and return to the Clerk by 31st January 2016.

Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 1 March 2016 in St Bryce Kirk Centre, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.