



# Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

## Presbytery Précis - December 2012

In his opening worship the Moderator, Rev Tony Fowler, reflected on Advent and on a world that says 'no' to Christianity but 'yes' to Christmas and the celebration of Christ's birth. This is, and always has been, the challenge for the church.

Presbytery welcomed Rev Andrew Philip of Dunfermline: St Leonard's who is the Church of Scotland's Education Representative on Fife Council. He spoke of the church's long history of involvement in education, an involvement that continues today with the 3 religious representatives on the education committee of Fife Council. He commented that whilst some groups in society would question the church's role in a Council's work, Mike Russell MSP, the Education Minister, had spoken highly of the importance of the contribution made by religious representatives. Andrew demonstrated that he takes the responsibility he has been entrusted with very seriously. He encouraged Presbytery members to contact him if they had any concerns about education in Fife.

During question time Susan Stewart, a Head Teacher and Elder in Leven, encouraged Presbyters to pray for their local schools – pupils and staff.

**Liturgy for Remembrance** – Rev Marc Prowe reported that the Church and Society Committee is working on a liturgy for Remembrance Sunday that will reflect the challenges of modern warfare and focus on world peace.

**Poverty and hope** – The Church and Society Committee will be distributing a document detailing where those in need can go for help. It will also be posted on the website.

**Ecumenical Friend** – The Church and Society Committee is still looking for someone to be an "ecumenical friend. There is a lot of previous good work and contacts to build on. Interested in finding out more? Contact Marc Prowe [marc@linktown.org.uk](mailto:marc@linktown.org.uk) or [kirkcaldy@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kirkcaldy@cofscotland.org.uk)

**Victoria Hospital Chapel** – The new chapel space will be the venue for a Christmas Service on Thursday 20 December at 6.30pm. Fundraising will be undertaken in 2013 to allow the Chaplaincy Team to fully equip this area appropriately.

**Local Church Review** – Rev Robin McAlpine, Convener of the Mission and Discipleship Committee, reported on changes to 5-yearly visits. To replace the previous scheme of Presbytery Visits, the act anent Local Church Review was passed by the General Assembly of 2011. (See volume II of supplementary reports 2011 for details) This will mean...

1. After the completion of the visitation schedule there is a pre-meeting with key office bearers to explain the process in detail, confirm the date(s) of the visit and to begin to think about the on-going vision of the congregation.
2. The key change is the creation of a plan of action for the next 3 years, to be agreed by Session, before the final report is completed. The plan to take account of the congregation's present position, resources and finances.
3. The final report to include information from initial schedule, pre-meeting, other meetings and visits and the Plan of Action, with recommendations, time tabling of the action plan, achievements, anticipated difficulties and how presbytery can contribute.

4. Although not specifically stated, a member of the visiting team will support the congregation in developing and monitoring the action plan for an appropriate period of time.

Local Church Review will be carried out by the Presbytery's dedicated team, as part of the Mission and Discipleship's superintendence sub-committee. They have undergone training for this task.

The congregations to be visited in 2013 are Kirkcaldy: Torbain, Kirkcaldy: St. Bryce and Buckhaven & Wemyss.

**Youth Representative to the General Assembly 2013** - Presbytery noted new regulations for the nomination of Presbytery youth reps to General Assembly from 2013. Presbytery members have all the details. Congregations are encouraged to invite young people between 18 and 25 to consider nomination. Presbytery members have job descriptions and nomination forms. Nominations should be with the Clerk by 1 February 2013.

**Vocations Sunday** – Presbyteries have been encouraged by the Ministries Council to set apart a Sunday each year as a 'Vocations Sunday'. It was agreed that in Kirkcaldy Presbytery we would hold this on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter, in line with the Church of England. This will be Sunday 21 April in 2013. Congregations will be asked to consider vocation / Christian vocation in its widest sense.

**The Presbytery Pulpit Interchange** will take place on Sunday 10 February 2013.

**Retirement Age** – Presbytery was asked to note that the compulsory (maximum) retirement age for Parish Ministers is 75 as agreed at the General Assembly in May.

**Presbytery Prayer Pilgrimage** – The Pilgrimage is underway. The banner arrived at St Bryce on Sunday 2 December and was flying for our Presbytery meeting. It will be heading to Auchtertool and Linktown on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> before making its way to Abbotshall on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> where it will be spending its Christmas holiday!!

**Website** – [www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk](http://www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk) Please make use of the website for your news and intimations. George updates the prayer pages regularly.

**Intimations** – Presbytery intimations to the Clerk by 12 noon on the day of Presbytery for display on the screen and inclusion on the website. [www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk](http://www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk)

*Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 5 February 2013 at 7.00pm in Linktown Church.*