



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis - February 2013

In his opening worship the Moderator, Rev Tony Fowler, spoke about the big issues we face in our congregations, in our lives, in the national church, in the nation. He reflected on the reading he had chosen from Isaiah chapter 41. The people had endured great upheaval and then exile to Babylon but were reminded that even there they were still God's chosen people, he had not rejected them. In the words of Isaiah 41:10

So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Words of comfort for us as well in our joys and sorrows, our days of toil and days of ease.

Call to Mr Alan Kimmitt – The Clerk presented Presbytery with a Call to Mr Alan Kimmitt from the congregation of Glenrothes: St Columba's. Representatives of the congregation were welcomed and Mrs Carol Gibson spoke on their behalf. She spoke very honestly of a long vacancy and the concerns of the congregation during this time. However, that is all behind them. She went on to speak very warmly of Alan and their hopes for the future. She thanked Rev Ian Elston and Mr Craig Caskie for their service as Interim Moderators and Rev Christine Houghton for her invaluable support as Locum Minister.

Ordination and Induction – There will be a Service of Ordination and Induction for Mr Alan Kimmitt to Glenrothes: St Columba's on Thursday 21 February at 7.00pm. Presbytery meets at 6.45pm.

Presbytery Plan – Members of the congregations of Glenrothes and Leslie were present for the presentation of the Presbytery Plan. Presbytery received the Plan at a special meeting in November and discussed how to achieve the required reduction of one full time equivalent post. It was proposed that this reduction be met by reducing the number of Presbytery and Parish Worker posts in the Glenrothes and Leslie area from four to three. Representatives of the congregations addressed Presbytery, each accepting that hard decisions had to be made, each expressing concerns about the practicalities of the proposals. Both Rev Andrew Donald, Convener of the Ministries Committee, and Rev John McLean, his predecessor, spoke of the opportunities within the proposal and the need for imagination and new ways of thinking and working. John stressed the need for prayer for guidance and the prayerful support of Presbytery. The Plan was approved.

General Assembly 2013 – Last year Presbytery agreed to move to a rolling rota rather than a fixed rota for attendance at the General Assembly. This means that ministers may not be attending at the same time as an elder from their congregation. Those due to attend this year have been informed. (For information – Alexandra Rosener, Tony Fowler, Gilbert Nisbet, Alex Forsyth, Jim Reid and Marc Prowe. Elders from Templehall, Christ's Kirk, St Kenneth's, St Bryce, Leven and Markinch.)

Log Books – Ministers are requested (by the Ministries Council) to bring their completed 2012 Log Books to the March meeting of Presbytery for 'inspection' by the Clerks.

Annual Inspection of Records - The annual inspection of records will take place in Kirkcaldy: St. Bryce on Wednesday 17th April from 9.30am onwards. Session Clerks have been sent information.

Digitisation of Presbytery Boundaries – The Statistics for Mission Team of the Church of Scotland is endeavouring to produce digital maps containing all parish boundaries. This will enable an accurate dissemination of the statistics gleaned from the 2011 Census for each parish. (For the last census it was done by post-code.) George Luke has put in a power of work on behalf of our Presbytery. Session Clerks have been sent maps, and possibly some questions, for checking and returning to George by 28 February. It is important that this is done!

Thornton – Rev Tilly Wilson has been appointed as Locum and Interim Moderator at Thornton Church. Presbytery thanked Mr Ian Biernat for his service there over the last few months.

New Property Register and Manse Condition Schedule – These documents must now be used by Property Conveners. They are available for download from the General Trustees pages of the Church of Scotland website -

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/subjects/building_and_property_resources

Any Property Convener unable to access these documents should contact Andrew Moore H6AFM@yahoo.co.uk

Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD) – Presbytery spend some time discussing a paper sent down by the Ministries Council on the future of CMD. The overwhelming feeling was that CMD should be compulsory for all ministers. Andrew will forward completed questionnaires and comments to the Ministries Council.

Presbytery and Parish Workers – Andrew alerted Presbytery to the fact that PPWs are currently undergoing a wide-ranging review of terms and conditions. Their collective name is changing to Ministries Development Staff (MDS) with six job categories.

Future Pension Provision for Ministers – Andrew reminded ministers about the series of information and briefing meetings being held 20, 21 and 22 February across the country.

Presbytery Pulpit Interchange – The Interchange takes place this Sunday – 10 February.

Ecumenical Friend – Rev Dr Douglas Galbraith, a member of Presbytery and Convener of ACTS (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) has kindly agreed to update Presbytery on new developments and opportunities. He's also keen to hear about what's going on....

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Jenny Featherstone – Jenny is the Missionary Partner for a number of our congregations. She is currently in the UK and will be visiting Kirkcaldy Presbytery in mid-March. (Dates to be confirmed.) If you would like to arrange a meeting with her please contact Betty Scott, our World Church contact, on 01592 562444

Andrew Barrie – Andrew recently completed his final ministry placement with Rev Jim Reid at Kinghorn. He has been called to the charge of Inverness: Kinmylies and, subject to the approval of Inverness Presbytery, will be ordained and inducted on Friday 8 March. We wish Andrew and his wife every blessing in their new life and ministry.

Faith Sharing – Beryl Luke is running a 3 part course on Sharing your Faith on Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 March at 7.30pm in St Bryce. (Flyers were distributed at Presbytery). Please phone the St Bryce Office to book a place and give Beryl an indication of numbers. 01592 640016

Presbytery meets next on Thursday 21 February 2013 at 6.45pm in Glenrothes: St Columba's for the Ordination and Induction of Mr Alan Kimmitt and then on Tuesday 5 March 2013 at 7.00pm in the St Bryce Kirk Centre, Kirkcaldy, for the transaction of ordinary business.