

Presbytery of Kirkcaldy Précis – June 2013

Our evening began with the annual Presbytery Meal. Many thanks to the staff at St Bryce for the lovely food. In his opening worship the Moderator, Rev Tony Fowler, read from Isaiah 64:1-12 and reminded us that God loves his wayward children and will not withhold his grace. We can look forward in confidence.

Congratulations - Rev Alli Roy of Glenrothes: St Ninian's was congratulated on the birth of his daughter, Rebecca (Becky). 4 ministers, Rev Elisabeth Cranfield, Rev Robin MacAlpine, Rev Rosie Frew and Rev Alistair McLeod have reached the 25th anniversary of their ordination. Rev Peter Elston has reached his 50th. The Moderator led Presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving and encouragement.

Saying 'Yes' to God – This year marks the 125th anniversary of the Diaconate in the Church of Scotland. Jacqueline Thomson, 'our Deacon', spoke of the history and vision of the Diaconate. Presbyters watched a short film celebrating the distinctive service of Deacons, much of it shot in Fife. Copies are available from Jacqueline.

Retirement of Rev John McLean – John McLean of Glenrothes: St Margaret's will retire at the beginning of July. Mary Cook paid tribute to him on behalf of the congregation. She painted a warm, funny and honest picture of John, a minister who transformed a dispirited and hurting congregation. Innovative and challenging, inspirational and prayerful. A man with a passion for helping people grow in faith and grow in leadership. She closed by saying, 'We have loved you as you have loved us.' John, in reply, spoke of the privilege and pleasure of serving St Margaret's for the past 19 years, of working with Kirk Sessions and Parish Assistants. The privilege (if perhaps not the same pleasure!) of serving Presbytery. He shared his concern that the Church of Scotland has its head buried in the sand and is not facing up to the challenges of the times. The Moderator wished John well in his retirement and presented him with a Practising Certificate. Rev Christine Houghton was appointed as Interim Moderator for Glenrothes: St Margaret's. (She will also be serving as Locum.) Reverend Ben Pieterse, Mr Finlay Ferguson and Mrs Ena Hudson will form the Advisory Committee.

General Assembly - Rev Alex Forsyth reported diligence on behalf of Commissioners to the 2013 General Assembly. His report can be found on the Presbytery website.

New Convener - Presbytery appointed Mr Bryan Lumsden to serve as Convener of the Fabric and Finance Committee for the year 2013 – 2014.

Ministry Candidates – The Moderator welcomed 3 of our 4 Candidates training for Ministry to Presbytery -Eileen Miller, James Bissett and Michael Allardice. Susan Cord was unable to attend. All were thanked for their commitment to the church and encouraged in their studies. Each received a gift from Presbytery. The Moderator congratulated Eileen on her graduation from St Andrews University earlier in the day. Presbytery agreed to hold a Graduate Candidate Service for Eileen in Kinghorn Parish Church on Sunday 25th August 2013 at 7.00pm.

Presbytery Retreat – The annual Retreat, organised by the Ministries Committee for those invited by them to attend, will be on Thursday 3rd October 2013.

Presbytery Meetings 2013/14 – Following a series of short Presbytery meetings the Business Committee discussed the frequency of meetings. It was agreed that next session we would meet on the first Tuesday of September, November, December of 2013, the first Tuesday of February and April of 2014, and the last Tuesday of June 2014. Other meetings may be called where and when appropriate. We will re-assess in June next year.

Moderator - The Convener of the Business Committee will bring the name of Mrs Myra Deas to the next meeting of Presbytery to serve as Moderator for the ensuing year.

Local Community Involvement – Congregations are encouraged to reflect on their community involvement, using a Discussion Starter paper issued to Presbyters; and to provide examples of good community involvement to the Convener of the Church and Society Committee, Rev Marc Prowe.

Truth and Lies about Poverty – Each congregation has been issued with 2 copies of this report and they are urged to discuss and develop its findings and recommendations. Find it online at <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty/>

Buckhaven and Wemyss - East Wemyss Church and Hall Buildings. Presbytery concurred with the decision of the congregation to offer for sale the redundant East Wemyss Church Building and refers this matter to the General Trustees for approval or otherwise.

Stewardship Conference - Presbytery appointed Mrs Jean Levack, a member of the Fabric and Finance Committee, to represent the Presbytery at a national Stewardship Conference at 121 George Street on 25th September 2013.

Small Donations Scheme - Congregational treasurers are strongly encouraged to make use of the new Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme under which congregations may be able to recover Tax under Gift Aid on small cash donations (up to £20). The maximum amount on which Tax may be reclaimed under this scheme is £5,000 in any tax year and at the present rate of Tax a reclaim of up to £1,250 may be possible.

Celebrate and Discover 2014 – Plans are well underway for Celebrate and Discover (the sequel) which will be held in Kirkcaldy High School on March 22nd 2014. All congregations are asked to send a minimum of two people to the meeting at Abbotshall Church Hall on Wednesday 21st August at 7.30pm where a full explanation of the event will be outlined.

Local Church Review – 3 congregations served as ‘guinea pigs’ for the new Local Church Review process which replaces 5 yearly visits to congregations. The congregations of Kirkcaldy: St Bryce, Buckhaven and Wemyss and Kirkcaldy: Torbain were thanked for their co-operation. Each was found to be in a satisfactory state. Each has agreed a 3 year plan. The Dedicated Team were thanked for their commitment to this new process.

Prayer Co-ordinator – George Luke gave his annual report to Presbytery. The past year has seen positives and negatives. Some congregations are not supporting or using their prayer promoters, some are struggling to appoint. However, on the positive side, the Presbytery Prayer Pilgrimage was a great success. Prayer Call is reaching a greater number of people. George’s full report including his plans for the future can be found on the website.

Work Place Chaplaincy aims to offer relevant pastoral & spiritual support to people where they are – in the setting of their daily work and individual lives. There is to be a WPCS Introduction Day on Monday 2nd September (venue tbc) where anyone interested in becoming a volunteer chaplain can come along (ordained or lay). Further details can be found by contacting Catriona Parkinson, WPCS 131 Garvock Hill Dunfermline, KY11 4JU Tel: 0131 441 2271.

Bike and Hike 2013 - EMMS plan to run the event again in 2013 in Fife as part of the EMMS ‘Big Weekend’ on Saturday 7th September from 10am-6pm. Presbyters have a sign-up sheet. Please use it to indicate to EMMS that your church will be open for visitors that day.

Thanks and goodbye – The Moderator thanked those elders who will be standing down after the meeting for their commitment to Presbytery. Clare Atkin, Parish Assistant at Glenrothes: St Ninian’s, is leaving during the summer to begin training for the Baptist Ministry. The Moderator prayed that she would know God’s richest blessing during her training and in her ministry.

Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 7.00pm in the St Bryce Kirk Centre, Kirkcaldy, for the transaction of ordinary business.