



# Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

## Presbytery Précis - June 2014

In her opening worship the Moderator, Myra Deas, talked about prayer. Prayer should be as natural as making a cup of tea, it should be second nature, but we sometimes find it hard to find the time or the words. We can feel inhibited, unworthy. We must learn to be open to God where we are. Our prayer life should be a journey, a developing relationship, a way of life. We should be united in the belief that prayer works!

**Membership** – Myra welcomed John Hutchison, the recently appointed MDS at Rothes Trinity as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery.

**Retiral of Rev Ben Pieterse** - Mr Gordon Mitchell, Depute Session Clerk of Auchterderran St Fothad's paid tribute to Ben and his wife Magda and expressed grateful appreciation on behalf of the congregation for their devoted service during his tenure as minister. The Moderator thanked Mr Pieterse for his contribution to the work of Presbytery and wished him well in his retirement.

**Retiral of Marjorie Cowie** - Mrs Mary Cook, Session Clerk of Glenrothes: St Margaret's spoke warmly of Marjorie's 12 years of committed service as Parish Assistant and of the good working relationship she had enjoyed with Rev John McLean for 11 years and with Rev Christine Houghton for the past year. The Moderator thanked Marjorie for her involvement in the life and work of Presbytery and wished her well in her retirement.

**Report from the General Assembly** - Rev Alan Kimmitt reported diligence on behalf of Commissioners to the 2014 General Assembly. He gave his impressions of the week and included the following phrases – respectful dialogue; Heart and Soul; strong encouragement for young people; inspiring updates; painful and moving stories; positive initiatives and activities; 27 boxes of Jelly Babies!! He concluded by saying that both he and his elder enjoyed the week and came away uplifted.

**Ministry to Gypsy Travellers**- Rev Tilly Wilson, still an unofficial Chaplain to the Travelling Community, gave an insightful address to Presbytery on the at times difficult relationship between the church and gypsy travellers and the discrimination faced by the travelling community. She spoke of the recent commitment to a new relationship and outlined what church people could do to enable this. Presbytery agreed to respect Gypsy Traveller culture; encourage responsible media reporting on issues relating to Gypsy Travellers; encourage congregations to campaign for Traveller friendly sites, culturally sensitive healthcare, flexible and appropriate education and policing; encourage everyone to talk sensitively and listen sensitively to the travelling community.

**Moderator** - Rev Robin McAlpine will be Moderator of Presbytery for the year 2014/15.

**Committee Conveners** – Rev Alan Kimmit will serve as Convener of the Church and Society Committee and the Rev. Gillian Paterson as Convener of the Mission and Discipleship Committee.

**Presbytery Study Day** – This will be held on Thursday 25 September, 10.00am-4.00pm in Dunnikier House Hotel. Professor Jolyon Mitchell and Dr Geoff Stevenson from Edinburgh University will be the speakers.

**Presbytery Meetings 2014/15** - Ordinary meetings of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy will be held on the first Tuesday of September and December of 2014, the first Tuesday of March 2015 and the last Tuesday of June 2015. In addition the Presbytery Communion service, together with a conference session will be held on the first Tuesday of November 2014. Other meetings may be called where and when appropriate.

**KART and GROW** - Brian Lumsden, Convener of the Fabric and Finance Committee, updated Presbytery on the financial position and sustainability of KART and GROW. He encouraged congregations to review their support and gave assurance that Presbytery would do the same.

**Susan Cord** – Susan will shortly commence her probationary placement under the supervision of Rev Christine Sime of Dalgety Parish Church within the bounds of Dunfermline Presbytery. She has asked to transfer her candidature to Dunfermline Presbytery. We wish her well in this final stage of training.

**Regional Vocations Champion** - Presbytery supported the application of the Rev Alan Kimmit to be a Regional Vocations Champion. See Presbytery website for further details.

**Presbytery Chaplains** – Kirkcaldy Presbytery has three Chaplains, Rev Jim Reid, Rev Ken Froude and Rev Wilma Cairns. Jim updated Presbytery on the work on the Chaplains and the privilege they enjoy of building up relationships and journeying with those in ministry in the Presbytery. Following discussion about chaplaincy to retired ministers it was agreed that the nature of chaplaincy was ever changing and that dialogue would continue.

**Local Church Review** – Reports were received on recent visits to the congregations of Glenrothes: Christ's Kirk, St Kenneth's and Leslie Trinity. Each congregation has agreed a three year plan and has a member of the dedicated team to support and encourage them over this time.

**Safeguarding** – It was agreed that all congregational Panel members must complete the safeguarding course for Co-ordinators

**Combatting Poverty** – Marc Prowe informed the meeting that Presbytery information has been incorporated into a new (large) resource of help available to those in dire straits. It will be e-mailed out to congregations by the Clerk.

**Urban Priority Areas** - Presbytery was informed that Methil: Wellesly has recently been designated a UPA charge and Presbyters were encouraged to be receptive to what can be learned from UPA charges. The work of the Poverty Truth Commission was commended.

[www.faithincommunityscotland.org/poverty-truth-commission/](http://www.faithincommunityscotland.org/poverty-truth-commission/)

**THANKS** – The Moderator thanked Rev Marc Prowe for his Convener'ship of the Church and Society Committee and Rev Robin McAlpine for his Convener'ship of the Mission and Discipleship Committee. Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison were thanked for their assistance at Christ's Kirk, Glenrothes during the period of Reverend Alexandra Rosener's Maternity leave. Rev Tilly Wilson was thanked for her assistance while serving as Interim Moderator at Thornton Parish Church.

**MORE THANKS** – Warm tribute was paid to Mrs Beryl Luke for her 10 years of service as Presbytery Elder Trainer and then Presbytery Adult Trainer. Beryl has worked tirelessly locally, nationally and even internationally but feels the time has come to hand on the baton..... We are looking for a new Adult Trainer!!

**EVEN MORE THANKS** – The Moderator thanked the elders who sit on Presbytery for their service. Particular mention was made of two elders who are 'retiring' from Presbytery – Bob Brown and George Grant. Both men have been heavily involved in the life and work of Presbytery over many years and we are indebted to them.

*Presbytery meets next at 7.00pm on Tuesday 2 September 2014 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.*