



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis - June 2015

In his opening worship the Moderator, Rev Robin MacAlpine, spoke of sheep and shepherds. Many Biblical heroes herded sheep. Many allusions are made to us being like sheep. We don't necessarily like the idea of being sheep.... At the end of the day it's all about a relationship. God loves each one of us as if there's only one to love (parable of the lost sheep).

Membership – Robin welcomed Jennifer Stark as a Corresponding Member of Presbytery. Jennifer is working at Christ's Kirk and St Margaret's covering Ellie Morrocco's maternity leave.

Anniversaries – Robin congratulated a number of members of Presbytery on reaching significant anniversaries of their ordination. 25 years – Rev Tilly Wilson; 30 years – Rev John Thomson and Rev Jim Reid; 35 years – Rev Alan Sharp; 40 years – Rev Jamie Templeton.

Report from the General Assembly - Rev Ken Froude reported diligence on behalf of Commissioners to the 2015 General Assembly. He gave a summary of the week's proceedings. Within his full report he expressed the opinion that the different views held by revisionists and traditionalists would continue to cause tension in the church; John Chalmers made a very positive contribution to the church throughout his year as Moderator; the very personal stories told by some of the overseas delegates made a big impression; ministers are now to get 7 Sundays off!!; the Youth Representatives made a very positive and informed contribution to the Assembly; the C of E now recognises the C of S!!; Douglas Galbraith retired after 20 years as Precentor. Ken's quote of the week came from Isabell Montgomerie, a farmer from Ochiltree, 'You've just got tae get on wi' it.'

Report from the Presbyterial Council – Mrs Alison Davidson gave a full and interesting report on the work undertaken by the Presbyterial Council and the 19 Guilds in the Presbytery over the past year. They have raised £14,312 to support the 6 Guild Projects. In thanking Mrs Davidson the Moderator remarked that the Guild Projects are at the cutting edge of society. The Guild leads the church in this respect.

Moderator - Rev Rosemary Frew will be Moderator of Presbytery for the year 2015/16.

Presbytery Retreat – This will be held on Thursday 24 September 2015. The guest speaker will be Very Rev John Chalmers. More details to follow.

Presbytery Meetings 2015/16 - Ordinary meetings of the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy will be held on the first Tuesday of September and December of 2015, the first Tuesday of March 2016 and the last Tuesday of June 2016. In addition the Presbytery Communion service, together with a conference session will be held on the first Tuesday of November 2015. Other meetings may be called where and when appropriate.

Commission of Assembly – Rev Robin MacAlpine and Mr Stuart Lynch will represent the Presbytery on the Commission of Assembly for 2015/16.

Pioneer Ministry – A group of ministers from the Presbytery led by Rev Marc Prowe have submitted an application to the Pioneer Ministries Project seeking funding for a Music Ministry within Presbytery. The Ministries Council have offered to support 5 pioneer posts over a 5 year period.

Student for Ministry – Dawn Laing has been accepted as a candidate for full-time ministry and was officially presented to Presbytery. Dawn has been a Primary School Teacher at Buckhaven Primary for 26 years and is an elder at Kennoway, Windygates and Balgonie: St. Kenneth's. The Moderator presented her with a book grant of £250 from Presbytery and wished her God's blessing as she commences her studies at St Andrews University.

Local Church Review – Reports were received on recent visits to the congregations of Kirkcaldy: Abbotshall, Kirkcaldy; Bennoch and Glenrothes: St Ninian's. Each congregation has agreed a three year plan and has a member of the dedicated team to support and encourage them over this time.

Living Stones – Over 200 copies of this year's Pray Now resource sold within Presbytery!

Community Bible Experience – George Luke showed a short video clip about this initiative – a re-formatting of the Bible making it less 'reference book' and more 'love letter'. This goes hand in hand with an initiative to read the entire New Testament in 8 weeks and meet weekly as a book club to reflect. George hopes to trial this. More details to follow soon....

Presbytery Property Reports and Manse Condition Schedules – The Inspection of Records in April was the first time that these records could be submitted electronically for inspection. Only 8 congregations took advantage of this. The Convener of the Fabric and Finance Committee, Brian Lumsden, is still going through the reports but did comment that there is a wide range in the standard of record keeping from exemplary to pretty poor! Training for Property Conveners will be organised in the new session.

Reduction in Ministries and Mission Allocations for 2016 – Presbytery Elders have application forms. This will enable congregations to start this process sooner than in recent years to enable completion and return for submission by 2 October 2015.

Prayer Service - In partnership with the World Mission Council and Christian Aid, the Church and Society Committee will be hosting a service of prayers and reflections focussed on Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory on Monday 24th August at 7.00pm, starting in Abbotshall Church Hall and, weather permitting, proceeding to the Peace Garden in Beveridge Park.

Pilgrim Way Challenge - In partnership with EMMS and with the support of the Pilgrim Way Steering Group, the Church and Society Committee has made arrangements for the **2015 Bike & Hike, Pilgrim Way Challenge**. This event will be held on September 19th. Following consultation with participants in previous events, the format is slightly different this year. Participants will still be encouraged to make their own way between the participating churches, but a direction of travel is being encouraged along a section of the proposed Pilgrim Way long distance path. The total planned route, which uses the Fife Core Path network is about 16 miles and is in six stages: Auchterderran to Kinglassie (2 miles), Kinglassie to Leslie (3.2 miles), Leslie to Christ's Kirk (2.2 miles), Christ's Kirk to Markinch (3 miles), Markinch to Windygates (3.5 miles), Windygates to Kennoway (1.8 miles). Each church along the route is being encouraged to open for periods of two hours, providing refreshments and toilet facilities. To sign up, or for more information, please see <https://www.emms.org/get-involved/join-an-event/pilgrims-way-challenge/>

Service of Re-dedication – Rosie Frew informed Presbyters that the repair work to the Abbotshall graveyard wall is now complete. A Service of Re-dedication is being held on Friday 31 July at 3.00pm.

Osiliqi Maasai Warriors – This Dance Troupe will be in the parish of Dysart St Clair on Saturday 29th August - 2pm at the Viewforth building and 7.30pm at the Dysart Building. Tickets £8 Adults and £4 Under 16 and concessions. Crafts on sale too. Tickets available from "T" rooms in Viewforth Church Building on Wednesdays 10am - 2pm and Dysart Community Cafe, Dysart Centre, on Fridays 10am - 3pm. Also, by phoning 01592 264390 .

THANKS – The Moderator thanked Rev Gilbert Nisbet for his Convenership of the Business Committee for the past 6 years and Rev Andrew Donald for his Convenership of the Ministries Committee for the past 4 years. 'Retiring' members of Presbytery were thanked for their valuable contribution to the life and work of Presbytery.

Presbytery meets next at 7.00pm on Tuesday 1 September 2015 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.