



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis - June 2016

In her opening worship the Moderator, Rev Rosie Frew, moved to the fourth verse of hymn 198 – “Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face...” using the story of the widow’s offering from Luke’s Gospel, she drew a modern analogy from a sermon by Gill Dascombe to caution us that what we see on the outside of a person is not necessarily what’s on the inside, so that any stranger we meet ought to be seen as bearing the image of God’s face, and be welcomed by us.

Membership – Rosie welcomed Carolann Erskine, new minister at Markinch & Thornton, to her first meeting of Presbytery.

West Fife Gideons - Hank John told us of the work of the Gideons, following Jesus’ command at the end of Matthew:28 to go and make disciples everywhere. They have operated in 200 countries and given away 85 million scriptures world-wide. He told us of their work locally in schools, their continued provision of Testaments in hotels, care homes etc, and of their current church assignments project. He asked for prayer for more open doors, and invited us along to a meeting in the Vine Church, Dunfermline on Saturday 17 September with a meal at 6 pm and a programme of praise and witness at 7 pm. There is an app available, and if anyone wants more information, Hank can be contacted on info@hankjohn.co.uk

Report from the General Assembly - Rev Marc Prowe reported diligence on behalf of our Commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly. He gave a succinct summary of the business which had been conducted by all the Councils, including the visit by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. The Columba Declaration agreed between C of S and C of E, now accepts one another’s membership and ordination. He welcomed the new structures emerging for team ministries, challenging the ‘status quo’ of one person doing all the jobs! He particularly admired many of the Youth Assembly delegates who spoke. The Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens was once again a highlight for him, particularly the fantastic worship!

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. The National Big Sing took place in Dunfermline Abbey last November, and they had to turn away applications for places, as it was so popular. Locally the Guilds raised £950 at Christmas to support the work of Erskine’s. Six new Guild Projects have been launched for the next 3 year period; the magazine has a new format; and there is now a Guild tartan plus a men’s tie. In thanking Mrs Davidson, the Moderator remarked that the Guild remains a real force for good within the C of S.

Demission of Rev Alistair Roy - Alistair Roy has been minister of Glenrothes: St Ninian’s for the past 9 years, but has decided to train as a primary school teacher. Myra Deas, Session Clerk, spoke warmly of Alli’s work and pastoral care not just within the congregation, but also with their outreach programmes, Messy Church, charity shop and community cafe, with the local schools and also as a Safeguarding trainer for Presbytery. His people wish him well, but will miss him greatly. In replying, Alli spoke of how his 3 children will miss their church family, as they have always been part of it. His last Sunday as minister will be 7 August, but he will be continuing as a SG trainer for Presbytery. The Moderator gave the good wishes of Presbytery to Alli as he embarks on this new phase of his life, fulfilling his passion to work with children and young people, and presented him with a Practising Certificate. Rev Andrew Donald will be Interim Moderator in the vacancy.

Basis of Guardianship - Rev Jim Reid, as Convener of the Ministries Committee, explained that this document had not been put in place for **Leslie: Trinity** when it ought to have been at the time of the formation of the Parish Grouping. On 12 June 2016, the congregation unanimously accepted this document, and having had Presbytery’s approval it will now be submitted to the Ministries Council.

Moderator - Rev Andrew Donald will be Moderator of Presbytery for the year 2016/17.

Presbytery Retreat – The date for this has still to be finalised and will be sent to the relevant people.

Presbytery Meetings 2016/17 - Ordinary meetings of the Presbytery will be held on the first Tuesday of September & December 2016, and the first Tuesday of March & June 2017. In addition the Presbytery Communion service, together with a conference session will be held on the first Tuesday of November 2016. Other meetings may be called where and when appropriate.

Commission of Assembly – Rev Jim Reid and Mr Tom Conway will represent the Presbytery on the Commission of Assembly for 2016/17.

Committee Conveners – Rev Catriona Morrison will take over as convener of Mission and Discipleship, while Gillian Paterson takes on training as Supervisor for Ministers-in-Training. A new convener is still sought for Fabric and Finance.

Prayer Coordinator – Presbytery recorded its thanks to George Luke who is standing down after ten years' service in this job. The Moderator spoke particularly of his work when Rt Rev David Lunan visited Presbytery, and also in setting up the Prayer Pilgrimage with our own Banner.

New Administrator – Presbytery has a new administrator. She is Paula Civilek, who works as administrator in the Pathhead Church office. She is currently on holiday but will take over thereafter, and be introduced to Presbytery in September.

Ecumenical Conference – Entitled "Mission and Local Church Life", this will take place on 8 October. Alan Kimmitt has details.

Brass Band Concert – A group of German musicians are touring Scotland this summer and will perform in Auchtertool church on Sunday 24 July at 7 pm.

Interim Moderators – Jacqueline Thomson was pleased to intimate that four members of Presbytery have recently undergone training as Interim Moderators, which will help greatly in future vacancies.

Training on Mental Health Issues – NHS Fife has offered free training for about 12 people, for half a day during the week, probably in August. Anyone interested, please get in touch with Alan Kimmitt.

EMMS Bike & Hike Event - Congregations en route from Auchtertool via north Kirkcaldy and south Glenrothes to Methilhill who would be happy to open up their premises for this event on Saturday 17 September should get in touch with Alan Kimmitt very soon. There may be an exhibition of EMMS's work in Abbotshall Church that day as well.

Let us Build a House – Each Presbytery has been challenged to raise £500 for house building in Nepal. Your Presbytery elder has the details.

Presbytery Property Reports and Manse Condition Schedules – Training for Property Conveners has still to be organised. Most Reports were ready for collection at the meeting.

Reduction in Ministries and Mission Allocations for 2017 – Presbytery Elders have application forms.

Ministry Support – A replacement is needed for Sheila Dale-Pimentil at Wellesley to provide one day per week Pastoral Support; and also for an MDS post replacing Jennifer Stark/ Ellie Morrocco, offering 50% as Youth Worker at Christ's Kirk and 50% as Families Worker/Parish Assistant at St Margaret's. Any interested person should contact Jim Reid.

Local Church Review – Reports were received on recent visits to the congregations of Kirkcaldy: Templehall, Auchtertool and Kirkcaldy: Linktown. Each congregation has agreed a three year plan and has a member of the dedicated team to support and encourage them over this time. This report was given by Myra Deas, who is standing down after leading the Superintendence sub-committee for many years. The Moderator paid tribute to the work Myra has embraced as changes had to be made to the procedures, and dedicated team members trained and encouraged.

People of the Way – Over 500 copies of this year's Pray Now resource were sold within Presbytery!

THANKS – 'Retiring' members of Presbytery were thanked for their valuable contribution to the life and work of Presbytery in their various capacities. The Moderator gave Presbytery's thanks and made presentations to Beryl Luke, who is retiring after 9 years' work as Administrator, and to Douglas Hamill, who has served as Depute Clerk for the past 12 years.

Presbytery meets next at 7.00pm on Tuesday 6 September 2016 in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for the transaction of ordinary business.