



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis-March 2016

In her opening worship, the Moderator, Rev Rosie Frew, used the second verse of hymn 198'... Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace...', to speak of how often the cross is the one steadfast thing in lives which feel broken. She had a visual aid of a mosaic cross made by some of her congregation. Folk had written, on the back of the broken pieces of tile, of a time when their lives had felt broken. The tiles were then cemented together to fashion a cross symbolising God's grace which had made them whole again.

Connecting People to Change Lives – Liz Bowes told Presbytery of the current projects being tackled by the Vine Trust in Peru and Tanzania. The organisation began in Bo'ness in 1985 with the first 'Amazon Hope' boat taking medical and dental care to the poor people living on the banks of the Amazon river. There are now two boats operating there and a third on Lake Victoria where it offers similar care to the people of Tanzania there. The Vine Trust is an interdenominational charity recruiting people from all backgrounds in their current initiative of Home-Building Expeditions. These ventures offer help to local partners in Tanzania to build centres and homes for the most vulnerable families. To volunteer for this, you need to be enthusiastic, fit and not afraid of hard work - expeditions are not a holiday! All congregations have leaflets giving information for anyone interested in this challenge or email expeditions@vinetrust.org

Translation of Rev Richard Baxter to Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh Iw Kilmonivaig

– Presbytery agreed this move. Norman Cooper, Session Clerk of Kennoway, Windygates & Balgonie: St Kenneth's Church, paid tribute to Richard's 18 year ministry. Having arrived in that newly formed union in October 1997, Richard has worked, endlessly it seems, in all aspects of life there to build the strong community it is today. His ministry will be missed by so many.

In replying, Richard thanked not only the congregation, but also the many folks over the years who have served as members of the ministry team at St Kenneth's and of the success of many of their initiatives in the community life. He also spoke of the privilege of serving Presbytery in a number of ways, and of the many friends he and his family have here.

The Moderator made reference to the task of filling the several gaps Richard will leave behind – not least the job of heading the team to check the congregational accounts! Commenting that Kirkcaldy's loss would be Lochaber's gain, she wished Richard every blessing in his new ministry. Rev Elisabeth Cranfield will be the Interim Moderator, Rev Catriona Morrison will head the Advisory Team and Rev Christine Houghton will serve as the Locum Minister during the vacancy.

Translation of Rev Maudeen MacDougall to Carnwath Iw Carstairs

– Presbytery agreed this translation, and the Moderator asked God's blessing and guidance on this move, and on the congregation of Dysart St Clair. As this tenure has been a short one, Presbytery is recommending an Interim Ministry be put in place. Until then, Rev Rosie Frew will be the Interim Moderator.

Call to Rev Carolann Erskine to Markinch and Thornton

– Presbytery sustained this call, and the service of Induction will be in Markinch on Tuesday 12 April at 7 pm. Mrs May Russell, Interim Moderator, and the Advisory Team headed by Rev Alan Sharp, were warmly thanked by John Wood, Session Clerk, for their work during the vacancy.

General Assembly 2016 - Presbytery has appointed 6 ministers and 6 elders as Commissioners to this year's Assembly, and Miss Anne Wylie of St Margaret's Church will be the Youth Rep.

Fellowship Meal – The annual fellowship meal will be held prior to the June meeting. Menus and booking forms will be sent out in May.

Administrative Support – It has been decided to advertise a new remunerated post of Administrator effective from the end of June 2016. For more information, job description and expressions of interest, please contact the Clerk – closing date is end of April. The post of Depute Clerk is to be combined with that of the Business Committee Convener.

Annual Inspection of Records – This will take place in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy, on Monday 18 April from 9.30 a.m. Session Clerks have the information.

Representative and Additional Elders – Session Clerks should submit names of elders to serve on Presbytery for 2016/17 to the Clerk by Friday 17 June. Nominees should be willing to serve on the committees of Presbytery and take a due part in the work of this court of the Church.

Property Surveys – These are due this year for Kirkcaldy: Bennoch, Glenrothes: St Ninian's, Leven, and Markinch and Thornton building. DMHall is the firm conducting the surveys which will include roof inspections.

Congregational Finances – In order to assess how much, if any, assistance is needed in this area of work, Presbytery's Fabric and Finance Committee has produced a questionnaire to be completed by congregational Treasurers or Finance Teams and returned to Brian Lumsden, F & F Convener by 20 April.

Ministries and Mission 2016 – Presbytery retains £4000 of the 2016 allocations, so if any congregation has a specific Mission project it is undertaking, or would undertake if funds were available, please contact Brian Lumsden with the details.

Jenny Featherstone, Missionary Partner, Zambia will be visiting the Presbytery in April. Her itinerary includes visits to Abbotshall, St Columba's, Burntisland, Torbain, Buckhaven and Wemyss, and Bennoch churches. Please contact one of them if you are interested in hearing her speak on her work in Zambia.

Welcoming refugees – Fife Migrants Forum is recruiting Befrienders, and would welcome any funding to help with this. Consult www.fifemigrantsforum.org.uk for more information.

Child Exploitation and Online Protection – Presbytery Safeguarding Trainers will present the ThinkUKnow training in Christ's Kirk, Glenrothes on 12 March, and 30 April in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy. Contact Taylor Bell, Safeguarding Coordinator, for more information. These meetings are open to everyone interested and concerned to learn more about how to be aware of dangers.

Easter Story – A musical performance on Sunday 20 March at 7.30 pm in St Margaret's Church, Glenrothes. Each congregation has a poster – and everyone will be welcome.

People of the Way – This is the title of this year's *Pray Now* booklet to be launched on 22 May. The RRP is £9.99 but a large order will attract a discount allowing us to sell them for £6.50. Order forms are more information from George Luke, Prayer Coordinator.

Interim Moderators – Presbytery is very reliant upon and very grateful to a number of elders who serve as Interim Moderators in Vacancies. If you, or an elder you know, would be interested in exploring this particular service please contact Jacqueline Thomson or the Clerk.

Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 12 April in Markinch for the Induction of Rev Carolann Erskine, and then on Tuesday 28 June in St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy for a fellowship meal followed by the transaction of ordinary business.