



Presbytery of Kirkcaldy

Presbytery Précis -September 2015

In his opening worship Rev Robin McAlpine challenged Presbyters to look at what God is already doing in our local communities and how we are responding to that. If God is love, then the community is where love of one's neighbour takes place. In the reading from Luke chapter 10, Jesus is saying 'Go out, work together, listen to people, build community, go where God is'. If the church is to succeed, it must be intentional about moving into the community, listening to its neighbourhood. Robin illustrated his points with photos from his recent visit to Zambia where two church projects are 1) working with young people of student age training them in carpentry, and 2) bringing God into the lives of children, teaching them teamwork, creativity and living together.

Membership - Robin welcomed the new members of Presbytery as well as visitors from St Kenneth's, who had come to pay tribute to their retiring Parish Assistant.

New Moderator – Robin thanked Presbytery for the honour of serving as Moderator and the privilege of being involved in two Ordinations during the year. Presbytery then approved the appointment of Rev Rosie Frew, minister at Kirkcaldy: Abbotshall, as Moderator for the coming session. Robin offered her the chair, the microphone and a successful year in which she, as Moderator, could consult herself, as Clerk, over any troublesome issue! Rosie, in return, thanked Robin, on behalf of Presbytery, for his efficient conduct of the business over the past year and commended his willingness not to take a back seat, but to serve as Convener of the Business Committee for the next three years.

Greener Kirkcaldy – Rev Ken Froude introduced Suzy Goodsir, project manager for Greener Kirkcaldy. His congregation has received a grant from the Climate Challenge fund to enable the installation of new boilers, lighting and insulation to make the church building energy-saving and more eco-friendly. Suzy told Presbytery that GK had begun in 2009, looking at sustainable energy saving, climate change and offering help where these interface with poverty. GK is now a registered charity employing 9 people in Fife offering, from their Hub in Kirkcaldy High Street, free personally-tailored advice on energy saving, carbon footprint reduction and motoring fuel efficiency. They are especially keen to help where poverty and hardship occur because of lack of knowledge about heating control, availability of grants or of free insulation. The Moderator thanked Suzy for her very enlightening talk and encouraged Presbyters to speak with Suzy over the break to find out more.

Retiral of Sheila Dale-Pimentil Sheila is retiring after 15 years as Parish Assistant at St Kenneth's. The Session Clerk, Norman Cooper, was invited to speak and gave a glowing tribute to Sheila's extensive work in the parishes of Windygates, Kennoway, Balgonie and Star of Markinch. She has been not only a valued member of staff, but has become a friend to all whom she has met over the years, and a valued source of support to the ministry team. Sheila responded by thanking the people of St Kenneth's where she had enjoyed all aspects of her work there and within Presbytery. The Spanish word for retirement is 'jubilarse' which is the same root as our word 'jubilee' so she is looking forward to a future of less doing, more being, less producing and more rejoicing!! The Moderator thanked Sheila on behalf of Presbytery for all her work over the years and wished her well in her 'jubilee'.

Presbytery Accounts 2014/15 - Presbytery approved the accounts for 2014/15 and the budget for 2015/16. Congregations are to be assessed at the rate of £2.00 per member for 2015/16. Miss Jane Webster was thanked for carrying out the duties of Presbytery Treasurer with diligence.

Congregational Accounts 2014 – Richard Baxter reported on behalf of the Accounts Attestation Team. Congregational Treasurers were thanked for the high standard of accounts this year. Presbytery thanked Richard and his team of Geoff Miller and Steve Pimentil for their work.

Applications for Reduction in Ministry and Mission Allocations – The Discretionary Reduction given to Presbytery for next year has increased, so congregations who wish to apply for a reduction in their Ministries and Mission Allocation for 2016 must submit their application a.s.a.p. The application form and guidelines have already been circulated to all Ministers and Session Clerks. Allocation figures have just been received and are available from Brian Lumsden, Fabric and Finance Convener bands.lumsden@btinternet.com

Health and Safety Suvey – All congregations are urged to respond to this survey issued in June, as the General Trustees need to assess the depth (or otherwise) of knowledge within congregations before preparing appropriate training courses.

Property Registers – These were returned to congregations. Some educational training is being planned by the General Trustees for congregational property/ fabric conveners.

Library Closures – All church members are urged to complete the consultation paper, available at www.fifedirect.org.uk/libreview, even if their local library is not under threat, as access to books is of such importance to all ages of readers, and libraries are assets of community value.

Funeral Poverty – Concern was expressed that the organist provision at Kirkcaldy Crematorium has changed, and this may cause greater expense to bereaved families. Presbytery agreed that the Church and Society Committee should investigate this further.

Saturday 12 September – World Mission Resources Day from 10 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. in Bridge of Allan Parish Church. Register with Audrey Grahame: agrahame@churchofscotland.org.uk or 0131 225 5722. Admission free! There will be guest speakers, workshops and a resource area.

Saturday 19 September - Reminder that this is the Bike & Hike Day, following the **Pilgrim Way** between Auchterderran Church and St Kenneth's in Kennoway (approx 16 miles). To sign up, or for more information, see www.emma.org website, or contact Alan Kimmitt on alan@kimmit.org.uk

Ministries Retreat and Reflection Day will be held on Thursday 24 September and will be led by the Very Rev John Chalmers.

Pulpit Interchange Sunday will be Sunday 7 February 2016.

Gen Verde Concert - Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS) is 25 years old in 2015. One of the events to mark this occasion is a concert at Stockbridge Parish Church, Saxe Coburg Street, Edinburgh on Sunday 4 October at 6 pm. The concert will feature Gen Verde - the Italian-based international music group of the Focolare Movement. Tickets (£7) available at the door.

Vocational Volunteers – This is a pilot scheme within the Church of Scotland for young people ages 18-25. They will spend 10 months working within congregations: leading worship, running children's clubs, visiting senior citizens and reaching out to families in the community. Iona Kimmitt, one of Presbytery's former representatives at the Youth Assembly, is one of four chosen this year. She will be heading to Glasgow where she will be assigned to Maryhill Church in one of the priority areas. We wish her well as she tackles this challenging work.

Presbytery meets next on Tuesday 3 November 2015 at 7.00pm in Abbotshall Church, Kirkcaldy, for a Celebration of the Lord's Supper, followed by a conference session on "Re-imagining the Regional Church"