

Summer 2018

Kirkcaldy Congregational Churches

Newsletter



Pathhead Congregational Church
West End Congregational Church

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

INSIDE FRONT COVER

No. 410**Summer 2018**46 Mid Street
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Dear Friends,

Over recent months we have been on a journey together which has taken us into some uncharted territory! As is reported elsewhere in the newsletter, we are nearing a conclusion to much of the governance work we have had to do, and I would want to record my thanks to those who have shared in steering our course. In particular the office bearers of the churches, Jim and Stella, Irene and Dave, and also Brian who has guided the legal aspects of the transition. Our thoughts now turn towards the building work, which we anticipate will get under way in the coming months.

Sitting behind this process of change is a deeper change to our identity, as we finally lay to rest the treasured identities of Pathhead and West End. The re-emerging of Kirkcaldy Congregational Church, which was the forerunner of both churches for around seventy years (and then continued for another quarter century until the name disappeared in the 1890s) carries with it a sense of a circle being completed. The emerging into two churches in the late 1860s served Kirkcaldy well, and in spite of some challenges, strengthened the place of Congregationalism in the town.

Fifers have a strong streak of individualism coupled with a sense of community, and of radical thinking whilst still valuing tradition, and these features found (and still find) expression in our way of *doing* church and *being* Christian.

The congregational way of going about things (which we share with Baptists and other independents), can be a mixed blessing! Our openness to shared approaches and ecumenism, has arguably led to a loss of identity as Congregationalists across the world have been in the vanguard of unions and ecumenical experiments over the years. On the other hand many congregational churches slipped into oblivion, stressing their independence, to the point of becoming isolated, even insular.

These risks remain, and as a church with a renewed identity we will have decisions to face, and then take, in coming months and years about who we identify with. *Formally* this raises a question of affiliation to the Congregational Federation (which effectively ends with the ending of the two churches). There are some strong views for and against – personally I have no strong view! *Informally* there are questions about ensuring links with other churches more locally. The emphasis is on informal links which will enrich us as we share together, and hopefully guard against the dangers of isolation and insularity – which I do have strong views on!

I am confident we will steer our way through this next stage of the journey. I'm not overly concerned about the destination, just happy to be travelling with you all!

Wishing you each every blessing,

Kevin

SPRING MEMORIES



Over the Lenten and Easter periods this year, it was good to revive our participation with the other town centre churches. We shared in a series of Lent studies, looking at the film, *the Way*, and then hosted one of the Holy Week services. A number of folk from the other churches also supported our Good Friday reflection.

On the Sundays of Lent, some of our folk had prepared *Lenten Tears*, capturing some of the emotions of the season, and these were attached to the cross each week. On Easter, the tears were brought together to form a lovely flower which gave a focus for our informal Family Communion Service, when some of the young folk also created some Easter bunting.



In June we held our Summer Family Service, with the theme of *The Wonders of Life*. We created some play-doh prayers, looked at creation stories from different cultures, and thought about our responsibility for the planet. We finished with singing the *Galaxy Song*, and then enjoyed lunch together.

At the beginning of July we also sought to reach out to the wider community with *Open Church*. This was planned to coincide with Fife Pride, and to send out a message that as a church we are open and inclusive. A number of our own folk, supported by others from various churches, served drinks, biscuits and sweets on the street in front of the church. Whilst we were a bit off the beaten track for the Pride parade, we made contact with a good number of people, and hopefully sent out a positive message about the church today.

As always a big thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the church over the months.



CHURCH ROLLS

A number of folk associated with the congregation have passed away in recent months:

Peppina Dickson
 Ronnie Kininmonth
 Alex Hird
 Nan McLean
 Betty Myles
 George Simpson

We give thanks for each of them, especially those who served so faithfully, and we continue to remember their loved ones.

MARTHA'S STORY



The church has a number of older members who are housebound, and no longer able to gather with us week by week. We keep in touch with them through pastoral visitation, and deacons' visits, as well as through the church's flower ministry, where most weeks, after the service, flowers are taken to housebound friends, or others who might appreciate them (they may be celebrating a significant event or are perhaps unwell).

Many of our older members have remarkable stories to tell, and one such is Martha Watson. Martha was in hospital for a spell, but is now back home. Martha's story was recently recorded in the WRAC Association magazine – here's a flavour of the article (with Martha's permission!)

Originally from the village of Kilmany, Martha joined the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service, forerunner of the Women's Royal Army Corps) in 1942. From Inverness Barracks, she moved to Oswestry, then Anglesey, then Wolverhampton, before being sent to HMS Ganges, a shore-based facility near Harwich, where Martha served as a Predictor Op. on the anti-aircraft guns. Martha writes that "we were told that we would no longer be called 'gunners', as Mr Churchill didn't want any daughters being a gunner!" It all had an effect on Martha - like most of her fellow Predictors, Martha was to lose her hearing later in life.

On arrival at Ganges, Martha was assessed by the naval doctor, who told her she was too thin, and prescribed her two pints of milk every day – it made no difference, Martha remained the same weight throughout her life!

Towards the end of the war, Martha was sent to Feltham, for office work, but asked if she could be transferred to driving. The officer told her that she wasn't the type for driving, as "drivers were common and coarse". Martha said to him, "are you talking about Princess Elizabeth" – and no more was said. Martha learned to drive small trucks.

After the war, Martha returned to Fife, eventually settling in Kirkcaldy where she married Tom, who was manager at Hutchison's Mill (and supplier of sacks for the races at the Sunday school picnics!) Martha joined the West End Church in the 1960s, and still takes a great interest in all that is going on.

DATES AND ROTAS

Date	Theme	Key Reading	Team	Church Officer
August 5	Communion	Ruth 2: 1-23	2	L Crouthers
12	<i>Ruth's story</i>	Ruth 3: 1-18	3	D Brown
19		Ruth 4: 1-22	4	E Kirkhope
26	<i>Visit from Philip Holmes (ChoraChori)</i>		5	S Allan
September 2	Communion	Genesis 3	1	D Allan
9	<i>Beginnings</i>	Genesis 6-9	2	A Adamson
16		Genesis 12	3	D Fairgrieve
23		Genesis 39	4	D Clark
30	Harvest Family Service		5	D Galloway
October 7	Communion	Kevin on Holiday	1	R MacMillan
14			2	L Crouthers
21			3	D Brown
28	<i>Pulpit Exchange Rev'd Alan McGougan, Dunfermline URC</i>		4	I Hutchison
November 4	Communion (All saints)	Matt 8: 1-4	5	L Bushnell
11	Remembrance Sunday	Micah 1/Matt 9	1	S Muir
18		Matt 5: 13-16	2	A Adamson
25	<i>Church Meeting</i>	Matt 21: 12-17	3	D Fairgrieve
December 2	Advent 1 – Communion	Habakkuk 1	4	E Kirkhope
9	Advent 2 – Gift Service	Esther 4	5	S Allan
16	Advent 3 – Family Service		1	D Allan
23	Advent 4 – Carol Service	Matt 1: 18-25	2	L Crouthers
24 (7.30pm)	Christmas Eve	Luke 2: 1-14		
25 (10.30am)	Christmas Day	Luke 2: 8-20		
30	Christmas Reading & Carols		3	D Brown
January 6	New Year Communion	Matt 2: 1-23	4	D Clark
13		Matt 3: 1-17	5	D Galloway
20		Matt 4: 1-17	1	R MacMillan
27		Matt 5: 1-20	2	A Adamson
February 3	Communion	Matt 6: 7-21	3	D Fairgrieve
10		Matt 7: 1-14	4	I Hutchison
17		Matt 13: 24-43	5	L Bushnell
24	Thinking Day Family Service		1	S Muir

Door Duty Teams: (Team members should arrange cover if unable to be present)

1	Roddy MacMillan	Sylvia Muir	Diane Allan	
2	Andrew Adamson	Lilian Crouthers	Anne Collins	
3	Dave Brown	Dave Fairgrieve	Maureen Gove	
4	Don Clark	Irene Hutchison	Erica Kirkhope	Sandra Adamson
5	David Galloway	Liz Bushnell	Stella Allan	

Communion	Flowers	Tea & Coffee
A Adamson & L Crouthers	G Skinner	
	M Fairgrieve & I Hutchison	E Kirkhope & V Flett
	L Crouthers	
	A Friend & Z Wright	M Kelly & S Muir
D Allan & R MacMillan	I Cunningham & E Walker	
	D Brown & M Fairgrieve	TBA
	L Crouthers	
	E Mair	E Kirkhope & V Flett
	D Brown & M McCleary	Harvest Lunch
D Allan & R MacMillan	V Flett	
		L Crouthers & C Watt
	Z Wright & V Flett	
	A Allan & F Yule	TBA
D Galloway & S Allan	L Crouthers	
	M McCleary	TBA
	D Fairgrieve	
	L Lowe	S Muir
I Hutchison & E Kirkhope	V Graham & Z Wright	
	A friend	E Kirkhope & V Flett
	E Walker	
	Christmas flowers	Christmas Lunch
D Clark & I Hutchison		
D Brown & D Fairgrieve		

Contacts:

Flower Rota Irene Hutchison (01592 652486 or mobile 07940762015)
Coffee Day Sandra Adamson (01592 654064)
Tea & Coffee Diane Allan (07728764537)
Craft Group Christine Watt (01592 590163)



Kirkcaldy Foodbank is an independent foodbank which works to ensure local people do not go hungry during a time of crisis. It opened in December 2013. The foodbank provides emergency food parcels to people in need, and exists to:

- work towards relieving poverty and hardship in the Kirkcaldy area,
- support local people and their families to find longer-term solutions, through advice and guidance,
- work towards a more equitable society by promoting sharing in the local area,
- promote dignity and respect within the local community, and
- work in partnership with other organisations to alleviate poverty and social exclusion within the Kirkcaldy area.

For a number of years the Pathhead Church supported the foodbank by encouraging folks to take donations to the church, which were then taken to the depot at Dysart. There is now a collection box at the back of the church, and donations are welcome.

Among the items required are:

Canned Fish	Canned Soup	Rice
Canned Meat	Canned Beans or Spaghetti	Pasta & Pasta Sauce
Canned or Dried Fruit	Long Life Milk (UHT)	Cereal
Canned Vegetables	Long Life Fruit Juice (UHT)	Tea and Coffee

The most recent Foodbank annual report can be found at:

<http://www.kirkcaldyfoodbank.org.uk/webs/27/documents/KFBAR2018.pdf>

KIRKCALDY CONGEGATIONAL CHURCH

For almost a year now, we have functioned as a single congregation, but there have been different ways in which we have had to maintain the separate identities of the two churches, not least at Church meetings where we have had to duplicate certain decisions and record everything separately. This is now nearing an end!

At our meeting in July it was reported that OSCR (the Charity regulator) had consented to the change of name to Kirkcaldy Congregational Church, so the meeting agreed a date of 31st August for this change to take place. The papers have been signed and sent to OSCR, and now we have to work through the administrative processes of changing the name on bank accounts and with other statutory bodies. Subsequently, we learned (on 6th August) that consent has also been granted for the full reorganisation of the charity, which means we can adopt the new constitution, and begin to appoint new trustees.

Along with your newsletter this month comes the mailing of some papers which everyone is asked to consider, complete and return as appropriate.

- i. Roll transfer – it was agreed at the church meeting that we simply merge the lists from the two churches into single lists, however, individuals have the opportunity to indicate which list they wish to be included on (Roll of Members, Supplementary Roll, or the general pastoral list);
- ii. Gift Aid Declaration and Standing Order Request – the former West End account number and sort code will remain, but the name of the account will change, similarly the Gift Aid declaration will change. Please complete the Standing

Order Request form and send this to your bank and return the completed Gift Aid Declaration form to Stella or Jim K.

There is a final application which now needs submitting to OSCR, which is the request to bring the Pathhead Church to a close as a Scottish Charity, and transfer the assets to Kirkcaldy Congregational Church. This will be completed and submitted soon.

Though there are still these matters to finalise, **we will formally mark the establishment of Kirkcaldy Congregational Church at the Communion Service on 2nd September**, which is the first opportunity following 31st August. If you are able, please make a special effort to be at Church that day, to mark this very significant occasion!

The second main item of business at the July meeting was an update on the building plans. A Sub-group appointed by the leaders had met on a number of occasions to begin to define the priorities for the building work, which would be largely constrained by our budget. This focussed the work on two main areas. There is the work to be done in the main church to give accessibility throughout, and to upgrade heating, lighting and seating. The second area is the creation of additional toilets, upgrading the kitchen and redecorating the hall. We may also do some limited work in the upstairs hall to create office and storage space.

We then met with the architect, who offered further guidance, and is now working on the plans in preparation for submission to the Planning Authority for consent. Once these plans are ready, we will call a church meeting for final comment and clarification, before agreeing for the plans to be submitted.

Realistically it is unlikely that the planning application will be agreed much before the end of the year, which means that work would probably commence in the early spring – but these timings are not in our hands!

Information and plans can be found on www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk the tab is *church business*, password: kirkcong2016.

DATES TO NOTE

- Church Meetings:** The next scheduled church meeting will be on Sunday 25th November, however we will be calling a Special Church meeting before then to progress various matters.
- Communion:** Communion is held monthly, normally on the first Sunday of each month.
- Newsletters:** The next Newsletter is planned for November.
- Coffee Days:** Coffee Days will be held on the second Saturday of each month, 10.00am – 2.00pm. Please come along to support if you can. If you would like to help, please speak to Sandra.
- Tea & Coffee:** Tea & coffee will be served following the service on the second and fourth Sundays each month. Please speak to Diane if you can help out with this.
- Family Services:** We aim to have around 4 Family Services each year, normally followed by lunch. The next is **Harvest on September 30th**.



“ChoraChori” is the Nepali word for “children”. It’s also the name of a UK registered charity that’s rescuing Nepal’s displaced and trafficked children from India - finding Nepal’s lost children and bringing them home!

This month we will receive a visit from Philip Holmes, who is co-founder of the organisation. Philip has been involved in various forms of charitable work in Nepal since the late 1990’s, and the West End Church supported his work over a number of years, partly by bringing along loose change to be left in the collection plate in the vestibule each week.

The organisation’s goals for 2018 include:

- We aim to rescue at least 80 Nepali children from India, returning 60 of these to their families by the end of the year
- By December 2018 we will have a fully operational child trauma management centre that excels in the therapeutic use of the arts
- We will establish relevant and cost-effective in-house vocational training for boys and girls at our refuge and for those from the local community
- We will evolve crafts training into not-for-profit business activities that generate a local income for ChoraChori-Nepal through sale of products nationally and internationally
- We will support the development of contemporary circus in Kathmandu
- As part of capacity building we will design and implement a local fundraising strategy for ChoraChori-Nepal.

Philip has been in Nepal during early August, but plans to be at the church on Sunday 26th August, when he will update us on the ongoing work. Please plan to come along to support and hear about their vital work.

CHURCH POLICIES

As the new church begins to take shape, there are some more mundane aspects of the church’s life that need to be addressed. This includes our Church policies. It is good practice for every charity and organisation to have a range of policies in place (and then to put them into practice!) to ensure that we operate legally and safely.

The policies to date include:

- Privacy and Information Consent
- Safeguarding (often known as Child and Adult Protection)
- Use of Premises (including Risk assessment and Health & Safety)
- Online safety
- Domestic Abuse
- Equalities & Disabilities

These policies are appearing in draft form over the next few weeks on the secure area of the web site. A folder with copies will also be available in the church. At a future church meeting we will be asked to adopt these policies to guide our ongoing work.

Visit: www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk, the tab is *church business*, password: kirkcong2016.

INSIDE BACK COVER

CHURCH SERVICES and ACTIVITIES

Worship	Sunday 10.30am (unless otherwise intimated)
Brownies	Tuesday 6.00pm
Guides	Wednesday 7.00pm
Craft Group	Wednesday 7.00pm
Coffee Day	Second Saturday of each month 10.00am – 2.00pm

Tea and Coffee are served after worship on the second and fourth Sundays.

Communion is observed on the first Sunday of each month.

The table is open to all, including children.

Minister

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Secretary West End

Mr David Fairgrieve

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Mr James Kelly

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Secretary Pathhead

Mrs Irene Hutchison

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Mrs Stella Allan

14 Masereene Road, Kirkcaldy

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If there is any information that you feel would be helpful to the minister or other office bearers in carrying out their duties, please get in touch using the contact details above.

Of particular help would be pastoral information about anyone who is ill at home or in hospital or others requiring a visit. Also it is helpful to know of any changes in contact details (address, phone number, email).

For up to date information on Church activities, please visit the website:

www.kirkcaldycongregationalchurches.org.uk

www.facebook.com/kirkcaldycong/