

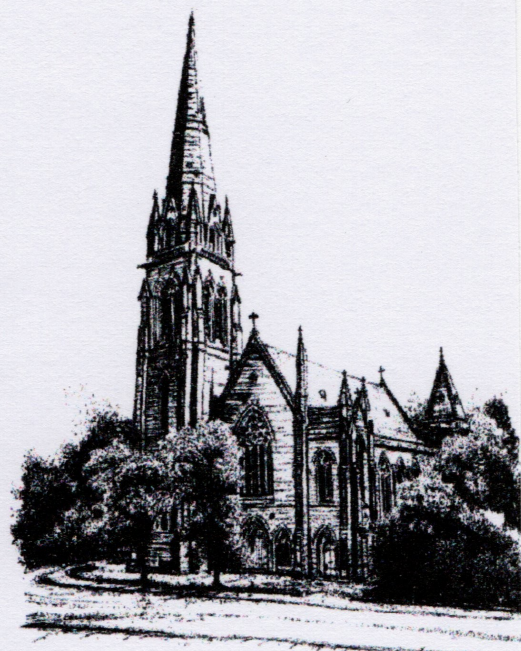
The Mustard Seed

**Easter
2023**



Dear fellow Christians,

I write this article on the 1st March - St David's Day - and what is also known as the date of meteorological spring. We have left pancake Tuesday and Ash Wednesday and continue on the Easter journey through Lent which leads to the cross and the empty tomb. Each year, I am more aware of how the seasons slowly turn, even when we hardly notice it happening. Snowdrops and daffodils burst through the soil, reminding us that winter doesn't last forever. Perhaps that same thought could be applied to the process of bringing the town centre churches together in a meaningful way.



In previous months, I have found it difficult to report on the state of play, simply because, at times, it felt like two steps forward and two steps back. But work has

been progressing; and the nuts and bolts of necessary planning are being locked into place following the formation of a Strategy Group. Ways of progressing the union are being discussed and the most interesting development is the possibility of having an Interim Minister to assist us.

A presentation on Interim Ministry has been made by Daran Golby the Ministry Development manager at 121 George Street. If agreed, we have the option of appointing an Interim Minister for twelve months from Spring 2023 to accompany and support the congregations, Interim Moderators and Kirk Sessions.

If the congregations decide to go down that route then one could soon be appointed because the central authorities have assured us that an Interim Minister is available. Previously, we had been led to believe that we would have been at the

back of the queue and so there was a reluctance to pursue that option.

In summary, the wheels are now turning a little faster and moving in the right direction. Like the changing of the seasons, advances are being made. So thank you for being patient during the months of seeming inactivity and may you look forward to the celebration of Easter, when we share the Good News of Resurrection and new life.

Your Interim Moderator and friend,

Andrew Donald

All of us at St Bryce Kirk owe Andrew a huge debt of gratitude for all his time and effort spent on our behalf. As Parish Minister in Pathhead Church, he already has a full time ministry leading Sunday worship and pastoring and tending his own flock so we really appreciate all his input, especially the wisdom and advice he imparts through wit and humour.



Whose we are and Whom we serve.

The **Guild** has had a busy time since the start of the session>

In January, ***Cosy Kingdom*** gave us ideas on how to keep our homes warmer.

Our next meeting ***A Scottish Afternoon of Verse and Song*** was “very interesting”.

Then a hi-tech ***Zoom call*** from our Project Partner, “***Home for Good***”, was followed by a “***bring and buy***” sale raising -£144 plus £80.00 (tablet money)

Thank you to all the ladies for such a great effort.

A very good talk on ***Fire Safety*** gave lots of tips.

Michael White will be speaking to us in March, about ***Memory Joggers*** and we are looking forward to getting all the advice he can give us.

We will be making a virtual visit of ***Falkland Palace Gardens***.

In April, Ian Archibald will be telling us about ***Mary Somerville***.

Our **AGM and Entertainment** will be on April 25th

We intend to round off the session by having a **lunch** on 9th May provided by our brilliant kitchen staff.

We meet every 2nd Tuesday and this session we have had between 20 and 25 attending.

We are so glad to have Helen back amongst us joining in fellowship and doing what we do best *blethering over a cup of tea or coffee.*

Please feel free to join us at any meeting.

Jennifer Wilson

CHURCH REGISTER

Deaths



*"I give them eternal life,
and they shall never perish"*

John 10 : 28

Greta Curtis

2nd January 2023

Peter Meikle

21st January 2023

Margaret Leslie

8th February 2023

Finance Report

<u>Financial Year</u>			<u>Financial Year</u>		
2022			2021		
<u>Sunday Offerings</u>					
	Open	FWO		Open	FWO
Oct-Dec:	£555.10	1,870.10		£334.70	2,711.50
Jan-Dec:	£1,878.56	7,221.80		1,299.75	£8,853.20
<u>S/O</u>					
Oct-Dec:	£10,582.00			£10,852.00	
Jan-Dec:	42,993.00			44,003.00	
<u>Tax reclaimed</u>					
<u>Gift Aid</u>					
Oct-Dec:	£2,791.78			£2,999.63	
<u>GASDS*</u>	+ 311.27			+ 337.43	
	£3,103.05			£3,337.06	
<u>Totals</u>	£12,449.60			£13,140.97	

Listed Places of Worship Scheme (separate from Gift Aid)
 VAT reclaimed for repairs and maintenance work to the church from the Scheme was £2,551.11

* Gift Aid, Small Donation Scheme

As we are approaching the end of the financial tax year, please advise me of any changes in your details, eg. change of address, or a change in income tax status. (This applies to those who have Gift Aided their contributions.)

Dorothy Smith, Convener
 (01592 265808)

Town Centre Churches - Update

On 1st March, the Kirk Sessions of the four Town Centre churches attended, a presentation on Interim Ministry by Daran Golby (Ministries Development Manager) and Sandra Black (Interim Minister). Representatives from Fife Presbytery were also in attendance.

The presentation outlined why an Interim Minister might be appointed, and through discussions with the four churches, what their role would be in helping us all to move forward and what shape Team Ministry in Kirkcaldy Town Centre could look like.

St Bryce Kirk Session has agreed that appointing an Interim Minister is the best way in moving towards a union of the four Town Centre Churches.

The other three Kirk Sessions have also agreed.

On Sunday 2nd April, all four congregations, after their morning services, will be given the opportunity to hear (the same) information on Interim ministry.

Anne Hunter - Session Clerk

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### JOINT SUNDAY SERVICES

#### July

|           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 2nd. July | St. Bryce Kirk        |
| 9th "     | Abbotshall Church     |
| 16th "    | Linktown Church       |
| 23rd "    | Bennochry Church      |
| 30th "    | Congregational Church |

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Coronation Day



St Bryce Kirk are hosting a
Celebration for Coronation Day
in the centre from 10am.

on **Saturday 6th May.**

We will be watching the Coronation on the
Large TV followed by an
Afternoon Tea.

This is open to all who would like to come.

Advanced Tickets priced £5
are from the office.

(Please advise of any dietary requirements)



Hospitality/ Fellowship Team Update

The Friendship Club continues to be well attended on the first and third Tuesdays every month with a regular attendance of around 10. We watched the film "Elf" on the fifth Tuesday in December. In January we enjoyed a quiz and bingo afternoon, plus there was another movie day, when we chose to watch "The Quartet".

We've had a day of table games - hotly contested! Recently we made and ate pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and in March, we learned about St David, patron saint of Wales and had fun making edible dragons. We plan to do some more crafty things soon plus more fun with games and quizzes.

The chat and laughter is always good to hear as the group is not comprised solely of church members. Other friendships are being formed and the mixing and coming together makes the afternoon a success.



The Hospitality Team continues serving teas/coffees after the services, as well as providing Soup Lunches. So far this year, the one in February was for the Disaster Emergency Committee's Appeal following the terrible earthquake in Turkey/Syria. We sent £488 to the DEC, of which £393 was gift-aided.

That was a terrific result!

The recent lunch in early March raised £150 for the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS Projects with £119 of that being gift-aided. The April one is to be on Sunday 30th when we will be hosting the Town Centre Churches, so we hope for a bigger turnout that day.

Beryl Luke

Pastoral Care

As we move through Lent towards Easter we are reminded that these 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the Bible more and to pray more often- all leading to the great celebration of Easter.

If we look out of the window or go for a wander outdoors we are beginning to be very aware of the absolute wonder of Spring as crocuses and daffodils burst forth to brighten our day no matter what is troubling us.

Weren't we really fortunate in our little corner of Fife not to be too affected by the snow which covered so much of the rest of the country!!

The Team continue to be updated as to what's happening for our Church Family by entries in the Contact Book. Please do make full use of the book or phone so that we are in a position to be of help to any of our members / friends who find themselves in circumstances when a phone call or visit might make a difference.

Caring for and sharing with others can take place in many different settings. Our Flower Ministry, which is now being coordinated by Kate Lindsay, is one way you can contribute - see the list on the Notice-board.



We hope to have our traditional Summer Tea probably in early June. The date has still to be decided but be assured it will be as popular and enjoyable as ever.

Dorothy Murray

"Easter 2020"

By Malcolm Guite

*And where is Jesus, this strange Easter day?
Not lost in our locked churches, anymore
Than he was sealed in that dark sepulchre.
The locks are loosed; the stone is rolled away,
And he is up and risen, long before,
Alive, at large, and making his strong way
Into the world he gave his life to save,
No need to seek him in his empty grave.*

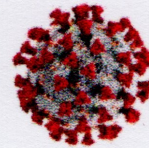
*He might have been a wafer in the hands
Of priests this day, or music from the lips
Of red-robed choristers, instead he slips
Away from church, shakes off our linen bands
To don his apron with a nurse: he grips
And lifts a stretcher, soothes with gentle hands
The frail flesh of the dying, gives them hope,
Breathes with the breathless,
lends them strength to cope.*

*On Thursday we applauded, for he came
And served us in a thousand names and faces
Mopping our sickroom floors and catching traces
Of that corona which was death to him:
Good Friday happened in a thousand places
Where Jesus held the helpless, died with them
That they might share his Easter in their need,
Now they are risen with him, risen indeed.*

Covid has been brutal and horrible.

Covid changed so much -***everywhere***, and certainly in our churches. Sunday services changed: just think of the difference in our Communion services here at St Bryce Kirk. But if Covid can teach us anything, as so beautifully expressed in "***Easter 2020***" it should be that we ought to be looking for the risen Jesus *outside* churches – a lesson we should have learned long long ago

Andrew McLellan



Wednesday Bible Study Group

We continue to meet every Wednesday from 10.00 till about 11.30. We have not yet managed to reach our pre-covid numbers, but we always have a lively discussion as we listen and learn - there is always something new and challenging.

Could we be like Daniel facing the lion's den, or his friends risking the fiery furnace by refusing to worship an idol? For us it would be facing worldly demands, which we know in our hearts, would not meet Jesus' approval.

George Luke



There has been a proposal that the Town Centre churches join up to form a DUPLO Club

It would be for toddlers to preschoolers, 1.5 - 4yrs.

The idea is :-

- bring children together from all four churches,
- create a safe space for structured play aiding their learning and creativity,
- bring together parents/grandparents and carers who may feel isolated while caring for their children,
- provide a healthy mid-afternoon snack for children,
- remain open during school holidays allowing the adults to depend on support when other groups close,
- link with nurseries, charities, Local Authority Services who may have knowledge of families who could benefit from low/no cost activities & social contact,
- introduce children to worship using action songs and ending with a very simple child's prayer.

! Watch this space !

Contact the Office if you are interested in being involved

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## **Abbotshall Church Coffee Mornings**

St Bryce Kirk members and friends are warmly invited to attend our coffee mornings which are held once month on a Saturday from 10am to 12 noon.

The next one is :- April 1st

The coffee morning on May 6th is cancelled because of the Coronation.  
Details will be announced later.

## **Musical Reflections with Richard and Morag**

Visit Abbotshall Church facebook page on the last Friday of every month at 4 pm for 30 minutes to hear Richard and Morag play traditional hymns and modern hymns to some "awfa bonnie tunes" all played with fun and good humour.. There is even time for some personal requests. The next date is Friday 31st March. Make sure it is in your diary.

## **Abbotshall Craft Group**

The group is on a Wednesday morning from 10am to 12 noon in the Kennedy Hall at Abbotshall Church. If you have a craft hobby or a project you are working on (e.g., modelling, art, sewing, knitting etc.) please bring it along and enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

There is a nice selection of cards for sale every Wednesday and these are also available to buy at the coffee mornings held throughout the year.

For more information contact Bett Duncan at Abbotshall.

## **Prayer Group at Abbotshall Church**

The Prayer Group meet in the Session Room in the Church on the following Sundays from 10.10 am till 10.30 am.

***The dates of the meetings are: -***

***2nd and 16th April, 7th and 21st May,  
4th and 18th June.***

**Why not come along and join us.?**

There is also a prayer box in the Church vestibule where you can write down the name of someone you know who needs prayers and will be included the next time we meet.

If you would like us to pray for someone you know:-

Contact - Anne Gardner (265876) or Morna Scriven (268172)



## Contact Information

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St Bryce Kirk Centre & Church Office

Rosalind Gould - Centre Manager

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E-mail :- [office@stbrycekirk.org](mailto:office@stbrycekirk.org)

Website : - [www.stbrycekirk.org](http://www.stbrycekirk.org)

'Phone :- 01592 640016

SCO 31064

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Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday - April 2nd at 11.00 - all 4 churches

Monday Congregational Church - 7.00 pm

Tuesday . Bennoch Church "

Wednesday St. Bryce Kirk "

Thursday . Abbotshall Church "

Good Friday

Congregational Church, "A Reflection" at 2.30

Linktown, "Private Prayer & Reflection" - 11.00 till 4.00

Friday . Linktown Church 7.00 pm

Saturday

Linktown - Coffee morning from 10.00 - 12.00

Easter Sunday - April 9th at 11.00 - all 4 churches

George Luke - Editor :- georgeluke.kdy@gmail.com