



*The
Mustard
Seed*

October 2021

The email was straight to the point :-



From :- Rev. Robin McAlpine

Subject :- St Bryce Kirk

To :- Very Rev. Andrew McLellan

September 2021

Dear Andrew.

My name is Robin McAlpine.

I am Interim Moderator at St Bryce Kirk, Kirkcaldy and

I would like you to conduct worship there each Sunday

There might have been many things to consider: I did not know Mr McAlpine, and did not know St Bryce Kirk (although I did know Ken Froude). I had hardly been in church in the eighteen months since lockdown began,

I had not preached much for a while before that;

I was not looking for a new adventure ...

so I accepted *almost* immediately!

After four weeks, I am very grateful to Robin McAlpine.

My father was a minister, my grandfather was a minister, my former brother-in-law was a minister and other uncles and cousins (*neither of our twin sons have ever thought of becoming ministers*). I am married to Irene, who is a (retired) teacher of Home Economics (most recently in Dunfermline High School and Lochgelly High School).

It happens that I have been minister of the poorest and of the wealthiest parish in Scotland.

When I was minister in the East End of Greenock (1971-1980) we had one street in the parish which had 100% unemployment.

From 1980 to 1986 I was minister in Viewfield Church, Stirling.

When, I was minister in St Andrew's & St George's in Edinburgh, from 1986 - 2002, the headquarters of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Standard Life and other huge financial institutions were in our parish.

For seven years (2002-2009) I was Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. This was not a church but a public appointment, and a full-time position. My responsibility, along with our team, was to report to the Justice Secretary on the conditions and treatment of prisoners, and to make recommendations. To change careers at 58 was challenging. I was conscious on my first day that everyone I would meet, from the youngest remand prisoner to the most senior governor in the biggest prison, knew more than I did about the task in hand. But I would not have missed these years for anything.

Four years ago I spent 18 months as locum in a congregation in Edinburgh. That was a different sort of appointment from St Bryce Kirk, since in Edinburgh I had pastoral responsibility as well as worship responsibility; while in St Bryce Kirk I have no mid-week duties. The Edinburgh experience was a happy one for me, so I am looking forward to the Kirkcaldy experience confidently. I hope that at the end of it you will feel as grateful to Robin McAlpine as I did at the beginning!

Very Rev *Andrew McLellan*

THE GUILD

We had a lovely afternoon on Tuesday 14th September beginning our Session with a video of the past projects which the Guild has supported over the past three years and a Games afternoon on the 28th. We always end with and enjoy a welcome cup of tea and a good chat.

You will be made very welcome to come to any of the meetings listed below :-

Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month 1.30 - 3.00pm

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Oct. 12. | Quiz and favourite holiday destinations. |
| Oct. 26. | Project (B.E.A.T.) and Bring and Buy |
| Nov. 9 | Courage to change. |
| Nov. 23. | Iain Whyte (General Secretary) |
| Dec. 7. | Christmas Fun |



We look forward to you coming along to any of our meetings.

Helen Mitchell Convener.

Whispers

The man whispered, "God speak to me"
And a meadow-lark sang. But the man did not hear

So the man yelled, "**God speak to me**"
And the thunder rolled across the sky. ..
But the man did not listen

The man looked around and said, "God let me see you"
And a star shone brightly. But the man did not see.

And the man **shouted**, "Show me a miracle".
And a life was born. But the man did not notice.

So the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God,
And let me know You are here !".

Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man.
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.



Pastoral Care

Events

The first event in a very long time was held on Sunday 12th September. The Praise Band provided lively entertainment with an impressive line up of musicians which, to everyone's delight, included Ken and Agnes Ann.

Toes were tapping, hands clapping and there was singing albeit with masks. Afternoon Tea was served in the large Hall afterwards and a lot of catching up was done.

Visiting

Because of a change in circumstances for many of our members over the last months we feel that we need to reconsider our visiting programme. We plan to contact members individually to find out if they are now in a position where they would like to have a Church Visitor.

This we expect will necessitate the need for an additional number of Visitors. At the moment there are VERY few people willing to be involved in visiting. If no more people are prepared to visit then we will have to abandon our Church visiting programme.

We hope that Elders and others will give consideration as to whether visiting might be part of the Service that they are prepared to give.

Dorothy Murray : Telephone 264456

Church Register - Deaths

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish - John 10: 28

David Wallace

David Brown



To the people of St Bryce Kirk

As Interim Moderator, I was asked to share my thoughts about the future of the church. No small subject matter, but with all the talk of change and new presbytery plans, it is right up there, high on people's agendas.

The first things I have to say is I have no crystal ball, and the second is a disclaimer- these views are mine, and mine alone, but we do need to engage in a serious and realistic debate about the future of the Kirk.

So where to begin? There's been a lot of talk about doing church differently. Using expressions like, 'pioneer ministry'. For me it is critical we change how we 'do' church, that is a given, but we also need to understand where we need to start from. As we look out, to the future, our perspective is based on the reality of where we find ourselves, and for the vast majority of us in the Church of Scotland, we are part of what I am going to call 'inherited' church. We might have tweaked things a wee bit, freshened things up maybe, but in essence, we are part of a traditional church. Therein lies the dilemma.

For many of us who have grown up in the life of the Church of Scotland, the way we do church, will not change. I know that is kind of a bold statement, but I believe that is true. And if that is the case, what is the future? Let's use an image from the life of Moses. Near the end of his life, God took him up a hill to show him the Promised Land, that he would never enter. In spite of all his work and effort leading the people of God, he would never get there



himself. I wonder, and I would be interested to hear your views on this. I wonder if we need to accept that many of us will never see the Promised Land of a new church, but we are asked to offer our resources to help fulfil that vision.

It is my belief that a new church can only grow unfettered from our present institutional structure, and, with new leadership, training and resources for new times. This new church will not grow out of 'inherited' church. It has to be something organically different. And our role is to gift what we have, in terms of financial and prayerful support. It will be for others to embed new faith communities. We might never get there, or see what God has planned, but we can still be part of the journey.

As part of this process, the church must commit to serve those who have faithfully given of their time, and say, we will honour your service and commitment. To be blunt, to offer inherited church and its worship style, for however long it is needed in the future. None of this is easy.

This is a partnership of generosity because it is not about us. It is about a new church for the future even if we are never part of it. We can change structures all we like, but unless we change the culture of the church, 'How we do things around here?', nothing will ever change. It will be the same culture, in a new structure. It is probably not what you wanted to hear, but one of the 'rules' of change is this, to honestly accept the reality of where we are. We might want to begin somewhere else, but we know that is not possible.

If I have opened debate, lets continue it, and in hope, together, travel into God's unknown future. One final comment. If we had all the answers, we wouldn't need faith.

Robin McAlpine

HARVEST WORDSEARCH



PRAYERS

FESTIVAL

AUTUMN

FIELD

CROP

GATHER

CREATION

FARMER

THANKSGIVING

SEEDS

THANKFUL

PLOUGH

HARVEST

WHEAT

Some Centre News

In the kitchen, you will now find **Corrie** . She is from South Shields but is married to a local gent. She has 4 sons and a daughter ranging in age from 9 to 22 and enjoys a game of bingo.

The Café has been up and running again for a couple of months. We started gently just offering hot drinks alongside pancakes, scones and other small cakes. We're now offering filled rolls and a homemade **soup of the day**. Some of the favourite flavours so far have been traditional lentil, carrot and parsnip, cream of butternut squash and leek and potato.

Open from 10am - 2pm (soup available from about 11.30am.)
Corrie is happy for suggestions for anything you would like to see in the coffee bar. She has already been persuaded to try cheese scones

There are a couple of other new faces around the Centre now. Please say hello when you see them. Naturally they will be wearing masks inside the Centre so if you don't recognise them outside they will not be offended.

Kyle is our new cleaner. He is a local chap from Kirkcaldy, but has stayed in Glasgow and Inverness with a year in Saudi Arabia working in retail. He likes spending time with his family and baking.

Ray is our new caretaker. He is originally from Coventry but has spent time in the military and 30 years in general and buildings maintenance. He is married to Laura and recently moved to Kirkcaldy.

Ros. Gould - in the Office - Mon. - Thurs. (9am - 3pm)

Finance Report for October Newsletter 2021

Sunday offerings are as follows: -

2021			2020		
	Open	FWO	Open	FWO	
Jan.- Mar.	£ 34.00	£1,542.00	£977.45	£3,075.60	
Apr.- June	£464.00	£2,230.00	£ 20.00	£2,102.00	
July & Aug.	<u>£292.00</u>	<u>£1,777.20</u>	<u>£ 0.00</u>	<u>£ 668.00</u>	
	£790.00	£5,549.20	£997.45	£5,845.60	

S/O Jan.- Mar. 2021 £11,166.00
S/O Apr.- June 2021 £11,142.00
S/O July - Aug. 2021 £ 6,935.00
£29,243.00

S/O Jan.- Mar. 2020 £11,647.00
S/O Apr.- June 2020 £12,200.00
S/O July - Aug. 2020 £ 8,264.10
£32,111.10

Gift Aid: The tax reclaimed on Gift Aid contributions are as follows: -

Jan. to March 2021 £3,080.63
April to June 2021 £3,368.00
£6,448.63

Jan. to March 2020 £3,802.52
April to June 2020 £3,454.25
£7,256.77

In order that I can keep the records up-to-date, I shall be obliged if you will inform me of any changes in your details, eg. Change of name, address, telephone number, are now paying income tax or no longer pay tax.

Also, if you contribute by Freewill Offering, please advise me if you still require envelopes for next year, 2022. Perhaps you might consider paying by Standing Order monthly which would be of great benefit to the Church as it would ensure a constant flow of income and relieve you of having to have funds at hand to put in the envelopes each week.

You can contact me on 01592 265808

Dorothy Smith, Convener

Clothes 4 Kids



Clothes4Kids, has been operating every Monday and Wednesday morning in the large hall in St Bryce Centre since the middle of August. We have had a great response of donations of second-hand clothes for children from members of St Bryce Church, and from members of the other 3 town centre churches, Abbotshall, Bennochty and Linktown. We have also benefitted from donations of new underwear, socks and nappies as well as money to buy these items.



There has been a slow uptake from the public, although there have been a few people dropping in every Monday and Wednesday to collect clothes for their children.

However, due to the limited numbers now attending, it has been decided to only open on Wednesday mornings from the beginning of October.



We are unable to take more second-hand clothes due to lack of storage space. However, we will accept donations of money and new clothes like underwear Clothes4Kids has served those in need at the present time, particularly post Covid, and hopefully will continue to do so in the future.

The volunteers who help with this project are in turn helping our community. Thank you to everyone for giving donations in various forms as well as the volunteers giving your time and energy.

Andzia Wilson - on behalf of the volunteers.

Wednesdays

TEA/COFFEE AND A CHAT
St Bryce Kirk, St Brycedale Avenue
No Charge

10 am
till
1 pm



The *Auld Kirk Players* are pleased to be back in action again and will present three one-act plays on November 18 & 19 at 7.30 pm and Saturday November 20 at 2.30 pm. They are three very funny Scottish comedies so come along for a good laugh, something we can all do with in current climes.

Posters with ticket details will be displayed on the notice board soon.

Margaret Horne



Contact Information

St Bryce Kirk, St Brycedale Avenue, KIRKCALDY. KY1 1ET

St Bryce Kirk Centre & Church Office

E-mail :-office@stbrycekirk.org ~ Website : - www.stbrycekirk.org

Phone :- 01592 640016

SC0 31064

From the Editor :-

This is the third edition of Mustard Seed, the first two being a joint collaboration with Abbotshall Church. However as you read this magazine you will note that it is only related to St Bryce Kirk as Abbotshall have decided that, at the moment, they want to do their own magazine. The Communication Team hope that you enjoy this magazine but if there are any comments you wish to make then do speak to me as the next magazine will be due out towards the end of November. It will again be only covering news from St Bryce Kirk.

Best Wishes

Isobel M Greenaway (Convener - Communication Team)isobelg300@gmail.com

George Luke - D.T.P. georgeluke.kdy@gmail.com

Dates to Note

Soup lunch	31st October (provisional date)
Communion :-	7th November *
Remembrance Day:-	14th November
Carol Tea	5th or 12th December *
Gift service	19th December *

(* Subject to Session approval)