



*The
Mustard
Seed*

February 2022

Fife Presbytery Mission Plan Update **31st January 2022**

From the Moderator of Presbytery,
to
all Ministers and Congregations in Fife.

In the King James Version of the Bible, Proverbs 29:18 says: *"Where there is no vision, the people perish..."* In the RSV it is translated: *"Where there is no prophecy..."* while in the NIV it reads: *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint."* By the 31st December 2022 we as a Presbytery are mandated to deliver an approved Presbytery Mission Plan that will reduce our number of ministries by approx. 25% and determine the future of our buildings. To do so, we all need to seek God's guidance and to pray for revelation, prophecy and vision.



For several months we have been in consultation and now, given the time constraints, we need to begin to forge a vision for the future. There is an ancient proverb that says: "*Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit.*"



It is understandable that some ministers, ministry staff and congregations are apprehensive about the future and what will happen to their church and ministry. Many have continued to work hard to maintain the church for generations to come. Our people are devoted, committed, hardworking and faithful but now we are asking too much from too few. As a new Presbytery we have come together but we don't really know one another and what we can become. We have yet to discover that we can be greater than the sum of our parts. In some places congregations are dwindling; ageing and fearful about where the Kirk is going.

Elsewhere there are new shoots beginning to appear and new ways of being and doing church beginning to emerge and evolve. Many of our ministers are weary and Kirk Sessions are working hard to support them, sustain the faithful, our buildings and our Presbyterian heritage. We all want the Church of Scotland to be living and active in our community and to endure; despite the fact that our resources are being stretched and our infrastructure may no longer be as fit for purpose as it once was. Deep down we know we need to change, to make decisions and plan to future proof

our church, so that future generations will sit in the shade of the tree that we have had the courage and the conviction to plant.

Our people are valued and we need to retain the faithful. We as a Presbytery have come together to support one another, to help one another as followers of Jesus and to be a force for good and a catalyst for change across our communities. We need to deliver on our promise to unburden ministers, elders and congregations and to free them up for mission, vitality and growth. We need to be prayerful and open to God speaking as we listen to him and seek his will as we continue to evolve, change and deliver the plan. Our aim is to enable ministers and congregations to fulfil their calling and to realise mission that is sustainable.

Lastly, in thanking you for all that you have done and continue to do for our church, we would ask you to pray for us, as together we seek to discern God's will for Fife Presbytery's Mission Plan. With all good wishes and every blessing,

Jane, Neil and David

Presbytery of Fife
Moderator : Rev Jane Barron
Mission Director: Mr Neil Campbell
Presbytery Clerk : Rev Dr David Coulter

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Pastoral Care

Christmas plans *didn't* happen -

hopefully our Easter plans *will*.....

We were so disappointed that our Christmas Carol Tea had to be cancelled at the very last minute. However, undeterred, we are now planning an Easter Event. We are intending to have an :-

An Easter Celebration at 3pm

on *either* Palm Sunday 10th April

or Easter Sunday 17th April.

(The date will be finalised in the next fortnight.)

There will be an Easter Service in the Sanctuary which will be led by the Rev Andrew McLellan. This will be followed by an ***Easter Afternoon Tea*** in the large hall.

Hopefully, with COVID rules gradually disappearing nothing will stop this event going ahead. We will, however, carefully observe any restrictions which are current at that time.

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating together the most significant Festival in our Christian Calendar.

Dorothy Murray - Care Team Convener

Finance Team Report

With the Church and Centre being closed for nearly 2 years there has been a large drop in income. Although they are both now open the recovery is very slow.

As you will see from the details below, the Sunday Offerings, Standing Orders and Gift Aid reclaimed are also greatly reduced (a reduction of nearly £8,000). This is causing a great deal of concern to the Treasurer.

Sunday Offerings

| | Open | FWO | <u>S/O</u> |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 2020 (Jan. to Dec.) | £1,948.43 | 11,302.10 | 47,191.10 |
| 2021 | £1,299.75 | 8,853.20 | 44,003.00 |

Gift Aid

| | | |
|-------------------|------|------------|
| Tax reclaimed for | 2020 | £14,665.14 |
| | 2021 | £13,140.97 |

Dorothy Smith, Convener

A Prayer for Radical Change

As the churches in the centre of Kirkcaldy work and plan for the future, we call on you to join together in this prayer for strength and wisdom in these times of change.

Lord,

You are the same yesterday, today and forever.

You are constant, reliable, unchanging.

And yet

You come to make all things new.

As we give thanks for all that has been, and still is,
we pray that You would put within us a spirit of adventure,
that we might be open to what You are going to do
in the days that are coming.

By Your Spirit,

give wisdom to the Joint Emerging Church Group
as they pray and plan for the renewal of existing congregations
and for the birthing of brand new communities of faith.

Set before us a new vision
and open the eyes of our hearts
to see that even 'these dry bones shall live again.'

Living God,

We give ourselves to what You intend.

Living God,

We give ourselves for the renewing of Your church.

Living God,

We give ourselves for Your glory.

Living God,

We give ourselves in Jesus' name.

Amen

Very Rev. Dr Martin Fair



Contact Information

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St Bryce Kirk Centre & Church Office

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Notes

Sunday 27th February **Pulpit exchange**

Rev. Dr Graham Deans will be leading worship in St Bryce Kirk

Soup Lunch after the Service

Souper Sunday - raising funds for the C of S HIV / AIDS Project.

Sunday 6th March **Communion**

Very Rev. Dr Andrew McLellan will be leading worship in St Bryce.

Rev. Robin McAlpine has been our Interim Moderator for the last 8 months. We wish to express our thanks to him for all his work, insight and advice while he has been with us.

Rev. Andrew Donald from Pathhead Church will now be our Interim Moderator and we look forward to working with him.

