



St Brycedale Avenue
KIRKCALDY
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13th August 2020

The St Bryce Kirk Centre – The Response to Change and Challenge

This time of lockdown and restrictions has made life difficult for countless thousands of people and it has changed the fabric of society and the landscape of town-centres. The church is caught up in those changes.

The St Bryce Kirk Centre has been closed since March and like so many other places we face an uncertain future. There is little prospect of a strong pickup in our “business” over the next few months. Over several years now the Congregation and Church Centre have been running large and unsustainable deficits. The Covid Pandemic has made the situation much worse and brought matters to a head. We have large overheads and at present no income. Clearly this is not sustainable. The time for a radical and realistic response has come.

After exploring our options, it is with great regret, the Kirk Session has decided that as a business in its present form, the Centre is not viable, and it should cease operation. Sadly, this means that all staff will be made redundant. Clearly, at present they are our main concern. They have given so much over so many years. It has been much more than a job for them, and no redundancy payment can fully compensate financially. But significantly, they also face a loss of purpose and community, the sense of belonging and the fresh challenges that occurred daily. We have benefitted greatly from their abilities, hard work and commitment. None of this is a reflection on them.

It is also a great sadness for those who have enjoyed a welcome, a sense of community and a place to serve and especially for our much valued volunteers. But it is not the end.

Let's be clear on what this does and does not mean. The church building will continue as a venue for groups to meet. Congregational groups and activities will continue. The church will re-open for worship fairly soon, with restrictions. Large events and caterings will continue to be

welcome when permitted. All of the above will still be possible but just not any time soon.

The challenge will be in how this is organised and supported. There will be no salaried permanent staff but where needed, staff will be brought in and paid for the hours they work. Members of the Congregation and office-bearers will need to be more involved to support this new way of working.

This may be the close of a very special chapter in the history of St Bryce Kirk but it is not the end of the book. As a Christian Church, a life giving faith lies at the heart of all we do and we look forward to rebuilding a vibrant "Open Door" community in the heart of the town, in a new way, when the time is right.

Ken Froude *on behalf of*

The Kirk Session and the Management Committee