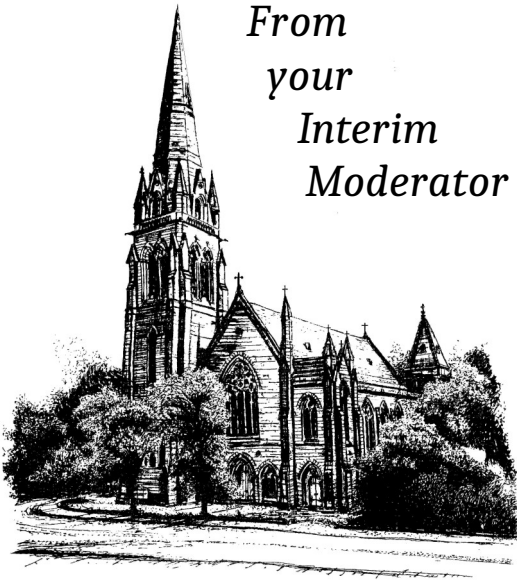




*The  
Mustard  
Seed*

Summer 2022



*From  
your  
Interim  
Moderator*

Dear friends,

The world seems to be passing through turbulent times and on a magnitude not experienced for decades. Record price rises in our supermarkets and on the garage forecourts add to the sense of foreboding as we experience the impact of the war in Ukraine. The great vision at the COP 26 conference in Glasgow seems to be blurred as nations scramble to find alternative fuel from anywhere except Russia; and heating our

homes this winter will be an economic conundrum greater than the mathematical challenge on Channel Four's Countdown. Try as we might, it's difficult to find good news stories to ease our minds. Summer is on its way but hassle-free foreign travel still seems impossible to guarantee and, domestically, the people who provide travel on our railway network are embroiled in a dispute with the government.

Peace, perfect peace will never be fully achieved on this earth because sin in all its ugly guises is ever-present. In Matthew's Gospel chapter 24, Jesus warns his disciples, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains." Only a woman who has experienced labour pains can truly understand the force of Jesus' words! Even while He walked this earth Jesus warned of difficult days ahead. But Jesus didn't leave us to languish in dark places. Through His death on the Cross He brought the remedy for sin and gave us hope that sin would not have the last word. Better to live with hope in our hearts than to be controlled by fear or bitterness. There is much to be said for the time-served practice of "counting our blessings and naming them one by one."

So when you feel cast down, look up and know that you have a friend in Jesus, ever-present and ever willing to help you in times of trial and tribulation. With His help, we will pass through troubled waters and rest peacefully in His safe haven.

Finally, I'd like to share a piece of good news. In the draft Presbytery Plan St. Bryce Kirk has been recognized as a building necessary for the longer term. Please remember in prayer members of congregations who have not received such assurance.

Your friend and Interim Moderator,  
*Andrew Donald*

## Wednesday Bible Study



We have not yet recovered to our pre-Covid numbers but we have been meeting regularly (10.00 - 11.45) on Wednesday mornings.

After “lock-down” eased, we started again by reading through John’s gospel; then looked more closely at the sequence of events of Holy Week by comparing the accounts in all four Gospels.

In complete contrast, we then delved into the Old Testament and traced the journeys of Abraham from the Persian Gulf to Egypt and his nomadic life as he zigzagged up and down and back and forth in what is now Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

We continued the travel theme by tracking down all the places from which folk had travelled in order to be in Jerusalem for the first Pentecost after the Resurrection. The distances are amazing. Travel by camel, foot or little sailing ships may have been slower but they seem to have been more reliable than present day trains or planes.

More recently, we have looked at the messages to the *Seven Churches* in the book of Revelation. There are some striking similarities in the problems those early churches were facing to the challenges which beset the Kirk both locally, nationally and in the Western world in general.

When I say we **read** Scripture, I really mean we actually **listen** to Scripture read by David Suchet (Hercule Poirot). When he became a Christian, David decided to use his skills as a trained orator / actor to make a recording of the whole of the Bible - chapter by chapter, all 1189 of them – and we have this on CD. So we listen to beautifully phrased, clearly and correctly pronounced Scripture which can be paused and repeated as we follow it on our own printed N.I.V. editions.

We have a relaxed and fun time – the coffee / tray-bakes / other goodies from the Coffee Bar are allowed - as we learn together more about ourselves and our faith. No deep theological or Bible knowledge is needed – you can sit and just listen - you don’t have to contribute though you are likely to get caught up in the discussion and chat. But we have a strict code that “what is said at the Group stays within the Group”.

We will be starting again in mid August – watch for notices in the Church notices.  
Come and join us – we are sure you will enjoy it.

George Luke.

OUR  
GIRLS  
ARE  
WELCOME  
TO  
JOIN  
US

Our session continued this term with a lovely meal at the college. Our final meeting was a DVD night when we watched “**Belfast**” and enjoyed a fish supper.

We hope everyone has a good break and look forward to seeing you all back again on Friday 2nd September to hear about your holidays and ideas for next year.

## Finance Report to June 2022



### Sunday Offerings

April & May:

<u>2022</u>	Open	FWO	<u>2021</u>	Open	FWO
	£542.90	£1,535.00		£353.00	£1,419.00

### Standing Orders

<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	£7,395.00		£7,400.00

### Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Annual maintenance is now accepted under the scheme for VAT reclaim. This includes PAT Testing, EICR Boiler checks & repairs, Gas Safety Check, Fire Extinguishers & Alarms, Security Systems and Guttering Clearing and Repairs.

We were therefore able to make a claim for most of the above, including replacing tiles on the roof and hopefully will receive the full amount which we claimed viz. £2,894.29.

Dorothy Smith, Convener



### Safeguarding Coordinator

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service is a permanent and necessary part of Church life. Harm or abuse of children and adults at risk can happen anywhere, even in church communities.

The Church aims to minimise the risk of harm occurring. If harm or abuse does occur, with appropriate support and training, it will be recognised and reported.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service employs staff with expertise in responding to suspected or reported abuse, safe recruitment, child and adult protection and providing tailored safeguarding training programmes.

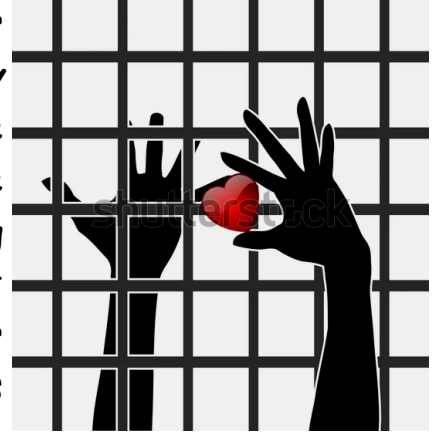
However, we all have a part to play in ensuring a Safe Church for all. If harm or abuse is suspected or witnessed, or reported to you, you must immediately report it to the Safeguarding Coordinator.

Our new Safeguarding Coordinator is Jennifer Wilson and we thank her for taking on this important role.

Anne Hunter - Session clerk

# MINING FOR GOD

I recently had the privilege of talking to a former Chief Inspector of Prisons, (whom some of us *may* know) about his work. My interest in his work came from my previous role as Headteacher, where some children had parents in prison, it was heart breaking for the family on so many levels. In his prison report were points I hadn't given much thought to, other points were completely new to me, and yet others gave me hope.



For so many, if a crime has been committed, the attitude is "lock them up", and for some serious crimes - "and throw away the key" is added. If I'm being honest, I too have said that, at times when I've watched or read about a heinous crime.

In the Chief Inspector's report, he quoted an American Judge, Dennis Challeen who said:

**"We want them to have self-worth**

So, we destroy their self-worth

**We want them to be responsible**

So, we take away all responsibility

**We want them to be positive and constructive**

So, we degrade them and make them useless

**We want them to be trustworthy**

So, we put them where there is no trust

**We want them to be non-violent**

So, we put them where violence is all around them

**We want them to be kind and loving people**

So, we subject them to hatred and cruelty

**We want them to quit being the tough guy**

So, we put them where the tough guy is respected

**We want them to quit hanging around losers**

So, we put all the losers under one roof"

What a truth in the judge's words.

I came across a quote recently that said "God is within everyone even if due to someone's attitude or behaviour, it seems otherwise. Everyone has at least one positive trait if we can open our hearts and minds".

Often the people who are hardest to love - are those who need loved the most. So, we need to do some "Mining for God" and look for that "Divine Diamond" that's within everyone. This Divinity is there, but is layered up with so much hurt, pain, anxiety, low self-esteem, disappointment, fear....., it is deeply hidden.

In my job, I had the opportunity of working with families who lived lives completely out with my experience. It was humbling to listen to their stories. Some lived with domestic violence and poverty, others lived with drug and alcohol addiction, which led to crime, at times, serious crime.

It wasn't rocket science to realise how these horrendous experiences impacted on families, and how they lived their lives in fear and uncertainty. What the children experienced are now known as ACEs - Adverse Childhood Experiences. Evidence has shown that the more ACEs a child lives with or experiences, the higher the probability of them ending up on a very challenging life path too, often criminal and leading them to prison. The importance of early intervention, support and education is key in working towards changing this perpetuating cycle. I often listened to children and families share their stories of despair and felt anger towards the parent/ carer causing the distress.

At these times, I couldn't see the "Divine Diamond" in the mum or dad. I was unable to open my heart and mind and look for the positive traits they had.



We all have a task to look at why some people turn to crime and what can be done to help prevent it.

There needs to be greater partnership working between organisations that can work with prisons, to support education and skills development. There also has to be emotional rehabilitation too, such as anger management, building self-esteem and greater self- belief. The people in prisons need help to find their gifts and skills, which are unique to them. People who break the law, do need to spend time in prison, as crimes can't be ignored, however, it's what happens in prisons that's crucial.



Irene Brown quotes in Rising Strong that prisoners who have committed heinous crimes, such as terrorists, serial killers, serial rapists and assassins still need assessed to see if they can be helped, and if they can't, they need to remain in prison. This is the most humane approach and safer for communities. Compassion needs to be partnered with accountability,

The Chief Inspector coined a wonderful phrase, : -

*“A better Scotland would have better prisons,  
and better prisons would give us a better Scotland”,*

I believe this could be said of any country, what about you?

Rae Walker

## SUMMER TEA 2022

This year, our celebration took place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June and as always it was a very happy event.

We were so pleased to be entertained by an augmented "Praise Band " of instrumentalists, vocalists and of our talented Ethan who always adds a breath of youthful fresh air.

The Hospitality Team and Care Team worked to make the afternoon a great success.



Instead of an Afternoon Tea, a light meal of quiche and salad then strawberries and ice cream was provided and enjoyed by around sixty people.

This was a Care Team Event but it was opened up to the wider congregation who had been invited to pick up a free ticket from the St Bryce Centre Office. We were delighted to welcome two members from Abbotshall Church who joined us for the afternoon.

Many thanks to those who worked to make it a success and most of all to those who attended!

The meeting up of old friends with lots of noisy chat and laughter is always a good formula for a memorable Sunday afternoon.

Dorothy Murray - Convener



## Our *Young Church* is

looking for more helpers!

Maybe this is something you have thought about doing before or maybe you want to try something new? Whatever your thoughts, we would love to have you on board and promise lots of fun, laughter and learning together

Our team works on a rota basis with 2 people working together on a Sunday to provide input to our Young Church family during the morning service. We currently only provide activities during term time and you offer however much time you have available and would like to give: we are very flexible!

If you think you could be part of our team, please speak to Ros. Gould, in the Office who will put you in contact with the right person.



### *In the next edition of "The Mustard Seed"*

This space - or a larger one - could contain an article / prayer / poem / puzzle / or a funny clip or joke, contributed by you - original or something you've read and think would be of interest to others.

You could even contribute anonymously!  
Think about it for the Autumn edition.





## ***“Whose we are, and whom we serve”***

The Guild finished off the session with 23 members attending our Afternoon Tea which was supplied by our kitchen staff and ***it was delicious***, thanks Corrie and Kyle.

We have now finished our programme for 21/22 when our Theme was **“Lights and Bushels”** when we supported two projects raising :-

£300 for ***Beat*** who provide support people with eating disorders  
and  
£300 for ***The Vine Trust***.

A big thank you to our members for raising so much

During what has been a very difficult time with Covid constantly in the background, the Committee has been busy putting together a programme for next session and also choosing our new projects in the autumn.

Our new session starts Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and we are hoping to have our Coffee Morning sometime in November.

We are very grateful to Helen Mitchell for all her hard work throughout the session keeping us updated on all Guild issues.

So have a safe healthy and happy summer, see you in September.

Jennifer Wilson

## **Fellowship Team**



We used a Soup Lunch on 22nd May to raise funds for Christian Aid. This was combined with a quiz provided by CA, and the usual envelopes which allow gift-aid to be activated on donations. The total raised was £520 of which £350 was gift-aided. This allows the total to reach over £600 which is a great result in this current financial climate. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. There is not likely to be another soup lunch until the end of August.

We are ever hopeful of being able to join with the other churches for social events come the autumn!

The Hospitality Team were also involved with the Care Team's Summer Tea on 19th June, an event much appreciated by the older members of the congregation.

Beryl Luke



## Contact Information

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St Bryce Kirk Centre & Church Office

E-mail :- [office@stbrycekirk.org](mailto:office@stbrycekirk.org) ~ Website : - [www.stbrycekirk.org](http://www.stbrycekirk.org)

'Phone :- 01592 640016

SCO 31064

.....  
St Bryce Kirk Centre will be closed  
weeks beginning 18th & 25th July  
and will re-open on Monday 1st August  
.....

## ***Central Kirkcaldy Churches***

### **Joint Summer Services**

3rd July - Kirkcaldy Congregational Church

10th - Abbotshall Parish Church

17th - Bennoch Parish Church

24th - St Bryce Kirk

31st - Linktown Church

All services begin at 11.00 am  
.....

George Luke - Editor :- [georgeluke.kdy@gmail.com](mailto:georgeluke.kdy@gmail.com)

Isobel M Greenaway - Communication Team Convener :- [isobelg300@gmail.com](mailto:isobelg300@gmail.com)

## ***Church Register - Deaths***

“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.” John 10: 28

Jean Hogg. 29th May 2022

Margaret Bernard. 31st May 2022

