



The Mustard Seed

Easter 2022

To Members and Office-bearers of St Bryce Kirk

Dear Friends

I am writing to you as your new Interim Moderator, following in the capable footprints of Robin McAlpine and I look forward to working with you recognizing that the St Bryce congregation has many gifted and talented individuals maintaining continuity and serving the needs of the parish. I hope that this latest transition will feel relatively seamless since Sunday worship will continue to be led by The Very Reverend Dr Andrew McLellan and the arrangements currently in place for pastoral matters will remain unchanged. If you need me for anything just get in touch.



Concerning the current vacancy, St Bryce Kirk is in a holding position for now. The reason for this is that the General Assembly agreed, as part of the Presbytery Mission Planning process, that all vacancies would be sisted (*held in abeyance*), save those where Presbyteries and the Faith Nurture Forum had approved permission to call as an exception. Once the Planning Process for the Presbytery of Fife has been agreed by the Faith Nurture Forum, congregations in vacancy will be able to resume activities within the terms of the agreed plan. In the meantime, cluster conversations continue and outcomes will be shared once agreement has been reached.

While discussions are continuing, my prayer is that we never grow weary in service. We live in a world which desperately needs to hear the message of Christ, reaching out to all the dark places in our world. In Lent and Easter which are seasons of spiritual reflection we are reminded that our world needs justice, forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. It was Charles Spurgeon who once said, "I have a great need for Christ: I have a great Christ for my need." The situation in Ukraine has brought those words into sharp focus. Christians proclaim Christ crucified and risen, the One who remains constant through all the changing seasons of life. With Christ as our hope and inspiration we have nothing to fear. If you are in any doubt, remember Jesus own words to His disciples contained in John's Gospel chapter 16, verse 33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Your Interim Moderator
Revd. Andrew Donald

+++++

Rev Andrew Donald is Minister at Pathhead Church. He can be contacted :-
by phone - 01592 204635 or by email minister@pathheadparishchurch.co.uk

CHURCH FLOWERS

As we return slowly to a new normal it would be helpful if members of the congregation would be prepared to take a Sunday to place flowers in the Sanctuary. This is a very important part of our church flower ministry. After the service the flowers are delivered to a member of the congregation and it is a valuable way of letting people know that the Church is thinking of them.

It would be helpful if members would volunteer to take the flowers out after the service. This can be very rewarding. If you can be part of this vital part of church ministry, please speak to me or leave details at the office and I will contact you.

I will put up a **flower rota and delivery rota** on the church noticeboard for anyone to add their name to a specific date.

Please consider this request seriously as otherwise there may be Sundays where there are no flowers in the Sanctuary.

Isobel M Greenaway - Flower Convener.



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Pastoral Care

Easter Celebration

Palm Sunday (10th March).

A short Easter Service in the Sanctuary will be followed by Afternoon Tea in the Large Hall. We will follow whatever COVID rules are in place at that time.

Summer Tea

We are hoping to have a Summer Celebration - probably in the middle of June. Definitely something for us to look forward to -

'Guest Artists' - The PRAISE BAND.

Followed, of course, by a Summer Afternoon Tea. *How good is that !*

Dorothy Murray

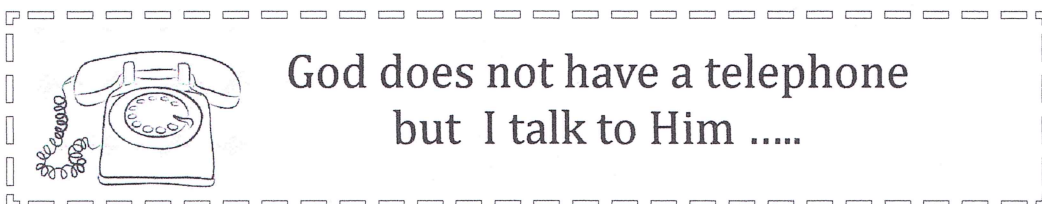
~ ~ ~ ~ ~

GIRLS ALLOWED

After a long break due to Covid, we have finally been able to **restart**. We now meet on the first Friday of the month. Our first meeting was in December with a very successful **Christmas movie and fish-supper night**.

Following the Christmas break, we had Fun Quiz Night and in March we found out about champagne from Dick West. Looking forward, we are planning to have a visit from Kirkcaldy Civic Society, another movie night and hopefully a meal out

Sheena Douglas.



Presbytery of Fife Mission Plan for St Bryce Kirk

First Draft

(for prayerful consideration.)

This draft of the Fife Presbytery Mission Plan, produced by the Board of Mission: Strategy & Planning Task Group, is intended for consultation and discussion, with Kirk Sessions, **C**lusters / **A**rea / **G**roups (CAG's) and Presbytery.

Working to the timeline agreed by the February 2022 meeting of Presbytery, the plan has been produced following a period of extensive consultation across Presbytery and Kirk Sessions and facilitated Cluster Group conversations throughout our Presbytery.

The May 2021 General Assembly and the Presbytery Mission Plan Act allow an allocation of 44.5 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Ministries to Fife Presbytery. To deliver this, Presbytery has to consider the necessary structural changes and adjustments, as well as to categorise all our Church Buildings and Church Halls (not Manses at present).

All ministries including: Full Time Ministers of Word and Sacrament; Ministry Development Staff; Ordained Local Ministers; Deacons and Readers have been considered in determining the allocation of ministries. Extensive use has been made of information gathered from consultation with Kirk Sessions and records taken from CAG's meetings and dialogue.

The Mission Strategy (Feb. 2022) was applied to the existing (Legacy) Plans which had been developed by the Presbyteries of Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews.

Using guidance from the General Trustees (C of S) to deliver, '*well-equipped spaces, in the right places,*' the Mission Strategy and Planning Task Group have worked hard with the Board of Management and Presbytery Property Convenors to find a good and fair solution.

The General Trustees *Asset Management Building Audit* (AMBA) has been a valuable asset in discerning our building categorisation. **(Note 1 below)**

Presbytery will categorise each ecclesiastical building as either: -
(A) *to be retained beyond the five years or*
(B) *to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of by a specified date within five years from the date at which the building is first categorised as (B).*

There have been several meetings of our local Cluster Group churches with the Minister or Interim Moderator, Session Clerk and an Elder from each Congregation and Facilitators.

On 8th March, the Group announced :-

"A proposal was agreed by all Kirk Sessions to move to being One church in Kirkcaldy Town Centre along with Auchtertool as a Local Mission Church. This would mean moving to a multiple union as soon as possible after January 2023. There would be one Kirk Session although there may be a need to re-imagine how the Kirk Session is organised. "

The Presbytery of Fife Mission Plan for the Parishes of Abbotshall, Bennoch, Linktown and St Bryce is :-

To develop and form, before the 2023 PMP Review :-

A Team Ministry by union of the 4 town centre churches

Comprising :-

2.5 FTE Ministries to include at least 1 Minister of Word and Sacrament as part of a Team Ministry along with Locally Ordained Minister / Reader. Funded Posts could include: Administrator/Church Officer, Community/ Childrens' / Youth Worker (s), Mission Development Worker.

As a next step the full plan will be published to Presbytery on Monday 4th April, when a period of reflection and consultation will begin until Friday 6th May.

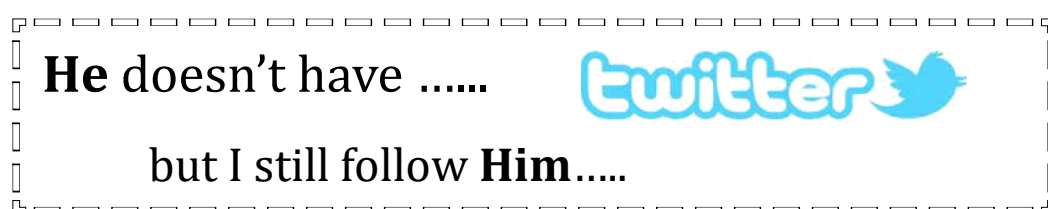
We have been encouraged to communicate and share the details with our Kirk Session and congregation.

*It is requested that **we do not publicise** the details at this stage.*

Note1

AMBA - Asset Management Buildings Audit.

Over the last six months a small team from Fife Presbytery's Board of Management have been carrying out a Buildings Audit in conjunction with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland. The aim of this audit was to have a database of all the assets in the Presbytery, including Churches, Halls and other buildings. The form included a whole variety of information from the condition of windows and doors, to the location of the buildings and how they were used. We now have a full audit of all the buildings, and this will be very helpful to the General Trustees who own the vast majority of the buildings, and also to the Presbytery of Fife Buildings Officer, David Gillan..



A POINT IN TIME

Kenn McLeod

On the hilltop, stark against the slate-grey sky,
Three crosses stand and on them three men writhe.
The soldiers round about them laugh and jest
Not caring about agony, not caring about death.



All in a day's work for them,
Hammering nails through tortured men's hands,
Jerking them up on wooden struts,
Done so often, hardly worth the sweat,
Nothing new to them. And so they turn their backs
Upon the heartbreak they have caused.



A weeping group kneels in front of the central cross:
A mother, helpless, feeling the agony of her dying son,
Each gasp a scar across her heart. His friends, heads bowed,
Seeing in their minds' eye the actions which led unto this pass.

Could they have made it otherwise?
Could they have turned back the hands of time?
Could they have warned him not to speak so loud and clear,
To muffle his message and his sureness of the days to come?

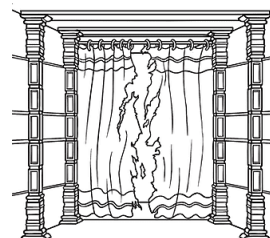
Too late now, too late to think of what might have been.
The bright promise turned to dust and bitter ash.

The dying man gazes at them, sighs, and a tear
Shed for the world slips down his cheek.
His head lolls against his breast and he is gone.
The soldiers smile, their duty done, and in their minds
The tavern or the bed, well earned for such an easy day.

The mourners shake their heads in misery:
Such a sad farewell to the one they loved
Whose words had charged their hearts with hope
Whose sure and certain promises had cheered their souls
And gave their lives a purpose and a point.
No more their praise and confidence,
No more their joy and good news for the world.



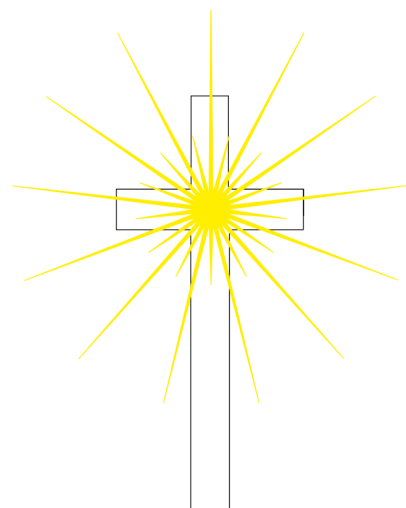
The sky turns black, a peal of thunder
Booms across the darkening town.
Forked lightning rips through the suffocating gloom
And tears the curtain of the Temple clean in two.



The soldiers stand aghast then leave the scene
At double-quick march and the crowd
Which flocked to see the show, to laugh at torment
And revel in blood, trembles, fades and melts away
Leaving only those who loved him, loved him dearly,
Kneeling in their loneliness, keening in their loss.

But out Of darkness comes the sun
Light falls on the bloodied cross
And floods the bowed and broken man.
Reams dance, upon his glistening brow,
Now touched with warmth, the tension gone.

A spark of hope comes to the mourners' hearts -
A spark yet, but which will grow and glow -
A feeling that from out their deepest grieving
Will come a peace and joy beyond conceiving.



Simple Easter Cross Craft

You will need:

Cardboard (why not recycle a piece of cardboard?)

String/wool/yarn Scissors

Heart shape to decorate (optional)



Cut a cross out of the cardboard. (The bigger, the better!)

Cut some slits all around the cross, placing them roughly 1 cm apart



Now wrap the string around the cross in any way, making sure it goes into the slits: go all around the cross, securing any loose ends by pushing them under the string at the back.



You could attach a piece of string to hang it up and glue a heart to the middle of the cross



The **Appalachian Trail** stretches over two thousand miles through the hills and woods of the eastern United States. It was laid out for hikers to enjoy little bits: a day's hiking, or a week's, In 1948 an ex-soldier called Earl Schaffer walked the whole distance from start to finish. It took him a hundred and twenty nine days. While he was doing it, the Journal of the Appalachian Trail Association published an article by its editor proving that it was impossible for one person to walk the whole way.



So much of church seems so hard to do. Indeed much of church seems impossible to do. So much of life seems so hard to do. Indeed sometimes life seems impossible to do. Maybe especially when you are getting older. The hills seem higher, the stairs seem steeper.

And then you read a story like the story of Earl Schaffer and his 129 days. Everyone said it couldn't be done. To walk the whole length of the trail was impossible. But they forgot to tell Earl Schaffer – and he did it. The whole thing, from beginning to end. You read his story, and you have a little laugh to yourself.

“That showed them! That put the merchants of doom in their place.”

Let the Easter story do that for you. Let the Easter story speak to you of the impossible being made possible. God raised Jesus from death to life. Jesus, who was dead and buried is risen and alive. At the very least, let that story give you hope. At the most, let that story give you the faith that nothing in all creation will be able to separate you and those whom you love from the love of God.

The poet Alice Meynell is out of fashion these days: but you might like her poem. Read it slowly: better still, read it out loud.

Andrew McLellan

EASTER NIGHT

*All night had shout of men and cry
Of woeful women filed his way
Until that noon of sombre sky
On Friday, clamour and display
Smote him; no solitude had he,
No silence, since Gethsemane.*

*Public was Death; but Power, but Might
But Life again, but Victory.
Were hushed within the dead of night
The shuttered dark, the secrecy
And all alone, alone, alone
He rose again behind the stone.*

St Bryce Guild

Whose we are and Whom we serve.

After having to cancel our first two meetings in January thanks to Covid 19. We are now up and running and going from strength to strength. After reminiscing with Fay Smith about our young days, we then went on a journey with Arthur Lloyd to the Islands of Lewis and Harris - both were enjoyable.



In March, we had Agnes Whyte talking about “**Breathe Easy**” on coping with Lung conditions, it was very interesting and informative.

Our next meeting was a fun day when we had a quiz and then some games, enjoying the Fellowship involved.

We still have **Baking Bingo** and “**Bring & Buy**” in April and a speaker from the **Vine Trust**, our next Partner Project. You are all welcome to join us.

Our AGM is 26th April, then our last meeting is 10th May when hopefully we shall be enjoying Lunch somewhere, details will follow.

We meet every 2nd Tuesday at 1.30 in the Small Hall. Please feel free to join us. Hopefully when we start our new session in September things will be back to normal, and we might even be able to have our Coffee Morning.

Hopefully you all have a safe and happy summer, - Covid free.

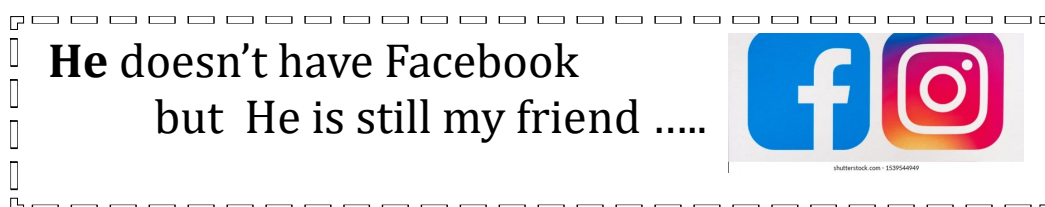
Jennifer Wilson

Vine Trust Project - Kazunzu Village of Hope

The Vine Trust is an international development charity which enables volunteers to provide medical, home-building and care support to communities living in severe poverty in Tanzania. Our project will help develop a multi-faceted and sustainable village on the southern side of Lake Victoria supporting vulnerable children by providing homes and loving families. It will enrich the life of the village through the development of a community hub, a primary school, health post and vocational training centre.

Many will remember Pam and Alan Cairns, doctor and pharmacist respectively, who went to work full time for the Vine Trust.

They are now involved in a residential school for the children of prostitutes in India



Finance Report - March 2022

Sunday Offerings

2022	Open	FWO	2021	Open	FWO
Jan-Feb:	£150.61	£1,271.00	Jan-Feb:	£11.00	£794.00

S/O

2022 Jan-Feb: £7,409.00

2021 Jan-Feb: £7,189.00

In comparison pre-covid figures for the same period in 2020 and 2019 were:

Sunday Offerings

2020	Open	FWO	2019	Open	FWO
Jan-Feb:	£742.65	£2,378.60	Jan-Feb:	£1,177.31	£2,455.00

S/O

2020 Jan-Feb: £7,684.00

2019 Jan-Feb: £7,083.50

Thank you to all who donate by Open Plate, Freewill Offering Envelopes or Standing Order. This enables your church to continue its work in the community and beyond and is greatly appreciated.

If you usually give by using the Open Plate, please consider donating more regularly through the Freewill Offering Envelopes or by Standing Order.

If you are interested in setting this up, please contact me on 265808.

Please remember to inform me if there are changes in your contact details (address, telephone no. email addresss) and for those who have Gift Aid set up, especially when tax personal allowances change.

Dorothy Smith, Convener



The congregation has achieved two donations of great generosity recently. One was for the **Disaster Emergency Committee's** work in **Ukraine**. We raised £575 and, by sending it to **DEC** through **Sumup**, the company which provides our card reader at the cafe, that amount was **doubled** by them - making a massive **£1150** !!

The second generous gesture was the donation of 65 "**Real**" **Easter Eggs** to **Kirkcaldy Foodbank**, along with Easter story – activity books.

These were ordered from the Meaningful Chocolate Company whose chocolate is fairly traded and palm-oil free and comes with plastic free packaging. We hope the recipient children will enjoy the books as well as the chocolate!





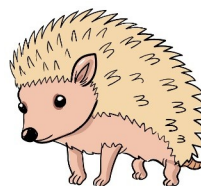
Recently, our **Young Church** expressed interest in setting up a hedgehog-friendly habitat in our church grounds. We received the information below from volunteer Moira Grant at the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. She asked us to consider: :-

"How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog?"

We did not know that hedgehogs are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the UK!

Here are some ways you can help this prickly little creature of God:

1. Create a wild corner in your garden
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Clear away netting and litter to prevent entanglements
4. Put out food and water (never milk)
5. Stop using chemicals when gardening
6. Check before strimming or lighting fires
7. Become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the website, which has resources to make your garden, neighbourhood and Parish hedgehog-friendly zones. <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/website>,
8. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways - create a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case to let them pass through - and ask your neighbours to do the same!



(Hedgehogs travel between 1 - 2 km a night searching for food!)

We will let you know if we spot any signs of hedgehogs in our church gardens!
Young Church children and leaders.



L & W L & W L & W

Subscribers to Life and Work support the vital and vibrant work of our Church while keeping connected with the Christian community in Scotland, and further afield.

EASTER OFFER • Print:

12 for the price of 10 - **£30** - enter promo code EAST22 to receive £6 discount.
UK delivery address and new subscribers only.

Digital • EASTER OFFER

12 issues for **£14.99** (RRP £20.99) no code required - introductory offer option.
Anyone wishing to take advantage of the savings should visit the Life and Work website :- www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe. The offer is valid until 30.04.22.

Best wishes - The Life and Work Team



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

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

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

.....

Central Kirkcaldy Churches

Joint Holy Week Services

Monday - Bennoch

Tuesday - St Bryce

Wednesday - Abbotshall

Thursday - Linktown / Auchtertool

Friday - Kirkcaldy Congregational

All services begin at 7.00 pm

Church Register - Deaths

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

Dorothy Banner. 10th February

Eileen Adams. 2nd March

George Girdwood. 9th March

