

Interim Ministry Update - Advent 2024

Kirkcaldy Town Centre Churches



Preparing the Way ...

Advent is a time of preparation and expectation as we look towards the day when we celebrate that God is with us ... with us now. For us, it is a time of preparation for the next part of the journey which we do holding on to this faith that God is with us. Advent portrays themes of struggle, chaos, darkness, and even danger, yet always points toward the light that breaks in and breaks through. We are called to seek the light, be alert to it, anticipate it, recognise and celebrate it.

Recent times have felt like Advent days for members of the four town centre congregations, with its periods of struggle, a little chaos, while feeling like wandering in the dark and hoping that some light will shine and a way open up. It may not be a period you have desired but it is a very biblical experience for the people of God and finally some light for the pathway is emerging.

Since I was last with you, the Presbytery of Fife decided to honour the decisions of the four Kirk Sessions and move forward towards the union. Meanwhile, I was asked if I would be willing to return as Interim Minister, which I said I was pleased to do now that there was some clarity. And so I am with you, on a part-time basis, for a period of around 6 months.

My role will be to focus on leading Sunday worship, moderating the new Kirk Session, and helping shape the governance of the new congregation, while working with you towards creating a Parish Profile in preparation for appointing the Minister of Word & Sacrament and other ministries.

In order to assist me and focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry, another minister will be coming to work with us, providing in essence a full-time ministry during this time. Details to follow.

The date of 1st January 2025 for the Union was only officially set by Presbytery at its meeting on Saturday 16th November, when I was also named as Interim Minister and Interim Moderator from that date.

Since then I have met with or had conversations with the four Session Clerks and the four Interim Moderators in order to reconnect and also make initial plans. From the 1st of January future decisions will be in the gift of

the new Kirk Session of Langtoun Central Church of Scotland which will hold its first meeting a few weeks into the New Year. In order to dovetail with that period of change, I have made suggestions with which the Clerks and Moderators have agreed and your Kirk Sessions will be discussing. I have also arranged a meeting of the joint Strategy Team.

One suggestion is that for the first Sundays of the New Year we will worship together as the new congregation, and we move round each of the four churches until the new Kirk Session meets and plans the future. Future arrangements will, in time, be made regarding the longer term use of our buildings for worship and activities while closing services will be held in due course.

Although the 1st of January is the legal date when the union will officially take place and the new congregation will come into being, an actual Service of Union will be held at a later date.

As you know, or can imagine, there are a number of issues to be addressed and decisions to be made, most of which can only be or best be decided by the Kirk Session of the new congregation.

As we journey towards Christmas and the new beginning for this Christian Community in Kirkcaldy it is a significant time. We cannot move ahead without being aware of the many mixed emotions and feelings that people are carrying. Therefore, it is vital that we all acknowledge them, empathise with one another, recognise what is being lost as we look towards the future and, hard as it may be for some, see the light ahead and encourage each other to participate in the birthing of the new thing God is preparing.



Advent Blessing

Look forward in hope
to the coming of the Saviour;
prepare the way
for Christ your Lord;
welcome him
with love and faith
that he may be
born anew in you.

Rev Stewart McPherson, Interim Minister.
smcpherson@churchofscotland.org.uk
07814 901429