

Langtoun Central Church Kirkcaldy
Partnership Support Group
Saturday 31st January

Partnership Support Group

Rev Muriel Pearson - Interim minister

Rev Sandra Black - Interim minister

Gayle Lennon - Presbytery Representative

The partnership support group met with the congregation and encouraged them to think about their congregational life and their hopes and dreams for the time of interim ministry.

The congregation worked in groups and considered three questions.

Question 1

What has happened over the first 3 months of this interim ministry that has given you hope or encouragement or that you have enjoyed?

Question 2

Is there anything from your journey as a congregation to this point that you think needs to be attended to in order to enable you to build a strong future as a congregation?

Question 3

This time next year, what would you most like to be able to say about Langtoun Kirk?

- What are your top 3 priorities?
- What resources do you need for this to happen?

Observations from the discussion

- There is a desire to be a truly united congregation
- There is uncertainty that needs to be resolved around the use of buildings
- Good communication, in its many forms was a recurring theme in response to all of the questions
- There is strong awareness of the need to grow the church, to be missional in outlook and welcoming of all
- There is appreciation of the work done by the interim minister over the first three months of the placement and concern that all the tasks of ministry are not more than is reasonable for one person
- There has been hurt in the journey to becoming a united congregation and some people are still sore from their experience. There has also been grace shown among the people of the congregation as they negotiate this difficult time in their church life - and grace and understanding will be necessary for everyone as they discover what it means to be Langtoun Central Church rather than members of the legacy churches.

Aims and Objectives

Developing an identity as Langtoun Central Church

- Explore patterns of services and styles of worship to discover what gives life and growth to the church family that is Langtoun Central.
- The congregation is a new union and although the work of getting to know one another has begun a variety of opportunities to build on this should be explored.
- Think about and discover how the resources offered by the buildings of Langtoun Central can best be used for the worship and missional purposes of the congregation. After such consideration make and share decisions about this.
- Many in the congregation are healing from the hurts of the past - continue to extend grace and understanding to one another.
- Consider together what your meaning and purpose is as a Christian community in this place at this time. Articulate your key values and purpose in what you do. For instance, in the Partnership Support Group we heard that Langtoun Central should be united and have space and place for everyone - this value sharing about purpose could be built upon.

Communication

- The practise of clear and open communication is a key task for the Kirk Session and Congregation in the time ahead.
- Whilst many decisions about church life are the responsibility of the Kirk Session and it a necessary part of church governance that they remain so, thought should be given to, where it is possible and helpful, consultation with the congregation to hear a range of views.
- Clear communication pathways within the church and from the church to the community should be established

Mission

- Consider the ministry and mission of Langtoun Central - what is the task of the congregation now and how can that task be fulfilled. What should be taken up and what should be laid down
- There is loss around some of the things that were activities of the legacy churches. It may be that some or even all of these can be taken up again. However, the congregation should be mindful of their resources of time and energy and people to take up tasks. It is better to do one or two things well that to spread your resources thinly.
- Care was expressed that the minister should not be expected to do more than is a reasonable workload and this is a good thing for a congregation to have in mind. This awareness and care should be continued when a new worker is appointed and as the congregation take on tasks of mission
- Continue to build links and relationships with the community and ecumenically.