

Langtoun Central Church

Welcome to the First Edition
of
the Langtoun Echo
our new newsletter
February 2025

Lord, continue to guide us as we unite
in our worship and church social life.
Amen

Find us on our website langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

or on Facebook  Langtoun Central Church

Contact email office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk

Phone 01592 640016 or 07483 162346

Letter from Stewart McPherson Interim Minister



You will receive this Magazine just as we enter the period of Lent, when I am reminded how this is a season we never really mentioned when I was young. Lent was something the Roman Catholics observed. Therefore, in the West of Scotland non-Catholics tended not to recognise it as we were different, with quite different traditions and conventions. For us, it had something to do with giving up chocolate and we were not keen to be involved in anything which denied us things we enjoyed. Over the years, of course, you discover that Lent is an important time in the lead up to Easter. Recognising, acknowledging, and even travelling through the difficult parts of Jesus' journey creates an awareness of the wider and deeper aspects of the life of faith.

There are the wilderness periods when we endure struggles with temptation and power; the conflicts that arise and how we face them; the sufferings which are experienced; and the place of sacrifice, are all necessary parts of a journey towards rising into new life. As we look forward to new life it is the Easter hope which enables us to have the courage to face Lent. This is something not only experienced by west coast Catholics.

Here, in our east coast Langtoun, we know full well the journey towards new life has been peppered with its struggles, conflicts, sufferings and sacrifice, while acknowledging that it is not yet a smooth road we are on. But it is the Easter hope that not only is there light at the end of a tunnel, but that very light and presence is with us as we journey through. We look forward to proclaiming at Easter that Christ is Risen, while ever aware that Christ accompanies us on this journey now as one who has been through all of this and more.

Together, we are on a journey and we are moving, however bumpy it may feel. A number of things have been achieved in recent times but not without some struggle, some conflict,

some suffering, and some sacrifice, because those things are part of the journey of faith.

However, we are Easter people, journeying in hope and faith towards the new life God prepares for us and into which Jesus accompanies us. The Lenten path is important, because it leads us towards the awareness of something greater, more wonderful, and more glorious.

I pray you have a blessed Lent in preparation for a joyful Easter.

Stewart McPherson

From our Assistant Minister Ewan Ritchie

Pastoral Care

If you are aware of anyone in hospital, or at home or Care Home who would appreciate a visit, then please get in touch with me 07814 674974 or email

ERitchie@churchofscoyland.org.uk



News from the Session Clerk and the Session

The new Kirk Session met for the first time on the 19th January where 36 Elders were present and was Moderated by Stewart McPherson. In that meeting a Way of Working was established to develop a pattern of working for the new Kirk Session incorporating the best of the previous Kirk Sessions. There was a full agenda and a number of appointments made;

Session Clerk - George Drummond

Depute Session Clerk - Maura Lee

Minute Secretary - Anne Hunter

Musical Director - Richard Michael

Communication Team - Bruce Farrell

Further discussions took place regarding future working Teams requirements and Conveners to lead them to look at;

- Property
- Presbytery involvement through a Presbytery Elder
- GDPR - which stands for General Data Protection Regulation. It's a European Union (EU) law that governs how personal data can be collected and processed. The GDPR's goal is to protect individuals' rights and control over their personal information.
- Health and Safety
- Roll Keeping
- Safeguarding
- Christian Aid
- Communication
- Website
- Facebook
- PowerPoint, Live Stream, Sound
- Pastoral Care
- Staffing

Due to the number of items on the agenda, along with time constraints, a large number of items were carried over to our next scheduled meeting which took place on 5th February.

This meeting was well attended and also had a very full agenda which was anticipated as it captured matters arising from the meetings held by the Sessions of Abbotshall, Bennoch, St. Bryce and Linktown as well as the meeting from 19th January. There was also 'business as usual' items where Team reports are submitted, membership updates, and various other AOCB (any other competent business). Many items were identified to be carried over to the new Business Team which had been proposed and accepted.

The Business Team will discuss items of business prior to Session meetings to filter out information only items from actions and decisions which will ultimately need Kirk Session approval.

At this meeting it was proposed and accepted that Maura Lee be appointed Deputy Session Clerk and Bruce Farrell accepted to lead the Communications Team.

George Drummond
Session Clerk

F A M Q (Frequently Asked Money Questions)

Do I keep my standing order/ bank transfer going to the old church account?

YES, please keep your giving going into the account of your old church.

When the Langtoun Central account is up and running the accounts of the old churches will be transferred in total to the new account.

When will I stop payment and when will we know the new bank account?

Unfortunately, our bank has not completed approval of changing the existing St Bryce account into the Langtoun Central account. This may take another month to complete. We will advise you as soon as the new Langtoun Central bank account is active.

How do I alter my existing Standing Order?

If you use digital banking you can amend your standing order account no. and amount online, or you can visit your bank to arrange this

Will I need to complete a new Gift Aid authorisation?

No, you will not be required to complete a new Gift Aid authorisation form unless your personal details have changed

*The Langtoun Central Finance Group are up and running but there are many tasks to be organised – so many hands make light work! If you are interested in being involved in the money side of the new church let Stewart McPherson know
– thank you.*

Worship

The Kirk Session has decided that we will worship in the Bennochy Building at 11:00 a.m every Sunday in February.

Your invitation to join in the musical life of the church

Do you enjoy singing? Richard Michael and the choir encourage anyone who wants to make a joyful noise to come along on a Sunday morning at 10am.

You do not have to be able to read music. Just come along and you will be made most welcome

Church Vacancies

Bennochty Building have an immediate requirement for a Church Officer and a Hall Let convener.

Anyone interested or knows of anyone who may interested should contact George Drummond, Session Clerk

Visit to meet your family or friends or just need that warm space at one of our Café's



The Olive branch at Bennochty

**Thursday from
11am until 2pm**

We serve tea, coffee, biscuits and home baking and we are serving soup and sandwich meals freshly made in our kitchen.

St Bryce Cafe

We are open

**Monday - Thursday 10am -
2pm and Fridays 11am - 1pm**

serving tea, coffee and a large variety of homemade cakes.

Breakfast rolls are available from 10am (11am on a Friday) and hot lunches and soup from 11.45am - 1.45pm (1pm on a Friday).

We specialise in gluten free cakes.

Please note we will be closed on Friday 28th February. The car park will also be closed.

**Evening and Sunday Parking at
Langtoun Central Church,
Elgin Street**

**Church Parking is available
in the Rexel Warehouse car
park just off Katherine Street
in the evenings or Sunday**

**Please do not park in front of
the delivery door**



Christian Aid at Langtoun Central Church

The 2025 Christian Aid Week is from Sunday 11th May to Sunday 18th May. We do not yet have a dedicated Christian Aid group formed in Langtoun Central Church.

So the plan this year is to restrict our support to Christian Aid collections on Sundays 11th and 18th May.

Christian Aid envelopes will be made available for contributions on Sundays 4th, 11th and 18th May. The envelopes can be handed in at church along with regular free will envelopes.

We would like to develop our Christian Aid activity further in the future, so if you are interested in being involved, please make yourself known to Euan Fraser.

His contact details are :- tel 01592 266451; mob 07836 579892; email frasereuanruth@yahoo.co.uk



Walter Simpson
John Morrison
George Soutar
Cath Johnston

Please let the Pastoral Care Team know about significant milestones in your life and we can include it in the magazine.

Presbytery of Fife News

the Presbyteries of the Church of Scotland have been instructed by the General Assembly to consider the overture on Confessions of Faith a second time, as amended. This overture proposes a substantive change to the confessional basis of the Church of Scotland. Currently, the Westminster Confession of Faith is the sole subordinate standard of the Church. Under the proposal in the overture, there will instead be a Book of Confessions, containing five documents from different stages of the Church's history. The vows taken before ordination by ministers and elders will also change to reflect the revised confessional basis. Fife Presbytery voted unanimously to accept the proposed changes to the Confession of Faith Overture. Provided that no less than two thirds of all Presbyteries of the Church consent, this will be taken to the General Assembly 2025 for enactment.

New Hope Kirk Levenmouth Parish Church of Scotland Fife Presbytery will meet on Thursday 20th February 2025 in Methilhill Church for the Service of Union of Methilhill and Denbeath with Buckhaven and Wemyss, forming New Hope Kirk Levenmouth Parish Church of Scotland. The service starting at 7pm.

The next in the Fife Presbytery Year of Prayer 'prayer days' will take place in Dunfermline St Columba's on Wednesday 19th February, beginning at 10am.

Presbytery Dates for the Diary

Saturday 15th February 2025 : 10.00am Wellesley Centre, Methil
February Presbytery Meeting

Tuesday 18th February 2025 : 7.00pm St Kirk Bryce , Kirkcaldy
Service of Union - Kirkcaldy Langtoun Central Church St Kirk Bryce

Wednesday 19th February 2025 : 10.00am Dunfermline St Columba's
Presbytery Day of Prayer

Thursday 20th February 2025 : 7.00pm Methilhill Church, Methil
Service of Union - New Hope Kirk Levenmouth Parish Church

Friday 21st February 2025 : 2.30pm St Leonard's Church, St Andrew's
Rev Dr Stewart Gillan, Talk

Saturday 22nd February 2025 : 7.30 - 9.00pm Liberty Church Centre,
Dunfermline United in Worship

The wider Church Extracts from Life and Work

The Church is establishing an apprentice-style route for people to taste what 21st century ministry is all about. This follows what Jesus was doing with his first followers

He brought them alongside.

He showed them.

He equipped them.

He sent them out to try for themselves

The Church is launching a new tool to assist with stewardship 'Bearing Fruit' to provide advice and resources to support improvement and growth.

The Church continues itself as a welcoming for those experiencing hardship. At the heart of our faith, is a call to embody Jesus' love through acts of love and the saving words of the Gospel. The church as a community rooted in Christ, is called to extend His compassion, creating spaces where each person can find belonging, dignity and hope.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 long years now" he wrote "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them, so I think I'm wasting my time and the preachers are wasting theirs too by giving lengthy sermons".

This started a real controversy in the Letters to the Editor column, much to the delight of the Editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote the following -

"I have been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals, but for the life of me I cannot remember those meals. However, I know that they nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment I would be spiritually dead today".

Newsletter

What's in a name?

To get the newsletter of the ground we have called the newsletter 'The Langtoun Echo'

We would like your opinion of the name or if you have any alternative suggestions — please submit your suggestion - marked newsletter name— through the office, drop a note in at any Sunday service or speak to Bruce Farrell or Liz Steedman

NEXT NEWSLETTER – March/April 2025

We have not had room to add all submissions to the newsletter, these will be rolled over to our next edition

We will be looking for articles for our next newsletter. These can be submitted to the Office at St Bryce or by e-mail to office@langtouncentralchurch.org.uk or giving it to any of the communications team.

Church Ceilidh

February 22nd 7:30 till 10pm.

Bennochly halls



Music by 'Quern'

All profits go to CHAS (Children's Hospices across Scotland) Tickets : £7.50, including refreshments, available at church door on Sundays or after church.

History of Abbotshall

Abbotshall published a 'History of Abbotshall 1650-2024' as a supplement to their last Newsletter. If you want a copy either electronically or printed, contact Bruce Farrell, who would be happy to arrange for your copy.

What's On

St Bryce Centre

Bible Study meets in the St Bryce Building on Monday at 10am for 10.15am until 11.30am. We are currently working through the Psalms, but look through some of the other books too occasionally.

The Guild meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month in the small hall in the St Bryce Building from 1.30pm - 3pm. All are welcome to come and join.

The Friendship Group meet on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month in the small hall in the St Bryce Building from 1.30pm. All are welcome to come and join.

Girls Allowed meet on the 1st Friday of the month in the St Bryce Building. We are open to "girls" of all ages. .

Programmes for the Guild, Friendship Group are displayed on the St Bryce Centre noticeboard.

Bennochy Halls

Young Church Sundays, during morning worship

Craft Group Monday

Women's Group Tuesdays, fortnightly

The Women's Group meeting on 4th March is an open meeting when their guest speaker will be Marion Todd, Scottish author of the Detective Inspector Clare Mackay crime series. Marion has written 18 books and lives in North Fife. All are welcome. The Group's annual Bunny Drive will take place on Tuesday 15th April at 6.30pm in Bennochy's Methven Hall and tickets will be on sale soon

Community Choir Monday

Indoor Bowling Monday

Abbotshall Halls

Arts and Craft Group Wednesday 10:30– noon

World Day of Prayer Friday 7th March at 2pm in St Peter's Episcopal Church, 19 Townsend Place (open to all)



Theme - 'I made you Wonderful' written
by women of the Cook Islands



Every Thursday morning from 10am - 12noon the St Bryce Building hosts The Well. They provide health, advice and information from Fife health and social care and other organisations. This is a drop in session for anyone needing help.



Kirkaldy Antiques Collectors and Retro Fair

22nd February St Bryce Centre 10.30am - 3.30pm

Kirkaldy Choral Union Concert -
29th March St Bryce Centre 7.30pm

Getting to Church

Fife Bus, Fife Council's Demand Responsive Transport Service (DRT), provides free door-to-door transport for people who are unable to access mainstream public transport due to some form of reduced mobility.

This service runs 7 days a week and is open to people over the age of 80 or those of any age who have disabilities, mobility issues etc including mental health.

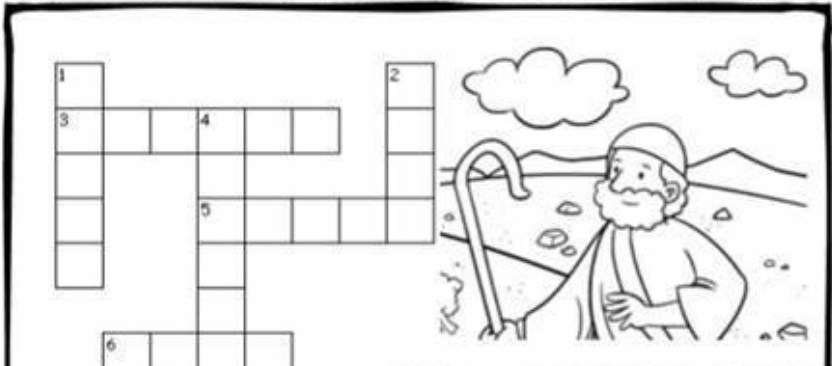
The phone number to call is 03451 55 11 88.

The individual wanting to use the service must phone this number to register first (someone else can do it for you if you are not able). After registration you can phone up to arrange journeys, timings etc.

To all our members anxious about not getting back to church this is a solution and excellent service.

If you would like more information it can be found on Fife Council's - Fifebus page or by calling 03451 55 11 88.

PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE



1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

Across

3. Went to Heaven in chariots of fire.

5. Abraham's wife.

6. Jesus' closest friends: Peter, James, and ____.

7. Was blinded by a light for three days.

9. Tricked his father with goat hair.

10. The promised son of Abraham.

11. Killed a giant with a stone.

Down

1. Walked on water with Jesus.

2. Married Boaz.

4. His brothers put him in a well.

6. King Saul's son.

8. Third person in the Trinity.

www.hsm4kids.com

TEAMS

The work of the church will be in the hands of a number of Teams of various sizes and purposes working through the Kirk Session. Not all the areas below will have teams but some will and depends on interest and enthusiasm as well as need. Some teams are already up and running, while some are still to be prioritised.

Is there an area of church life you would like to be involved in or find out more about what might be involved? Or you may be able to prod someone you know to offer their skills



Worship

Would you like to be part of a group which would reflect on worship experiences, identify developments, share ideas, plan and assist in worship events both traditional and fresh expressions of worship?

Social

Could you help with planning and organising social events or to help in the background? Whether helping at a café or lunch club; identifying areas to develop fellowship opportunities, or even bake cakes when required?

Outreach

How might we improve our current connections with the community such as businesses, organisations, groups and individuals? Are you a person with connections?

Eco-Group

It is important to care for God’s creation, so how can we lessen our carbon footprint, raise awareness of issues and identify ways of developing the environmental aspects of congregational life? Do you care enough to get involved?

Christian Aid

Can you help raise awareness of issues, plan and implement fund-raising activities?

Staffing

Do you have experience that would help in the administration, oversight, job descriptions etc of the staff involved in our church life.

Safeguarding

A co-ordinator and Panel are in place, but are you able to help us ensure safeguarding procedures and guidelines are followed and training arranged?

Other

There may be an area of church life not mentioned above you may like to enquire about, volunteer for, or feel should be a priority. Please mention in your response slip ...



a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

Can you take time to reflect and pray about how you currently participate in congregational life, and how you might like to do so in the future? We want to ensure all can play a part and everyone's gifts are appreciated.



What is your skill or area of interest?

For example...

I have a background in Finance

I have experience in property and/or maintenance

I play a musical instrument and/or enjoy singing

I have experience in social media and/or communication

I am happy to help with worship—welcoming, reading, fellowship.

I am happy to help organise or bake for events

I am keen on helping develop new forms of worship

I like working with children and families or young people

I would enjoy visiting older people

I appreciate a House Groups or a Bible Study

I can pray for others in a group or at home

I am interested in environmental issues

Something else ...

Tear off this part and return

Name _____

Contact details _____

(Email/phone number) _____

My area/s of interest is/are _____

I would like to be involved _____

I would like to find out more before committing _____

*Please tear off and hand this slip to your elder, or at church, or email your response to the Session Clerk, George Drummond
gdrummond@btinternet.com*