

Fife: Eden Tay Parish

Church Newsletter 2 - December 2024

Christmas greetings to you all.....

Since the last newsletter went out, the Kirk Session has wrestled with the difficult issue of cutting the number of services on a Sunday. The harsh reality is that we simply can no longer afford to pay for a service in every church every Sunday. Nor is the idea of five Sunday services likely to be attractive to any prospective new minister. So, continuing to do what was done in 2024 wasn't really an option.

After much discussion the Kirk Session have agreed the new pattern of worship for January to May 2025. These are interim arrangements and will be reviewed, with the pattern for the rest of the year being modified in the light of experience.

While this might well be unwelcome and possibly a shock to many of you, it is my hope and prayer that this pattern of worship will allow the church to survive, prove attractive to a new minister and provide a solid basis for growth in the future. These are challenging times, and significant changes are never easy or comfortable, however necessary they may be. If the church in this area is to survive and grow then it is up to you, me, all of us together, to attend and to contribute as we can.

Times of change can also be times of opportunity. Opportunities perhaps to experience worship in different ways and to grow together as a church family.

In this season of Advent, as we all look forward to Christmas, I invite you to look forward to this time next year when a new minister will hopefully be writing the Christmas letter from the manse.

Wishing you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas, Ewan.

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Session Clerk – Liz Slattery

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Pioneer Ecumenical Community Chaplain – Rev Valerie Walker –
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Introducing your finance team.....

Hello, I am Barbara Acheson, and I head up the finance team for the Fife: Eden Tay Parish. The team has been busy over the past six months bringing together the finances of our 5 former congregations and working to make sure that income received across 6 churches gets recorded; bills get paid on time and funds are available to keep everything operating.

I am most grateful to those who have agreed to work on the finance team as this would be a huge task for one person across such a wide area and it has been a great benefit to have representation from each of the legacy congregations from the outset.

If any of you have any queries around any aspect of the church finances, please do not hesitate to contact me - phone 07745 816854 or email bacheson40@hotmail.com.

Irene Veitch is your FWO and Gift Aid convenor and can be contacted on 01337 858212 or email catherinev5578@btinternet.com.

Joy Roberts deals with payment of all bills and can be contacted on 07555 609760 or email daveandjoy.roberts@googlemail.com. We are aiming to pay bills every Friday, so if you can let Joy have copy invoices before Friday each week, that would be very helpful.

Matthew Struthers will be responsible for the preparation of the annual financial accounts, and we are very fortunate to have someone with his technical expertise in this area as part of our team.

In addition, Jeff Hooper, Carole Fraser, James Leslie-Melville and Isobel McBain assist locally with banking and other matters as necessary.

We are fortunate that we are starting the union with a reasonably healthy bank balance, but it is already clear that the overall parish is operating in a deficit position – our income requires periodic withdrawals from central Consolidated Fabric Funds to balance the books. We are very grateful to all those donors who continue to support our parish through regular giving, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have donated throughout 2024 and continue to support the work of the church through your generosity.

Your regular donations will be essential to ensure that the Kirk remains a significant presence in this corner of North East Fife.

I can confirm that the existing legacy church bank accounts will remain open for some time yet, so there is no requirement just now to change standing order mandates. Existing Gift Aid declarations also remain valid and do not need to be amended or redone. Freewill Offering envelopes for 2025 will be issued very shortly; however if anyone would like to set up a standing order, rather than donating via envelopes or open plate, the bank account details for the new parish are as follows:-

Account Name – Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland
Sort Code 800626 (Bank of Scotland) Account No 00307902

Similarly, if any of you are taxpayers (either through PAYE or self-assessment) and have not already signed a Gift Aid declaration, this is a way of adding 25p to every £1 you donate (or have donated in the past 4 years) at no additional cost to you. Please get in touch if you have any queries about gift aid or would like to complete a declaration. A huge thank you must go to the outgoing treasurers – James Leslie-Melville, Jeff Hooper, Glenn Sharpe and Irene Veitch for all their advice and assistance with the transition and their dedication and hard work over their terms of office.

Notes to be read along with the new Pattern of Worship overleaf...

- 1 *On the first and third Sundays – single shared service, single venue – rotating location.*
- 2 *On the second Sunday – choice of three services in three venues.*
- 3 *On the fourth Sunday – choice of three services in three venues.*
- 4 *Where there is a fifth Sunday, there will be shared worship - style and venue to be agreed.*
- 5 *It is hoped to have services recorded and available through the website on as many weeks as possible. Freuchie and Muchty regularly do this.*
- 6 *Every church building will be used at least once every month.*
- 7 *There may well be additional services in Holy Week and on Easter Sunday – to be agreed.*
- 8 *Various ministers, readers and OLMs will provide pulpit supply leading the services in black. IM and SC have arranged for different people to do this.*

For more information about services and other dates please see the new Eden Tay website – www.fife-edentaychurch.co.uk

Fife: Eden Tay Pattern of Worship for January – May 2025

All services begin at 10.30am

Services in **red** led by **worship team**; Services in **blue** led by **Valerie Walker**, Community Chaplain; Services in **black** are pulpit supply.

Date	Shared Worship			
January				
5	Kettle			
12		Kettle	<i>Freuchie</i>	<i>Abdie</i>
19	Falkland			
26		<i>Muchty Hall</i>	Falkland	<i>Newburgh</i>
February				
2	Muchty Hall			
9		<i>Kettle</i>	Freuchie	<i>Abdie</i>
16	Freuchie			
23		Muchty Hall	<i>Falkland</i>	<i>Newburgh</i>
March				
2	<i>Newburgh</i>			
9		<i>Kettle</i>	<i>Freuchie</i>	Abdie
16	Kettle			
23		<i>Muchty Hall</i>	Falkland	<i>Newburgh</i>
30	<i>Outreach venture somewhere – Easter Walk?</i>			
April				
6	Falkland			
13		Kettle	<i>Freuchie</i>	<i>Abdie</i>
20 Easter	Muchty Hall			
27		Muchty Hall	<i>Falkland</i>	<i>Newburgh</i>
May				
4	Freuchie			
11		<i>Kettle</i>	Freuchie	<i>Abdie</i>
18	Abdie			
25		<i>Muchty Hall</i>	Falkland	<i>Newburgh</i>

Please keep this page handy so that you will know where to worship.
If you require transport, please ask – we may be able to arrange this.

NB – Due to church building repairs, Muchty services will be held in the church hall and may take the form of a Café Church.