

Edenshead Parish Church Newsletter - May 2024

Dear Friends, The Season of Easter is still with us. The word 'resurrection' means 'to stand up' - to move, rise beyond where we are. On Sunday, 16th June we'll gather in Muchty Kirk and following worship we will be making a decision about whether to move, rise from where we are to where we believe God is leading. We will do this together with our brothers and sisters from the Eden Tay Cluster who will be considering the same movement, to become one Union, one Family in Christ Jesus.

When our Kirk Session convened on Monday, 6th May we listened to words from the Irish Christian thinker and writer John O' Donahue. Writing on the subject of *thresholds*, of *change* he observes:

Beneath the surface of Winter, the miracle of Spring is already in preparation; From the black heart of Winter a miraculous, breathing plenitude of colour emerges. Everything is prepared. Nothing is rushed. To change is one of the great dreams of every heart - to change the limitations, the sameness, the banality of pain. To acknowledge a new threshold is always a challenge, demanding courage and a sense of trust. This becomes essential when a new threshold opens in front of you. No threshold need be a threat, rather an invitation (in Christ) and a promise.
(*Benedictus: A Book of Blessings*)

The disciples moved from being immoveable behind locked doors to trusting Christ and heaving aboard a net-bursting catch of fish. So *Do not be afraid, little flock*, and trust - keep moving beyond the thresholds and casting those nets, in Christ Jesus. Blessing and Peace in His name, **Jane** (Rev J. Barron/ Interim Moderator)

Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland

Looking forward positively to a new beginning....

Finally, the five churches in the Eden Tay Cluster Group are almost at the point of becoming one united church to be known as Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland.

To finalise the act of union, the Basis of Union document will be shared with members of all the congregations who will vote on whether to accept it

The date for this vote will be – Sunday 16 June 2024

This vote will take place by secret ballot, during worship, in each church on the same day. Only members present and whose names are on the Congregational Roll will be eligible to vote.

On the opposite page is a summarised version of the Basis of Union which has been agreed by the five Kirk Sessions and approved by Church of Scotland. The full legal document is available to any member who would like to see it. Please speak to the Session Clerk

Following the Congregational Vote.....

The results (assuming they are in favour) will be sent to the Fife Presbytery administrator and then passed to the Church of Scotland offices in Edinburgh for final processing. Legalities can take up to six weeks to complete.

Once the Basis of Union is legally recognised, a date will be set when ***Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland*** is deemed to be an Administrative Union. From this point, we will be in every respect, one new parish. (It is hoped that this will happen well before Christmas.)

A few weeks after the Administrative Union, a date and time will be agreed for a Service of Union which will be held in Falkland Church on a weekday evening and to which all members of Fife Presbytery will be invited.

Moving forward as Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland

The new Kirk Session will be made up from elders of the original five Kirk Sessions and matters such as Finance, Worship, Property etc will be managed by the Elders of the new united Kirk Session.

One of the first tasks is to begin the process of advertising for a minister for Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the people of the new united church to work together to select the very best candidate for this very particular parish.

Bringing five separate bodies into one will naturally require much discussion and no doubt some compromise, but it is hoped that this union will be a successful and happy one. Change can be challenging but it can also be invigorating and exciting.

Basis of Union (Summary)

The congregations of Edenshead Parish Church; Howe of Fife Parish Church; Falkland Parish Church; Freuchie Parish Church and Lindores shall be united from a date to be determined by Presbytery, and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The name of the united charge shall be Fife: Eden Tay Parish Church of Scotland
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.
3. **Places of Worship:** The churches listed as A in the Presbytery Mission Plan at present used and occupied by the congregations of Edenshead Parish Church (Auchtermuchty), Freuchie Parish Church, and Lindores Parish Church shall be the places of worship of the united charge.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united charge shall be designated as the bounds of the parishes of Edenshead Parish Church; Falkland Parish Church; Freuchie Parish Church; The Howe of Fife Parish Church; and Lindores Parish Church.
5. **Kirk Session:** The elders of the Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.
6. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution.
7. **Minister:** The charges of Falkland l/w Freuchie, Edenshead, Howe of Fife and Lindores being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003). The minister shall be called on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure.
8. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Edenshead Parish Church shall be the manse of the united charge.

Session Clerk – Liz Slattery – 01337 828386 or 07719 724730

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Church Website – www.edensheadparishchurch.co.uk

Facebook – Edenshead Parish Church

Interim Moderator – Rev Jane Barron 01334 850135

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May		
Sun 19	10.30am	Pentecost Sunday Worship – Strathmiglo Church Led by Elspeth Smith.
	2.00pm	Worship at Stables in Falkland Estate
Sun 26	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson
June		
Sun 2	10.30am	Worship – Strathmiglo Church Led by Ian Macaulay
	2.00pm	Worship at Strathview Care Home with Ian Macaulay - All welcome
Sun 9	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Kay & Rod McCall
Sat 15 & Sun 16 – Church will be open for refreshments during the Open Gardens weekend		
Sun 16	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Rev Jane Barron and to include the Congregational Vote on the Basis of Union
Sun 23	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson
Mon 24	7.00pm	Kirk Session meeting in Session House Auchtermuchty.
Sun 30	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Elspeth Smith
July		
Sun 7	10.30am	Worship – Strathmiglo Church Led by Kay and Rod McCall
	2.00pm	Worship at Strathview Care Home with Ian Macaulay - All welcome
Sun 14	10.30am	Worship in Auchtermuchty Church Led by Ian Macaulay
Sun 21	10.30am	Worship – Auchtermuchty Church Led by Liz Robertson.
Sun 28	10.30am	Worship in Auchtermuchty Church Led by Elspeth Smith

All Services are followed by a time of fellowship with tea/coffee.

Transport is always available by contacting Liz Slattery.