

Inverkeithing Parish Church News

April 2011



Dear Friends,

It was almost exactly one year ago that we were able to announce that the renovation work was ready to start and would last five months. As you all know those arrangements were unfortunately changed when our original contractor went into receivership.

We are pleased however to be able to advise you that the work has now effectively been completed apart from the finishing touches to the new sound system. There is only one thing which may delay the plans which the Kirk Session have made to re-open Inverkeithing Parish Church as our place of worship and that is the receipt from Fife Council of a completion certificate. I have therefore set out below what the Session hope will happen not only for the move but also for Holy Week but would ask that all members realise that **the move is subject to a completion certificate being received. Any changes will be announced in the intimations on Sunday mornings.**

Services for Holy Week and the move to the former St. Peter's Church building :

Palm Sunday, 17th April – all-age Communion at 11.30a.m. in former St. John's building – this will be the last full congregational service in this building. Soup and sandwiches will be available in the hall following the service.

Holy Week – Joint Forth Churches Group Services –

Monday, 18th April – Aberdour: St. Fillan's Parish Church

Tuesday, 19th April – Dalgety Parish Church

Wednesday, 20th April – North Queensferry Parish Church

All of these services will begin at 7.00p.m.

Inverkeithing & North Queensferry Parish Churches Joint Service

Maundy Thursday, 21st April – Service and Communion – Inverkeithing Parish Church Hall – 7.00p.m.

**Joint Ecumenical Service (Invekeithing Parish, Baptist,
Episcopal & North Queensferry Churches)**

**Good Friday, 22nd April – joint service in Inverkeithing Baptist
Church – 7.30p.m.**

Easter Day, 24th April for those who are able to walk - meet at former St. John's building at 11.20a.m for a Hymn and Prayer of departing and then walk to Inverkeithing Parish Church for service at 11.30a.m. (Those who are unable to walk should go directly to the church.)

Tea and coffee will be available following the service. This is a historic moment in the life of Inverkeithing Parish Church and we hope that as many members, relatives and friends will take this opportunity to join in worship on this day.

It has also been agreed by the Kirk Session that the Tuesday and Saturday coffee mornings will with effect from Tuesday, 26th April be held in the **Church** using the new facilities with the exception of the last Saturday of the month when these will continue in Friary Court.

The Kirk Session look forward to welcoming you every Sunday but especially on the 24th April subject to the completion certificate being received.

Yours in Christ,
John C P Belford,
Session Clerk

Other services to note:

Sunday, 10th April – Our morning service will be conducted by our Interim Moderator – Rev. Jane Scott, Minister of Culross & Torryburn.

Sunday, 8th May – Special service to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Royal Naval Association, Rosyth & West Fife branch.

Rotas for Sunday Duties

Welcome At Door

- 03/4/11 Margaret Morgan/ Cheryl Johnston
10/4/11 Yvonne Williamson / Irene Crombie
17/4/11 Margaret Munro / Joyce Walker
24/4/11 John Weir / Pat Stevens
01/5/11 June Smeaton / JAM

Uplift of Offering

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----|
| 03/4/11 | Moira Lamont | Joan More | JAM |
| 10/4/11 | Helen Mackenzie | Alan Stewart | JAM |
| 17/4/11 | David Thomson | Marion Thomson | JAM |
| 24/4/11 | Joyce Walker | John Weir | JAM |
| 01/5/11 | Carol Kirk | Lesley More | JAM |

Counting of Offering

- 03/4/11 George McEwan / Margaret Calder / Alex Calder
10/4/11 Christine Belford / Maureen Stibbards / Karen Sinclair
17/4/11 Moira Lamont / Ronnie Lamont / Janet McCauslin
24/4/11 Shona Forbes / Sheila Whyte / George McEwan
01/5/11 Stuart McPherson / Christine McPherson / Pat Hay

Readers

- 03/4/11 Joan More
10/4/11 George McEwan
17/4/11 Pat Hay
24/4/11 Moira Lamont

Congratulations

The following special events have been noted recently and we offer our warmest wishes and congratulations:

90th birthday - Mrs. Stella Shipton

Diamond Wedding – Jim and Ina Davies

Golden Wedding – David and Muriel McPherson

Fund Raising Group

The Fund Raising group are having a "Supper with Liz" evening on Tuesday 10th May at 7.30pm in the church hall. The Rev. Liz Kenny has very kindly offered to do one of her famous after dinner speeches. This is an evening not to be missed.

Two courses will be served. Tickets are priced at £6.00 and will be available from Veda or any other committee member.

Other dates for your diary :-

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Saturday 25th June | Strawberry Fayre |
| Saturday 6th August | Highland Games |
| September (date to be advised) | Kingdom Singers |
| Saturday 19th November | Sale of Work |

Newsletter and Life and Work

We are lucky to have a faithful group of people who deliver the newsletter and Life and Work each month. Very occasionally, for one reason or another, they are unable to do this and we are looking for people who could step in at these times. If you feel you could do this please let Jenny Grant or Veda Johnston know.

Thank You

Douglas and I would like to thank everyone for making our Marriage Blessing on 6th March such a special and meaningful day. Special thanks to the Rev. E Kenny for her lovely service and to Diana from North Queensferry for singing the blessing to us so beautifully.

Also many thanks for the lovely flower basket and the many cards we received.

This has meant so much to us both,

Joyce and Douglas Todd

Golf Outing

This years outing will be played at the Dora Course, Cowdenbeath on Monday 2nd May. Tea off at 1pm.

Following the match high tea will be at the Woodside hotel, Aberdour at 6pm. There will be a sheet in the hall for the names of players and those wishing to come for high tea.



Flower Rota

The Flower Rota for this year is on the notice board in the church hall. If you would like to put flowers in the church on any Sunday please add your name to the list on the date you would like.

If you know of anyone who is ill or should receive flowers please put their name in the book on the piano in the church.

Those putting flowers in over the period are :-

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 03/4/11 | Ada Hutcheson / Debbie Walker |
| 10/4/11 | Mary Leeson / Rae Martin |
| 17/4/11 | Isobel Cassels |
| 24/4/11 | Etta Moyes |
| 01/5/11 | Bill Duff / Margaret Morgan |

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported the Christian Aid Super Soup Lunch. The sum of £195.15 was raised for the work of Christian Aid helping the poorest communities around the world.

Christian Aid Forth Bridge Cross

The Forth Bridge Cross is being held on Saturday, 30th April, 2011 2pm to 6pm. Sponsor forms are now available for anyone interested in this event. As in previous years we will be looking for volunteers to man the refreshments area at this side of the bridge. Last year the amounts raised in Scotland were Erskine Bridge £19,260 Forth Bridge £41,275 and Tay Bridge £19,670. Last year the amounts raised in Scotland were Erskine Bridge £19,260 Forth Bridge £41,275 and Tay Bridge £19,670, so it really is a worthwhile event to take part in. Anyone interested in walking or helping please see Liz Hunter.

Inverkeithing Parish Church – Financial Report 2010

2010 will be long remembered as the year that the majority of the modernisation work took place in the St Peters Church building and also unfortunately as the year we lost Chris Park as our Minister. The modernisation work and the many issues this raised including the initial contractors going in to liquidation and Chris' lengthy period of absence meant regrettably that the Kirk Session took our eye off the ball to a certain extent regarding the general finances of the congregation with the result that we recorded a deficit of £6485 for the year.

This, however, should not come as any great surprise as our budget for the year brought out a deficit of over £6000. We did however try to reduce this figure by making a fairly gentle request to all members to review their offerings but this did not have a great effect. We requested and were granted a "one off" reduction of £2500 in our Ministry costs but this was offset by a reduction in offerings of almost £1300 and a reduction in Wedding & Funeral Fees of £1400 from the budgeted figure. The offerings were running similar to 2009 to the end of October but we suffered like most congregations a sharp reduction in the final 2 months of the year due to the weather. I am please to say that we have made up the majority of the shortfall in January this year.

Once again we are indebted to the Fund Raising Committee for their efforts and once again over £9000 was raised for Church funds. In addition £6006 was raised for other charitable activities with the main beneficiaries being Christian Aid and our Malawi Project..

On the expenditure side we are continually seeking ways to reduce costs but this is difficult as over half of the total relates to our contribution to the Church centrally. There were no major items of expenditure that were not budgeted for during the year.

Looking forward to 2011 you will see from the budget I have prepared that the majority of the figures will be roughly similar to 2010 although we will lose some of the tax we can recover from Gift Aid as the rate reduces from 6th April. Of course this year we will be paying our full allowance to the Church

centrally between the Ministry costs and our Locum fees being paid to Elizabeth. There are 2 areas where we anticipate a reduction in costs and they are the Manse Council tax which is nil at present as it is unoccupied and our children's organisations have said that they will need significantly less support from the congregation this year. However we could again be faced with a deficit of around £6000. This is not a situation that we can allow to happen and action must be taken to reduce this figure significantly.

For some years now we have been transferring the interest on the buildings fund in to the general fund to balance the books. Most of the money in the buildings fund has now been spent on the modernisation work so this option no longer exists which is why we are now showing large deficits and as a result we are now in the position of having to increase our income substantially through 2011 and beyond.

So how can we do it? Well we will have a wonderful opportunity when we move up the road to encourage the people of Inverkeithing to use the building and to join us for Sunday worship. An increase in numbers would be one of the simpler ways to increase income, however existing members, that's you and me will have to take some responsibility for this situation. Many of you, over the last two years, have been paying additional money into the Buildings Project Appeal every month. This finishes this month but perhaps you would consider continuing to pay some of this money to the General Fund. We are also faced with a reduction in the tax we can claim on Gift Aid contributions. We would ask any of you who pay tax but have not signed up for Gift Aid to complete a form for this. It will increase your offering by 20% with no cost to yourself. Forms are available from the Treasurer or George McEwan.

The Kirk Session will shortly be considering what options are available to us but quite simply we must increase our weekly offerings.

Seaman's Prayer

The Lord is my Pilot, I shall not drift;

He lighteth me across the dark waters;

He steereth me in steep channels,

He keepeth my log book,

He guideth me by the Star of Holiness.

For His Names sake.

Yea, though I sail 'mid the thunders and tempests of life,

I will dread no danger, for Thou art with me,

Thy love and Thy care, they shelter me.

Thou preparest a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity.

Thou anoint the waves with oil - my ship rideth calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me in the journey I take,

And I will rest in the port of my God forever.

Sunday, 8th May – Special service to mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Royal Naval Association, Rosyth & West Fife branch.