



4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First of all, thank you for your prayers and words of encouragement for the members of Kirkcaldy Methodist Church (KMC). Even though restricted, we were able to hold two services in the church on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The last time the church had been open for worship was Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020.

The first service, on the Sunday morning, was an infant baptism – an event that had originally been planned for 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020, but, alas because of lockdown, had to be postponed! It was a delight at the penultimate service to welcome a one year old child into the family of the church.

The second service, in the afternoon, was a time of prayer, remembrance and encouragement. The congregation met for the last time in a place that had for 130+ years been the holy space where many had come together as God's people to worship and serve the Lord Jesus Christ in Kirkcaldy. Due to Covid protocols, we were not able to sing or experience our usual time of fellowship. Together, though, with a sense of gratitude, we reflected on what being part of KMC meant to us. Following the benediction, we left with hope for the future, taking with us a lit candle – a symbol of Christ, the Light of the world. We felt privileged and thankful for this special time.

KMC was founded by two men, Andrew Warrender and Henry Stocks, both employed at the linoleum factory. Their hope was to help local families at a time when absenteeism due to drink was a common occurrence. As the idea developed into practice, help was given from the Methodists in Edinburgh to support the work. Gradually KMC became known in the local community for its outreach and care – and the congregation grew.

I share this, because it is an inspiring example for all of us to follow as we seek to be those, inspired by God, to reach out to others in their need. Basically, a need was identified by those whom God called, who were compassionate – who loved their neighbour. Then, with like-minded people they banded together to make their hope a reality – and they sought help to resource this work. The work began with seeing a need, which God inspired, which then inspired others to join in to help make the vision happen.

In the Circuit, as we journey out of lockdown, God is still calling us to respond to the needs of our neighbour. It is important that we discern what that vision for mission and service is in each of our own particular contexts. We are fortunate to belong to a Circuit where we can support one another as we seek to discover all that God is calling us to do and be.

Together we hold each other, and the continued mission and ministry of the church, in our prayers.

Be encouraged - live in hope.

Grace and peace,

*Eddie*

10 Bruce Road, Crossgates, Cowdenbeath, Fife, KY4 8AZ,

E.mail: [eddie.sykes@methodist.org.uk](mailto:eddie.sykes@methodist.org.uk) Phone: 01383-512964 Scottish Charity SC037950

The Forth Valley Circuit serves the Methodist people in Edinburgh, Fife, the Lothians, the Scottish Borders and Stirlingshire.

