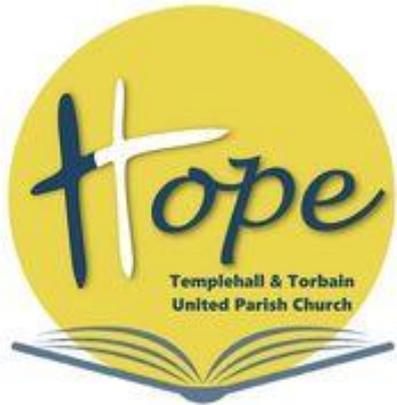


**WELCOME TO THE PARISH PROFILE OF  
TEMPLEHALL & TORBAIN UNITED PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

***"A Church Bringing Hope to Our Community"***



**Introduction:**

Templehall and Torbain is a large urban parish located within the north-west part of the town of Kirkcaldy in Fife. The two former churches were united in February 2021 following the retirements of their respective ministers. We are within a community of over 17,000 people – the largest population of any parish within Fife Presbytery.

Our vacancy is on a Basis of Reviewable Charge with the appointment reviewed five years from the date of induction.

We hope this profile gives you a sense of our optimism for the future growth of God's Kingdom as well as a good understanding of our church and community and that you may sense a call to walk with us and guide us on our mission journey.

**Our Future Vision:**

Caring for our new full-time minister will be a high priority for us. We do not look to our new minister to be a Superman or a Wonder Woman expected to do everything. Nor do we wish to present a huge "shopping list" of "what we require" from our new minister. We are looking for a minister who will be comfortable working within a Team Ministry and who will walk with us and guide us as we continue with Jesus on our Gospel journey of worship and mission in ***"A Church Bringing Hope to Our Community"***.

The future of our buildings is ultimately a decision for Fife Presbytery but our Kirk Session has discussed this issue internally and there is a consensus that:

- There is no sustainable case for the retention of two church buildings
- Neither building in its current form is sustainable for the longer term
- Either on one of our existing sites or on a new site we need to consider providing a modern, multi-use building for the church and community use
- Professional advice from a specialist architect and the General Trustees is being accessed to inform our deliberations and ultimately help to secure the best possible solution.

During October 2021 we participated in the building property audits carried out by Fife Presbytery on behalf of the General Trustees. In a recent letter from the Presbytery Board of Management, it explained that it intended to look more deeply into what the audit has produced, so that it would have a clearer picture of how the information gathered can be used to inform the Presbytery Mission Plan (to be completed by the end of the year). We would therefore expect to have some feedback on the findings by the end of April 2022.

From our profile it will be seen that our church has a strong mission ethos and is very outward looking with further potential for growth and development. In particular we are keen to restore weekly lunch provision with renewed focus upon breaking down barriers of isolation particularly amongst older people but also creating a "one stop shop" with partners enabling access to advice, support and counselling. We are also very much looking forward to further and renewed engagement with local primary schools and the Care Homes once circumstances permit.

We have the potential to do so much more for the lonely, young people and families, disabled people, victims of abuse, those who have been bereaved, people experiencing health issues, the homeless and those challenged by addictions. It is vitally important, in conjunction with our Ministry Team, to maintain and develop the goodwill of the local community and to continue to have good relations with other partner organisations on the neighbourhood development group.

### **History:**

The former Templehall Church began in the early 1950s in the Sauchenbush area of Kirkcaldy as a Mission Station run by Victoria Road Church, Kirkcaldy, formerly St. Andrews Church which is no longer Church of Scotland.

In 1953 the then Kirkcaldy Presbytery decided that a new church should be built in the Templehall part of the town, with the original Sauchenbush area part of the parish of Templehall. The first of its three ministers, the Rev. John Huskie, was inducted in December 1953.

The foundation stone of the present building was laid in April 1955 and the church building was consecrated in August 1956. Full status was granted at the General Assembly in 1958. The church hall was built in 1964 and the original building in Cleish Gardens was demolished.

Mr Huskie moved to a different charge in 1970 and in 1971 the Rev. Brock White became minister, retiring in 2001. From 1956 until 1998 the ministers were assisted by members of the diaconate.

The Rev. Antony J.R. Fowler was inducted on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2004 and retired in August 2018.

Following the re-examination of church extension needs of the expanding estates to the north and west of Templehall parish in the early 1960s Torbain Parish Church first began as a congregation in 1964 initially meeting within Torbain Primary School. An early example of co-operation between the former Templehall and Torbain Churches occurred 58 years ago in April 1964 when the first of the three ministers inducted to Torbain Church, the Rev. Dennis Warnock took place in Templehall Church. The hall in Templehall Church was also the venue for the folk of Torbain when the tea was served after the laying of Torbain Church's foundation stone in 1968. In April 1969 the present Torbain Building in Carron Place was completed and dedicated.

In 1989 Mr Warnock retired and Rev Peter Macdonald was appointed to the charge in 1990. Mr. Macdonald moved to another charge in 1998 and Rev Ian Elston became Torbain's third minister. In 2018 an addition to the ministry team, Rev Brian Porteous, Ordained Local Minister, was appointed. Mr Elston retired due to ill health at the end of October 2019.

## **Our Recent History**

With both former churches being in vacancy, in accordance with the former Kirkcaldy Presbytery's Plan for local churches, a harmonious relationship was cultivated between our two neighbouring former parishes. These discussions led to a desire on the part of both former Kirk Sessions to work together towards a Union of the churches under a single Ministry team. The Church of Scotland Presbytery Planning Task Group advised in February 2020 that they had agreed with the proposals for Torbain and Templehall Churches to unite including the proposals in relation to calling a new full-time Minister and a part-time MDS worker. This therefore gave us the green light to commence the process for achieving a Basis of Union. This came to fruition on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 when our two former two churches were united.

## **Community Profile:**

Templehall and Torbain Parish covers the vast majority of north-west Kirkcaldy. Our two church buildings are shown on the map which can be accessed at

<https://tinyurl.com/3rc8mnje>

The major part of the parish comprises 1950s and 1960s housing estates and has a population of around 17,150 people, with recent resident numbers having increased due to the new housing built between the established estates and the A92 road.

60% of the housing is owner occupied, with the social rented sector accounting for 32%. The parish includes recognised areas of disadvantage in Kirkcaldy, with some SIMD statistics being higher than the Fife average and indeed Scotland.

The area is typical of many grouped peripheral housing estates which lack modern community facilities and experience the challenges of anti-social behaviour, limited community provision and levels of underlying and endemic poverty. For example 150 people each week from our area access the local foodbank.

The extensive new build private housing schemes in the north of the parish give further scope for outreach activity.

Within the parish boundary there is Fife Central Retail Park where one of our elders provides chaplaincy support to employees through Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland.

<https://fifecentralretailpark.com/all-shops/>



Also within the parish is Kirkcaldy High School which has around 1,400 pupils  
<https://www.fife.gov.uk/facilities/secondary-school/kirkcaldy-high-school>

Three of the four cluster Primary Schools of Kirkcaldy High Schools are also located within our parish and these are Torbain Primary School (the largest Primary School in Kirkcaldy and the third largest in Fife with a roll of 520+130 Nursery), Fair Isle Primary School/Fair Isle Family Nurture Centre (Nursery) and Valley Primary School which also has a Nursery and a Department of Special Education which caters for the needs of pupils with moderate and severe learning difficulties.

The parish also has two care homes for elderly people namely Chapel Level Care Home and Ostlers House Care Home the latter being at the heart of a small care village that also provides extra care houses and other services for older people.

Adjacent to our Templehall building there is a Community Centre, Public Library, large Dental Practice and a neighbourhood shopping centre.  
Closer to our Torbain building there is a smaller shopping area on Birnam Road.

Further community facilities within our parish include Chapel Community Centre, Scout Hall, Argos Youth Centre, Linton Lane Community Centre and YMCA Youth Centre.

### **Kirkcaldy & Surrounding Area**

A good overview of Kirkcaldy's attractions can be seen from the Visit Scotland information at <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/kirkcaldy-p238991>

Fife offers a variety of scenery and places of interest and Kirkcaldy is within easy reach of St.Andrews, Dundee, Perth, Dunfermline and Edinburgh as well as famous smaller picturesque locations such as Falkland, Anstruther and Culross.

Many scenic walking opportunities are available including the Fife Pilgrim Way and Fife Coastal Path.

Kirkcaldy is blessed to be surrounded by excellent golf courses.

As well as having excellent road connections, Kirkcaldy is fortunate to have a frequent rail service and network of express coaches and local bus services and has a number of dedicated cycle lanes.

### **Our Management and Structure**

The Church is administered in accordance with the terms of the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form). Members of the Kirk Session are the charity trustees and in 2021 the Kirk Session met 9 times. The Kirk Session comprises 23 elders and has several committees, referred to as teams, whose members do not all require to be Kirk Session members. These are Worship, Finance, Fabric, Outreach and Administration. In addition we have a Co-ordinating Group which includes all the team conveners. Regular meetings of the teams and of the Co-ordinating Group take place and they report to Kirk Session.

## **Our Staffing**

You will be joining a Ministry Team presently comprising our Ordained Local Minister and our part-time MDS worker (0.5 of full-time post funded by CofS plus one additional day per week grant-funded locally).

Cleaning services for both our buildings are contracted.

Active and competent unpaid volunteers provide the remainder of our support needs such as organist, church officer-type duties, administrator-type duties, publicity and technical matters such as sound and audio-visual systems.

## **Congregational Statistics as at 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Communion Roll = 270

Adherents = 14

Electoral Roll = 284

Supplementary Roll = 22

Under 17s involved in Life of Congregation = 75

Female Active Elders = 15

Male Active Elders = 8

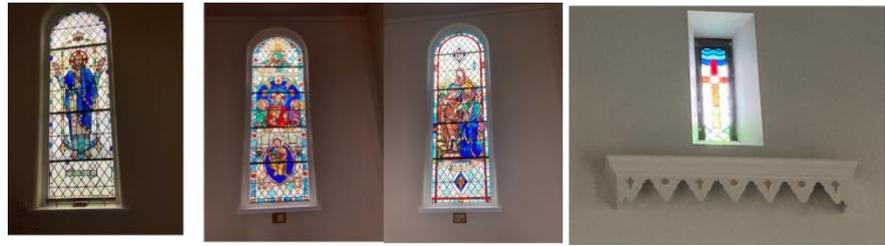
Funerals During 2021 = 15



## **Our Buildings**

### **Templehall Church Building:**

Templehall Church building, set on the corner of Fair Isle Road and Beaully Place, occupies an area of about half an acre.



The Sanctuary can seat about 400 people with space for a further 80 or so at the rear of the church (known as the West Aisle). This is usually curtained off and used as a meeting place after services and occasionally for other small meetings.

Along the corridor leading from the side door to the kitchens and halls there is a Vestry and Session Room.

A new kitchen satisfying all the then imminent Health and Safety Regulations was opened for use in 2000 whilst the old kitchen continues to be used for flower arranging and so on. A serving hatch goes from the main kitchen to a small area which in turn leads into the main hall. There is access to the stage from the small area, as well as from the main hall, the stage having a "dressing room" to one side.



The main hall can be accessed also from the front door area of the church, either directly from the street outside or from the vestibule of the church, in both cases walking through a roofed-in passageway. On the other side of the walkway is a paved area bounded on the other three sides by the outside walls of the church.

A small room formerly used for Sunday School/Bible Class now houses a photocopier. It is directly opposite the stage; the inside of this room has removable panels which can provide viewing access for an overflow audience.

180 people have been accommodated at tables for a meal, but 100 is perhaps considered to be the optimum number.

Over the last number of years disabled access to all the halls and buildings have been upgraded.

Most recently Wi-Fi installation has taken place with boosters to enable internet access to reach sanctuary and halls.

Two municipal car parks are in close proximity to the church which itself has on street parking at the main door and there is also a small parking area at the side door off Fair Isle Road.

## Torbain Church Building



Torbain Church building is located adjacent to the junction of Lindores Drive and Carron Place to a design already prepared and approved for a new Church in Cowdenbeath.



The church has the following facilities:

### Lower Level:

- Church Sanctuary seating c.400
- Vestry and Vestibule

### Second Floor:

- Main Hall and stage
- Small Hall
- Session Room
- Kitchen
- Toilets

### Third Floor:

- Sanctuary Balcony Space (known as Organ Loft)
- Storage Area/Storage Lockers and Cupboards

### Exterior

- Parking for 40 cars

In April of 2019 the building celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Anniversary was recognised by a motion in the Scottish Parliament that praised the church's role in meeting the needs of the community and our plans for the future.

The Sanctuary itself is our biggest space and in recent years has benefitted from a new sound system, modern projection systems and wi-fi installation throughout the building. The fixed-pew nature of the Sanctuary in the Torbain building (and the Templehall building) constrains utilisation other than for Sunday worship and other occasional worship services.

Essential major roof maintenance was undertaken during 2019 to protect the Sanctuary from rain ingress.

As with the Templehall building, Torbain was constructed before modern building regulations rightly established improved access standards for disabled people. Consequently, whereas the main sanctuary is fully accessible, the hall complex does not have disabled access from the rest of the building but only through a fire exit into the main hall, the route also followed by those with prams and buggies attending activities in the hall. Prior to the decision to unite with Templehall, former Torbain had identified two priority needs the first having been the modernisation of the kitchen provision. The equipment and general environmental standards are not sufficiently fit for purpose for the range and size of activities which have been built up over the years. The second priority had been identified as a need to redevelop and expand the space that is currently the Session Room into a community café and meeting room space. The present space is too small for that purpose and the room is of limited community value.

## **Our Worship Life**

Our Sunday service takes place at 11am. and the current pattern is to alternate each week between our two church buildings. Worship takes place in a friendly atmosphere where we try to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and welcome.

In gathering to worship God, thank God and meet together in Christian fellowship and friendship, no one is ever excluded from our worship, all are welcome.

Our attendance at Sunday worship has been somewhat diminished "in person" by the pandemic but between 45 and 55 is typical of most Sundays. Around 80 people are estimated to view our online services on Facebook and YouTube.

We celebrate Communion, normally on the first Sunday of every month – anyone of any age who loves the Lord can participate in the taking of the bread and wine and these monthly services provide a regular reminder of the sacrifice and hope found in Jesus Christ.

There are a number of special services throughout the year traditionally marking particular events such as Remembrance Sunday as well as Easter and Christmas services.

Christian Aid's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in May 2021 was marked during Christian Aid Week with a special service, collection from members and a Quiz Night with donations from participants going to Christian Aid.

A few services are led by members of the Worship Team and our MDS. The Guild also participates in a few services including leading an additional carol service in December.

The hymns we use are a blend of the traditional and contemporary from CH4, Mission Praise and Songs of Fellowship. The words are projected onto screens and both sanctuaries have electronic organ accompaniment. Occasionally we “sing along” to contemporary praise songs from the internet displayed on the screens where a particular song fits the context of the service.

Prior to the pandemic, our OLM and a group from the church provided short monthly services within the two Care Homes in our parish.

Since December 2021 Messy Church is being provided between 4pm and 6pm on the second Sunday of each month alternating between the two buildings. Currently half a dozen or so families are attending and we expect that to build significantly over time.



Whilst we do not have a Sunday School there is a small pool of volunteers available if ever required to look after any small children during services and provide colouring and craft activities etc. to the children to enable parent(s) to join in worship.

Other worship connections with children include (in normal times) the attendance of Torbain Primary School for a School Service in church at Easter. This of course has not been possible during the pandemic but in December 2021 the school choir was able to perform at the Guild Carol service. In November 2021 a smaller-scale version of our annual St Andrews Day service was held at which the Area Scouting and Guiding uniformed organisations attended and participated in worship.



Whilst their general activities are mentioned below under “Our Outreach”, groups such as our “Bairns a Blether and a Brew” babies and toddlers group and our Lego club embrace Christian “themes” from time to time during the year.



Both former churches had a tradition of participation in school holiday clubs/summer mission and this has continued into the united congregation. Led by our MDS, at the time of writing we are currently preparing a 3-day Easter Mission programme for young people in conjunction with Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART) and Scripture Union with 8 volunteers from the church involved in its delivery.

A number of other regular activities containing elements of worship continue in spite of the pandemic restrictions. On Thursday evenings our OLM leads a Bible Study Group by Zoom using materials such as "Christianity Explored".

The Guild has its weekly open meetings on Friday afternoons which include hymns and prayer. Their current meeting syllabus includes a bible study and speakers from world and national mission organisations.

We have a Prayer Group who are at the disposal of anyone requesting to be named or to name some other person within the Group's prayers.

One of our former Churches held a "Friendly Hour" prior to the pandemic. The group was Informal Gospel based and it met weekly in the afternoon with a variety of speakers. Central to the meeting was prayer requests.

As well as our Weekly Services being recorded for online transmission, our OLM compiles a weekly Midweek Reflection with a Christian message which is published on our Church and on our Community Facebook platforms (reaching around 200 each week) and emailed as part of a "Weekly Update" to an emailing list currently of 36 members.

## **Our Fellowship**

Tea and coffee is served in our Church halls after Sunday Worship and the resumption of this fellowship following the periods of restriction was greatly welcomed by those who partake.

Light lunches after special services such as Harvest are also provided.

At the beginning of March 2022 we had a joyous service at which the long service of 10 Elders was recognised with the presentation of certificates by the Moderator of Fife Presbytery to those who were able to attend. A combined total of 360 years of service had been given and a lunch was held after worship to mark this special occasion.



Our “Over 60s Group” meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. Normally they have a guest speaker and the meetings are informal and well-attended.

Social Events such as quizzes are organised from time to time and at the time of writing the Guild are organising a quiz with a Guild team to be pitched against a Kirk Session team.

Our Fabric Team are planning to mobilise a “Spring Clean Team” to target specific areas within our buildings in need of a spruce-up or tidy-up.

Another possible activity in the pipeline for discussion is establishing a Church Walking Group.

### **Our Outreach**

There is much understanding within our church that to be sustainable we need to continue to get beyond the simplistic image of “traditional church for church people” and present ourselves as a 7 days a week worshipping and supporting community for all.

The focus of our MDS staff member is to enable the united church to be a valuable and active partner, working with all agencies to reach out to the large community it serves. We sense a clear call to take the love of Jesus and show its relevance by practical action to where it is most needed and we want to be a successful model of a modern, relevant community focused church in an area of significant need.

Our MDS has been central to reinvigorating the church’s role in our combined parish. Below is a listing of her principal activities since the union, supported where necessary by church volunteers despite the constraints which were imposed by the pandemic.



- “Wee Wrigglers Buggy Walks” introduced at end of February 2021 for toddlers and pre-schoolers on Wednesdays and for younger babies on Thursdays. These were tailored to the prevailing restrictions for outdoor groups and provided a valuable and successful means of addressing some of the isolation which participants had inevitably been enduring throughout the pandemic. Because of demand the Buggy Walks were increased in April to include Tuesdays as well as Wednesdays and Thursdays. A significant accolade of the initiative was that some new mums were actually referred to the group walks by their health visitor.



- Significant involvement in keeping in touch with elderly and vulnerable parishioners whilst additionally administering the then necessary booking arrangements for services which were a mix of telephone and online bookings.
- In April the main Church Facebook platform was supplemented by a community-wide Group administered by MDS and Session Clerk called “Our Templehall & Torbain Community” whose membership at the time of writing (March 2022) had reached 353.
- Week commencing 17th May also saw the “Wee Wrigglers” neo-natal support groups meeting indoors again in the Torbain Building. The Saturday Lego Club which is run by one of our Elders also recommenced in May 2021.
- By the end of May our new Church logo was unveiled encapsulating the word “Hope”. The logo was designed by two secondary school pupils with graphics skills who responded to a challenge and brief from our MDS.
- During July our MDS took the lead in a campaign to obtain donations of good condition school uniform for temporary storage at the local Linton Lane community centre. Together with several volunteers Lauren set up a “Pop Up Shop” at Templehall Church on Saturday 7th August to enable parents/carers of children in need of school uniform items to browse and collect items which were free or for a small donation if desired. This was very well received by the local community with over 100 children benefitting and will be repeated in 2022 and future years.
- On Monday 23rd August our Bairns, a Blether and a Brew group restarted for the first time since March 2020. The group is led by our MDS and meets weekly from 10-11.30 and is for any children aged 0-4, along with parents, grandparents or carers.
- On Saturday 8th October there was a “Dr Bike” event at Torbain following dialogue between our MDS and Lang Toun Cycles part of Greener Kirkcaldy who provided all-comers with some free repairs and some basic bike maintenance and guidance.

- Our MDS was informed on Friday 10th December that £2,000 had been awarded to the Church following her application to the Fife Presbytery 2:10 Mission Fund. This will be used towards a forthcoming “Sound Off” project which will provide a young male youth support group and also a “Connect Bible Study” initiative.
- Messy Church resumed on the afternoon of Sunday 12th December and will normally take place on the second Sunday of each month and alternating between the two buildings each month. Activities are planned and overseen by our MDS with an act of worship led by our OLM and hot meals provided by volunteers.
- In mid-December our MDS was successful in securing a £1,000 grant from the Arnold Clark Community Fund which was towards around 100 Christmas Goody Boxes being given/delivered to elderly and vulnerable members.
- Our MDS has undergone training in a scheme called Walk Through the Bible with Chris Beattie from Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust. As a result of this she has concluded an afternoon each week for five weeks with the P7s in Valley Primary School covering the Old Testament with them. Her verdict: “The children were great to work with and it was lovely to finally be getting back into schools and meeting the children again. And great news – Torbain Primary School have asked us to come in and do the course with their 90+ primary 7s as well.”
- In forward planning for an enhanced school uniform donation/distribution initiative during Summer 2022 our MDS has taken a lead by contacting all CofS churches in Kirkcaldy to determine if any would like to collaborate in order to widen the reach of the scheme beyond our own school catchment area

### **Our Other Hall Users**

- The Torbain hall was hired by Fife Council as a Polling Station for the Scottish Parliament election on Thursday 6th May 2021. The hall will again be hired as a Polling Station on Thursday 5th May 2022 for the Fife Council Elections.
- 17th May 2021 saw the resumption of the twice weekly Slimming World classes in the Templehall hall (since becoming one weekly set of classes in Templehall and one weekly set of classes in Torbain)
- A new weekly externally run class called “The Bairns Group” started on Tuesday 6th July 2021 in Torbain hall providing sensory playtime and story sessions for babies.
- The NHS Fife Choir resumed their weekly “in person” practices on Wednesday 18th August with a temporary venue of the Templehall hall and has recently relocated back to meeting in the Torbain hall.

- By the beginning of September our affiliated Guiding Organisations had resumed meeting “in person” within our buildings.  
These are:  
Templehall Rainbows, for girls aged 5 to 7 meeting on Wednesdays  
Torbain Rainbows, for girls aged 5 to 7, meeting on Thursdays  
Torbain Brownies, for girls aged from 7-11, meeting on Wednesdays  
Torbain Guides, for girls aged 10 to 14, meeting on Wednesdays  
Torbain Ranger Guides, for girls aged 14 to 18 meeting on Thursdays
- The 115th Scout Group which is affiliated to the church, meets in the Group headquarters situated in Chapel Road, Kirkcaldy.  
The Group consists of:  
Beaver Colony for 6-8 year olds, which meets on Thursdays  
Cub Pack for 8 to 10 and a half year olds which meets on Wednesdays  
Scout Troop for 10 and a half to 14 year olds which meets on Thursdays;  
Explorers for 14 to 18 year olds which also meets on Thursdays.
- The Kirkcaldy Stamp and Postcard Club recommenced “in person” meetings in the Torbain Building on Wednesday 15th September with future meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of every month.
- A new weekly externally run group, called Krafty Kidz started in the Torbain building on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 for pre-schoolers and for primary school aged children.
- Lindores Drive area Tenants and Residents Association hold their occasional meetings in the Torbain Small Hall.
- Numerous childrens Birthday Parties take place in our halls normally on Saturday afternoons in some cases for children who attend one or more of the childrens groups which meet in our halls

### **Covid Impacted Activities:**

Both our former churches had a small number of activities which “fell by the wayside” when the pandemic hit.

Former Templehall had the following:

- Weekly Lunches which were open to all to attend and which were popular with non church members from the community as well as members.
- “The Friendly Hour” which was a group of about 17 members of mixed age (not all church members) who met weekly in the afternoon from September to April.
- Monthly care home visits
- Prayer Meetings held fortnightly led by the then Locum Minister.

- “Bibleworld Book Club” an Outreach activity which was being developed following involvement with an after school club in Valley Primary School.
- Annual Summer Mission usually a 3-day mission. Members of congregation supported Scripture Union to facilitate this mission and a sizeable donation given to Scripture Union. The Easter Mission taking place in April 2022 is essentially a reintroduction of this format of activity.
- A men’s indoor bowling group which met weekly.

Former Torbain had the following:

- Our OLM had a weekly slot at Torbain Primary School in co-operation with Newcraigs Evangelical Church with the latter focussing on Assemblies and our OLM allocated a particular year group to present a weekly Christian teaching session. Some discussions involving our OLM and MDS have taken place with Fair Isle Primary School who would be receptive to a similar arrangement once school visits become possible again.
- Monthly afternoon church services were led by our OLM supported by organist and members of the congregation at both Chapel Level Care Home and Ostlers House Care Home.
- Local Councillors and MSPs Weekly Surgeries in the small hall
- Saturday Morning Café for quality coffee and cake in the Session Room
- Greener Kirkcaldy (a community-led charity and development trust working locally to combat the climate emergency, tackle fuel poverty and food) were using the large hall for life skills courses
- Two privately-run pre-school “song and story” groups were using the small Hall as was a childrens’ Spanish classes group.

### **Our Ecumenical Context**

Both former churches and our united church have maintained links with Newcraigs Evangelical Church which is within our parish. We are both represented on the Neighbourhood Development Planning Group and in normal times we work together on outreach to two of our primary schools.

### **World Church**

The main missionary partner from the days of former Templehall Church is Caroline White, daughter of the late Rev Brock White minister at Templehall from 1971 to 2001. Caroline is stationed in Pakistan and is in charge of a Christian Hospital/School. The organisation which Caroline works encourages her to come home when she has furlough and in her time back home she visits many churches to speak of her work and has spoken at former Templehall on a Sunday to give an update on her work.

Former Torbain's most recent missionary partner was Jenny Featherstone. Jenny has completed her years as Mission Partner in Zambia, a post part funded by Church of Scotland and partly by the Methodist Union. Now retired as Principal of Chodort Training College, Choma, she is currently spending two years living on the College campus and in one of the houses built by the Construction Dept. of the College. Our OLM was in contact with Jenny when she was experiencing particular difficulties during the pandemic and at that time former Torbain took the lead in Presbytery to obtain donations with the Treasurer and Community Outreach Worker co-ordinating the raising of much needed funding.

## **Our Strengths**

We coped well with the challenges of the pandemic coinciding with completing the Church Union. The various procedural matters leading up to the (online) Service of Union on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were completed by online meetings using the Church of Scotland protocols which had been drawn up to enable church business to continue despite "in person" meetings being unable to take place.

Towards the end of January it was confirmed that former Torbain's Community Outreach Worker, Lauren Jones, had been appointed as Mission Development Staff Worker for the then soon to be united charge. Since then as documented below Lauren's appointment and her dedication to her role has significantly helped us to increase our community engagement which continues its upward trajectory.

We are blessed with a core of hard working, dynamic office bearers with a "can do" attitude who can think beyond how things were done in the past in different times and instead be responsive to the needs of today's church.

We were able to restart in-church services from Good Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2021 and have continued to offer in-church services in tandem with online recorded weekly worship downloaded to our website, Facebook and YouTube platforms. The majority of services have been led by our Ordained Local Minister, Brian Porteous but in addition we have a Worship Team which has proved itself to be ready and willing to lead worship on occasional Sundays when Brian has been unavailable.

## **Other strengths we have identified include:**

- Widespread understanding among our congregation of the need for us to be warm, welcoming and inclusive to all
- In the heart of where a large proportion of Kirkcaldy's population actually live
- Growing population catchment which gives additional outreach opportunities
- Stronger teamwork through the harnessing of differing skill sets inherited from the two former churches.
- Good community use of our buildings including uniformed organisations
- Full representation on local authority neighbourhood development planning group
- Group for Babies/Toddlers and sensory activities groups for Babies/Toddlers
- Our Guild has 18 members (ladies and men) with a strong leadership
- Our connections with schools in the local area
- Our OLM is Chair of Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland
- One of our elders provides chaplaincy support to the Fife Central Retail Park through Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland and she is also trained to conduct funerals
- Another of our Elders is Chair of Kirkcaldy Foodbank
- Good links with Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART) and Scripture Union
- Weekly Bible Study

- Prayer Group
- Messy Church
- Our MDS and a number of members of Kirk Session have had success in Grant Funding applications
- Hospitality, Baking and Hot Meal Capability for Outreach, Socials and Fundraisers
- Generous response by congregation to monetary appeals for charities and church funds
- Involvement with local community in forward planning

### **Three examples of our dynamism:**

- Following our Union on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 the trustees approved the sale of the manses of both former churches as neither building was felt to be ideal for 21<sup>st</sup> century expectations. These sales realised £265,000 for the former Torbain manse with sale completed by the beginning of May 2021 and £195,000 for the former Templehall manse with the sale completed in the early part of June 2021. Through personal contacts we have been made aware of two suitable and desirable properties for our new Manse. Both will be put up for sale within the next couple of months. Both are in the same private estate in the north of the parish.
- Our activities are now far more evident to a wider age spectrum through our MDS's facilitating of the expanding role of social media. We can now engage by direct messaging in response to the increasing amount of enquiries being received by electronic means.
- The teamwork involved in the donation/redistribution of school uniform initiative in the middle of a pandemic was notable. Directed and co-ordinated by MDS and volunteers enlisted to help in transporting items, washing items, sorting items, setting up and staffing stalls, providing sustenance for volunteers, partnership working with our contacts in Linton Lane Community Centre for help with storage and additional distribution. All accomplished within a short timescale.



## Conclusion

We hope that these pages will have been useful and that you may sense a call to join us as part of our Ministry Team. You will be particularly suited if you are future-orientated rather than backwards-looking, open-minded and with an ability on your days off to switch off and relax, recognising that good self-management means keeping yourself fresh for the task.



A copy of our Annual Accounts for 2021 is available on our website in the Money section under Finance and links to our web platforms are shown below.

<https://www.templehallchurch.com> and repeated at <https://www.torbainchurch.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REuv1AdKq2I&t=19s>

<https://www.facebook.com/TorbainChurch>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1032577290506160>

## How to Get in Touch:

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