

WHO'S WHO IN THE KIRK SESSION



KEITH MACDONALD

Keith was ordained as an elder before he came to this district in the late 1980's, having served in several churches, as his faith strengthened. He was born in Inverness where he had his early schooling at Inverness Central Primary School and then at Inverness High School. The family consisted of twin boys and Keith was the younger by 10 minutes. On completing his formal education he started to train to be a Quantity Surveyor in the construction industry. During this time he was involved with the Methodist Church where he became a steward. This was where the family worshipped and his father was a guiding influence in these formative years.

He began working with Barratt in Elgin and served the company there until 1985. It was during this time that he moved to the Church of Scotland and was ordained an elder in St. Giles Church, Elgin in 1985. Having completed a Stewardship Campaign in the church had a major bearing on Keith becoming an elder. His work with Barratt took him to other locations before he came to the Central Belt in 1988, when he met Miriam. They moved to Polmont in 1989 setting up home in Fortingall Crescent after their marriage. After visiting the churches locally, they decided to join Polmont Old during Graham Thain's ministry. They moved to their present home in Shieldhill in 1991.

The Sunday School was where Keith made his presence felt early on and he was Sunday School Superintendent from 1991 to 1997. When the Child Protection administration became mandatory, Keith again took up the mantle and served on the Youth Council during this time. The Child Protection remit created a headache for the Session at that time as all people involved with the youth of the church had to be vetted and approved for working with the younger people of the congregation.

Since 2000 Keith has represented Polmont Old on Falkirk Presbytery where he has served on several committees and has kept the Session well informed.

Keith and Miriam run one of the House Groups in their home on alternate Wednesday evenings. These are friendly relaxed evenings when the members of the group discuss various sections of the Bible and other topics. This usually stimulates questions and thoughts and can result in meaningful discussions. A natter over a cup of tea or coffee also helps.

Hobbies and pastimes - I suspect we have already dealt with some of these. However, in his younger days, Keith was a referee in the Highland Football League and also officiated at Junior games. Nowadays he prefers something a bit less energetic – namely golf. As you will see elsewhere in the magazine, he runs golf outings for those in the church who wish to participate.

Portraits

Whilst alterations and general upheaval at the west gable of our Church was taking place, various artefacts were taken into storage. During this time the opportunity was taken to refurbish the portraits / pictures of ministers who have graced our pulpit since 1810.

The project was undertaken by a member of our congregation, namely David Baff. The finished product, which portrays those who have preached in Polmont Old with dates and duration of tenure in matching frames, have been re-hung in the foyer of the new extension. This exercise has been carried out by David as a dedication to his late wife Mattie.

Richard Hotchkiss

**When you get to your wit's end,
you'll find God lives there**



Did you know?

- ? It takes 250 trees to absorb the carbon dioxide produced each year by a single family car.
- ? A hosepipe or sprinkler can use up to 1,100 litres of water an hour – as much as a family of four would use in two days.