



PRESS RELEASE

***** embargoed till 11 am on Tuesday 22nd February 2005 *****

New Kirk Group sees a Good News future

Leading evangelicals in the Church of Scotland today launched a new group to ensure that the Kirk's gospel heritage does not remain just so much history.

It follows concern from many in the pews that the Kirk can often seem too accommodating to a secular agenda, in both belief and practice.

The new organisation, Forward Together, seeks to build on the Kirk's clear evangelical foundations, and to show their continuing relevance and value for the Church of today and tomorrow.

It seeks to work in a spirit of positive engagement with the denomination at a time of great change within the Kirk.

Chairman Gordon Kennedy said, "We are well aware of the many challenges the Kirk faces today, and that Scotland is now a land of many faiths. But we believe Christians should be confident in declaring their faith in Jesus in the marketplace of ideas."

"The Bible has been immensely important in shaping Scotland, and we believe that the Church should continue to take its cue from the Bible both today and tomorrow in all matters of faith and life."

"We will be encouraging evangelicals to take a full and positive part in the councils and committees of the Church of Scotland."

Notes for Editors:

An evangelical can be described as a Christian who holds that the basis of faith and practice should be the Bible, with a particular emphasis on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Evangelicals are within the mainstream of historical and orthodox Christianity, as described in the ancient creeds of the church and in the Reformation confessions.

'Mainstream Evangelical' was the only wing of the church to show growth in the last church census, both in the Kirk and in most other Scottish churches. This was also the pattern in England.

(Source: 'Turning the Tide': Report of the 2002 Scottish Church Census, by P. Brierley).

'Forward Together' was previously the name of an informal grouping within the Kirk. It is now being reformed with a constitution and membership, open to ministers, elders and other church members.

Details of Press Launch:

Tuesday 22nd February at 10.30 am in the Bruntsfield Hotel, Edinburgh.

For further information, please contact:

Rev Gordon Kennedy (Chairman), Stranraer, 01776 702443
Rev Ian Watson (Secretary), Kirkmuirhill, 01555 892409

www.forwardtogether.org.uk