

Newsletter – 1st September 2013

The Abbotshall Manse
83 Milton Road

Dear Friends,

September is Stewardship Season at Abbotshall. Last year we focussed on the stewardship of our talents, next year we will focus on the stewardship of our money. This year we focus on the stewardship of our time.

There are many inequities in the world, but one thing we all have in common is the same amount of time each day. God has allotted twenty-four hours to each one of us. Perhaps, because we are products of our fast-paced society, we tend to think and act as though God has short changed us when it comes to time. It is not uncommon to hear comments like, “There just isn’t enough time in a day to do everything I need to do.” “I just don’t know where the time goes.”

There are 24 hours in every day but these hours can seem to pass at different speeds. Some hours fly by, others drag. This poem entitled Time’s Paces is to be found on a Clock in Chester Cathedral:

When as a child, I laughed and wept,
Time crept.
When as a youth, I dreamt and talked,
Time walked.
When I became a full-grown man,
Time ran.
When older still I daily grew,
Time flew.
Soon I shall find on travelling on -
Time gone.
O Christ, wilt Thou have saved me then?

Good stewardship of our time is all about using it wisely and well in God’s service. Making the best use of our time – time for family and friends, time for work and leisure, time for worship and service, time for Bible reading and prayer.

Take time to think about how you use your time.

Yours in Christ

Rosie

September is Stewardship Season

Sunday 1 September – Creation Time

A Christian response to the environment...

Sunday 8 September – ‘There is a time for everything,

and a season for every activity under heaven.’

Sunday 15 September – The Christian use of time.

A time to work, rest and play...

Sunday 22 September – The Christian giving of time

A time for thanksgiving and re-commitment...

Sunday 29 September – Harvest Time

Give thanks for the harvest...

Session Clerk

As a Session Clerk Alan Mentiplay was always very organised. One of the things he insisted upon was having a depute – someone who could cover for him, someone he could ‘train up’. Morag Michael was appointed Depute Clerk a few years ago now and had taken on some of the Clerk’s responsibilities. Following Alan’s sudden and untimely death the Kirk Session unanimously elected her as our new Session Clerk. We are very grateful to Morag for agreeing to take on this role. Please give her your support and remember her in your prayers. A new Depute Clerk will be appointed in the near future.

The Christmas Gift List

In recent years the list has become a fairly controversial subject, from various aspects – e.g., “which members are on it?”, “which members SHOULD be on it?”, “what are the criteria for being on the list? Or being added to it?” (there seem to be no criteria for removal from it! – a very difficult thing to do!) So the list has become quite indiscriminate.

What originated as a useful bag of groceries for elderly members, and moved on to a gift for “elderly and housebound”, has become a list of recipients who have been on it, or added to it for a variety of different reasons/recommendations, and certainly far removed from the original intent!

Therefore, in an attempt to create a “level playing field”, the Gift List has been suspended (apart from members who are in Care/Nursing Homes) and consideration is being given to a suitable substitute. This may be a disappointment to some, but it really has become necessary to tackle a growing problem, and it is being done with the best of intentions.

Thank you for your understanding.
Abbotshall Pastoral Care Team.

ABBOTSHALL WALKING GROUP'S ADVENTUROUS SUMMER

Heavy rain was forecast for **18th May**, the day of the Holy Strollers walk in Plean Country Park and surrounding area. The first stage of the walk was through woodland and then on to a quiet country road taking us through the village of Torwood. We continued upwards through Tor Wood until we reached Tappoch Broch where we had meant to stop for our picnic lunch. By this time the rain had arrived and was coming down in torrents so we only had a brief stop to explore the broch which dates from the Iron Age. We found a clearing amongst trees for our picnic. Sitting in a circle under a canopy of Douglas Firs we thought that we should have a toadstool in our midst, but decided that in our wet and bedraggled state we were more representative of a coven of witches rather than a ring of fairies! The cauldron was missing but the remnants of a camp fire was in the centre of the circle. Suitably refreshed we continued downhill towards the ruin of Torwood Castle. We re-entered the Country Park and noticed signs of lades and water wheels as we passed by the Plean Burn. We had another brief stop to look at Plean House which was built by William Simpson, a wealthy East India trader and the original owner of the park, in the early 19th century.

The Holy Strollers walk on **15th June** started at Kingsmeadows car park in Peebles. From here we walked along the north bank of the River Tweed in an upstream direction. The first landmark of note was the dramatic ruins of Neidpath Castle high above the path. The path continued along the line of the old railway which closed in 1950 until Lynesmill Bridge. We stopped here and had our picnic lunch on the banks of the Lyne Water. After lunch we crossed the bridge and made our way back to Peebles along the south bank of the Tweed. On the way we walked through Crow Wood, passed Barns Tower and Old Manor Bridge. We stopped at the viewpoint at the entrance to South Park Wood and admired the splendid views up the valley. From here it was a short downhill walk across pastureland into Peebles. Scenery was idyllic all along the route and the countryside was looking beautiful with the trees clothed in their fresh green spring colours.

Five Holy Strollers were blessed with a hot sunny day for their walk on **20th July**. Crieff was the starting point for our 6 mile walk along the banks of the River Earn which traverses the rich farmland of Strathearn. We walked through the outskirts of Crieff, farm tracks and Thomas' Wood, passed the Stuart Crystal Visitor Centre and then reached the riverside path. The path meanders through vegetation and grazing land. We stopped at a grassy stretch overlooking the river for our picnic lunch. Leaving the river bank we followed the line of an old railway until we reached Strageath Hall and then along farm tracks to Sallyardoch Wood. The woodland path emerged on to a minor road which took us into Muthill which was founded by the Culdee Monks in the 8th century.

On **17th August** seven strollers successfully overcame the challenges of weather, gradients and mileage on the walk at Scone. Starting from the car park at the Abbey

Church we walked the mile through Quarrymill woodland to the Macmillan cancer restaurant to fortify ourselves with a cup of coffee before embarking on our walk to the Lynedoch Monument on Murrayshall Hill. First a short stretch to the Whinnymuir trail across a field that led to the busy A 94 which we crossed to enter the edge of the Gannochy Estate. Then along the Milkie Boys walk to Pickston Hill to begin the challenge of the uphill mile to Deuchney Wood. By taking various trails through the wood to the Curling Pond we had some shelter from the rain and by the pond we all found suitable trees to shelter under while we picnicked. We were greatly pleased when starting on the next- downhill - track the rain ceased, and sun and blue sky appeared. This encouraged us to press on uphill for a further two miles passing, first Macduff's Monument- a folly- and then up by a path through the deep purple heather to the obelisk of the Lynedoch Monument which afforded us a wonderful panoramic view.

On all of our walks we took time to stop and admire an amazing amount of flora and fauna. At the end of every walk we always found a suitable café/restaurant to refresh ourselves and continue fellowship.

Further details of all walks can be found on the Abbotshall web site.

BIKE & HIKE : SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

This is a joint fundraising event where the funds are split 50/50 between participating churches and EMMS International. Bikers and hikers gain sponsorship by either cycling or walking round some or all of the churches that are open and in previous years have had great fun.

The church is open from 10am until 6pm and volunteers are also required to act as welcomers to visitors to Abbotshall. Please, can you spare 1 or 2 hours to perform this enjoyable task by being available to sign the visitors' log, offer refreshments and provide information about Abbotshall?

Further information from Jenny McLeod – 01592 268415 or
j.mcleod415@btinternet.com

May Quiz Night

Many thanks to the people who supported the quiz night on 29th May. 9 teams of various sizes took part, including 3 from our neighbouring churches. Everyone enjoyed the format of the quiz and the concentration at each of the stages was plain to see.

A good night was had by all,
Many thanks from the Social Committee

Shoe Box Appeal 2013

The 2013 Blytheswood shoebox appeal is underway. This is the 20th anniversary of Blytheswood running the appeal and over 1.6 million boxes have been donated and distributed through the years.

A dedication service for the shoeboxes filled and collected in Kirkcaldy for Blytheswood Care will be held in Templehall Church on Thursday 14th November at 2pm. The church will be open from 10.30am to receive shoeboxes.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving at Abbotshall Church is on 29th September. We will again support Blytheswood Care Shoe Box Appeal at this service. If time is short you have until 10th November to hand in your shoe box.

Celebrate and Discover 2014

Kirkcaldy High School on 22 March, 2014

Following the success of the first ever Kirkcaldy Presbytery event Celebrate and Discover held in 2012, the Mission and Worship Team of Presbytery have begun preparations for a second event in 2014. This time the day has a themed title, words of Jesus: "**I am the vine and you are the branches**". Abbotshall Church, along with the other 23 congregations which make up the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, has been invited to contribute and support. There will be workshops, displays, prayer events, a Messy Church and Young Church section and a coffee bar running throughout for all visitors. Over 500 people attended the 2012 event and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Display:

Each congregation has been asked to put together a visual display of how their congregation lives out these words "*I am the vine and you are the branches*". The display should be about church life and what we are involved in i.e. a project the church may be involved in. The aim is to share good ideas with one another.

Workshop:

The workshops titles are:

- Here's an idea – Stewardship
- Here's an idea – Pastoral Care
- Here's an idea – Out of School Clubs
- Here's an idea – Worship

Workshops will be for an hour and will happen twice in the day.

Closing worship/Music: Closing worship will be led by Ella and Graeme Wilson who are looking for singers and instrumentalists to join in.

Stewards:

The Team is appealing to all congregations for assistance with the smooth running of the day. A good number of stewards will be needed both outside in the car parks and inside the building. (Volunteers will be given a briefing prior to the day). A Skipad trained person is also required to be on hand (person trained with handling wheelchairs in an emergency) so if you have this training or know of someone who does and would be willing to help, please let us know.

Anne Moyes and Morna Scriven have attended the first meeting and will attend further meetings throughout the winter on behalf of Abbotshall Church. If you think you will be able to help at this event or would like to join the choir or the band, please talk to Anne or Morna or you can ask the minister Rosie Frew or Jenny McLeod, our Presbytery Elder who is on the Mission and Worship team at Presbytery, OR contact Presbytery Office yourself on kdypres@googlemail.com The organisers have asked for an indication by 15 November if you can contribute in any way so that they have an idea of numbers of helpers and musicians.

Kirkcaldy Presbytery is opening a page on their website titled Celebrate and Discover and this can be accessed on www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk or through our website www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk where you will get updates about the day as they are added. There will also be updates in our November and February newsletters.

Abbotshall Guides – Help Needed

I am pleased to be able to report that we continue to enjoy time with about 20 girls, regularly, on a Thursday night. They are bright, enthusiastic and rowdy. We have a weekend camp booked for 6th to 8th September at Balmullo – under canvas – so we are hoping for continuing good weather.

Unfortunately, Ann Ferguson, who has been a great leader with the Guides for nearly 10 years, and also District Commissioner, has decided that it is time to move on. We will miss her very much, are very grateful for all the work and time she has given and wish her all the best.

As a result, however, we desperately need some fairly regular help, particularly to cover spells when other leaders have to take holidays. If anyone could offer some help or knows of anyone else who might, please get in touch with me!

Elspeth A Smith

Telephone: 01592 643701 Email: elspethmacdonald@hotmail.com

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Scottish country dancing resumes at Abbotshall after the summer break on Monday 16 September 2013 at 7.30pm in the church hall. A warm welcome is extended to anyone wishing to join the class. For further information contact Christine Browning (01592267239) or Myra Muncey (01592262980).

Thursday Fellowship Group

The topic for the May meeting was “Down Memory Lane” when members all contributed in different ways to make this a very pleasant and interesting afternoon. Memories were in abundance and the photographs caused lots of interest. “Do you remember” was a common expression heard and everyone gained something from the stories told.

The following month the topic was “Our Favourite Things” and again members brought an assortment of items with them and we enjoyed the stories connected to them.

These two meetings brought us up to the summer break and we look forward to meeting again on the last Thursday of each month in the Church Hall at 2pm. A warm welcome is extended to all.

Iona and Two Men of Vision

I had the good fortune to be appointed to the Board of the Iona Community just as plans for the commemoration of St Columba’s arrival on the island 1450 years ago were being made. Thus it was that I was invited to Iona for the weekend of Pentecost to share in the celebrations which included an ecumenical service in the Abbey, a reception and lunch and a performance of a play about George McLeod’s rebuilding of the Abbey in the 1930’s, “An Island Between Heaven and Earth”.

Without George McLeod’s vision and hard work over many years, life on Iona today would be very different from the place of pilgrimage it has become. It was he who founded the Iona Community after employing out of work men and young ministers to rebuild the monastic ruins of the Abbey. In addition, he built the McLeod centre which has been in constant use by the Iona Community since its inception.

Whereas the island today is the destination for people from all around the world who have come to experience the sense of peace and spirituality that Iona seems to produce – George McLeod called it a “thin place with only a whisper separating it from heaven” – back in Columba’s day Iona was seen as a very important stopping place in medieval travel. The seas around Scotland were the motorways of their day, affording speedier travel than overland journeys and so it would seem to Columba, arriving from Ireland in his coracle, that this was the ideal spot to found a community where he could live out his intention of dedicating his life to God after a turbulent and chequered career in his home country where he had been involved in wars and killing.

To travel to Iona today does feel like coming to the edge of the world in some ways as the next land to the west is the USA. Most people arrive having first travelled to Oban, taken a ferry to Mull and then driven 30 miles on single track roads across

that island before arriving at Fionnphort, a tiny settlement with tantalizing glimpses of the Abbey across the water. The final part of the journey takes a mere 15 minutes on the passenger ferry across the Sound of Iona, with the village and Abbey buildings growing ever larger. There is therefore time, at each stage, to feel the hustle and bustle of the mainland receding and the island's special qualities beginning.

Although separated by almost 1400 years, the work of two men, Columba and George McLeod, has ensured that Iona has become an established place of pilgrimage. By following God's calling, even when it must have seemed insurmountable, they have created a place where people can work and worship together, no matter what their branch of Christianity, and pursue the ideals of Peace and Justice that the world so badly needs.

Morag Michael



CHRISTMAS FAYRE



With the days shortening and the nights lengthening our thoughts are with winter approaching, and of course that means that the Christmas Fayre will once again be upon us. The date this year is **Saturday 9th November**.

All the usual stalls, home baking, jams, confectionery, tombola, craft, greeting cards, cosmetics, bric a brac and raffles, all will be there.

I HOPE YOU WILL BE TOO.

All donations and enquires please to Bill Page on 262009.

Tickets on sale soon at £2.

**Thank You
Bill Page**

FUTURE COFFEE MORNINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-



HARVEST COFFEE MORNING



The Harvest one is on **Saturday 14th September 10.00 am to 12 noon**.

The usual stalls will be there along with a craft table with hints and ideas for Christmas.

Donations of home baking for the coffee morning would be appreciated very much. Please come along for the fellowship and support your Church. Tickets are now on sale at £2.



HALLOWEEN COFFEE MORNING

The Halloween one is on **Saturday 12th October 10.00 am to 12 noon**. All the usual stalls will be there.

Donations of home baking for the coffee morning would be appreciated very much. Please come along for the fellowship and support your Church.

Tickets will be on sale soon at £2.

NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION MEETING

Thursday 6 June 2013

Having agreed to be the Session Clerk, Morag Michael took the Oath de fideli administracione

"I promise to carry out faithfully the duties of Session Clerk".

The Church was now functioning without a Beadle and the duty Elders were learning the Beadle's role. The Minister had set up the church for Communion which took about one hour and she had also found that there was plenty of time between Communion services to make the necessary changes. There is now a need for someone to take on this job each time there is Communion. Church and Hall cleaning was being done well by the new cleaner.

Mike Baxendine reported that the training of those involved with vulnerable groups and the completion of the necessary forms were progressing well.

At the recent Presbytery meeting congregations had been commended for the quality of their record keeping. The Presbytery had agreed to support each of four local candidates for the ministry with a £250 grant.

The Session Clerk had received a letter inviting attendance at next year's "Celebrate and Discover" event. The theme is "I am the Vine you are the branches". Two representatives are needed to attend an information meeting, those interested please contact Morag.

The supply of formal Communion cards had come to an end and as it had been agreed some time before that these cards would be replaced by invitation cards sample invitation cards were circulated and their contents discussed. It was agreed that members would not be obliged to present the cards at Communion but that they might be helpful in identifying the numbers present.

The formality of Communion and aspects such as the sharing of the peace by a handshake, the singing of appropriate hymns, the use of formal dress and the covering of the pew shelves in the cloths were discussed. It was agreed that a more relaxed style should be adopted and that elders should attend smartly dressed but that specific colours need not be worn.



Many international students come to Scotland to study at our universities. Will they make contact with people and life beyond the academic environment? What will they do for a homely break if home is too far away? For 26 years, national charity HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts, who invite a student to spend a day, a weekend, Christmas or New Year in their home. Chatting; eating together; playing games; seeing the area; joining in with the local community; making friends – a HOST visit lays down wonderful memories to be re-lived in China, India, the USA and many other parts of the world. We have an urgent need for additional volunteer hosts in Scotland, as the University of Glasgow has just joined the HOST programme, and other universities in Scotland are planning to increase their promotion of the scheme to international students. So we are expecting to need more kind invitations this year from people living anywhere in Scotland. And hosts learn from their guests too.

If you could make a student welcome, please contact HOST through www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser for Scotland, Alan Robson, on 01946 825170. Thank you.

HOST UK

Unit 8 Water House, 8 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ

Telephone: 020 7739 6292 Fax: 0207 033 6539

www.hostuk.org.uk

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A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Willie and Alex take this opportunity to thank Rosie and the entire congregation who made their presentation Sunday such a lovely surprise day.

The picture of the Church will be a constant reminder of many happy memories and when their “bottles” are opened their first dram will be to wish you all ‘Good Health’.

They both enjoyed the cutting of their cake and sharing lots of past memories with many friends and thanked all for the good wishes they both received. They will still be about on a Sunday to share friendship with their many friends they have both made throughout their years of service.

Mabel also wishes to thank you for her flower arrangement; it was lovely and very much appreciated.

Best Regards,
Good Health & God Bless

Willie & Alex

MANY THANKS

I would like to thank Rosie, the church and members for the lovely flowers, cards and good wishes I received whilst I was in hospital in June.

Evelyn Brown



Newsletter Change

The newsletter will now only be issued on four dates a year. The dates from September 2013 to May 2014 are as follows:-

Sunday 1st September 2013 (Autumn Edition)
Sunday 10th November 2013 (Advent Edition)
Sunday 2nd February 2014 (Spring Edition)
Sunday 18th May 2014 (Summer Edition)

You can visit the website www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk to keep up-to-date with news of events in Abbotshall Church from month to month. If you wish to contribute to the newsletter or to advertise a forthcoming event, fundraising etc. please remember to send your article to Diane Murray well in advance.

BEREAVEMENTS



We were saddened at the passing of
Jack Brunton in April;
Tom Christie, John Ramsay, Mrs Ena Fancey all in May.



Megan Victoria Watson was baptised on Sunday 23 June.

Oscar Thomas James Farrell was baptised on Sunday 11 August.

MARRIAGES – CONGRATULATIONS

On Saturday 27 April – Christian Williams and Kelly Thomson married in Abbotshall.

On Saturday 3 August – Alastair William Morrice and Shona Nanette Crawford married in Abbotshall.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - CONGRATULATIONS

Evelyn and Ian Armstrong celebrated their Emerald Anniversary (55 years) in June;

Mike and Irene Petrie celebrated their Ruby Anniversary also in June.

THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS



Evelyn and Ian Armstrong would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers they received on the occasion of their Emerald Anniversary in June.

Diary Dates

Saturday 14 September, 10.00am-12 noon – Coffee Morning

Thursday 26 September, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 26 September, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting.

Sunday 29 September – Harvest Thanksgiving

Saturday 12 October, 10.00am-12 noon – Coffee Morning

Thursday 31 October, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 31 October, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Sunday 3 November, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Saturday 9 November, 10.00am-12noon – Christmas Fayre

Sunday 10 November, 10.50am – Remembrance Sunday Service

Thursday 28 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting



NEXT NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2013 (ADVENT EDITION)

The close down for the November (Advent Edition) newsletter will be **Sunday 27th October**. Please send your contributions to Diane Murray on e/mail at dianemurray953@btinternet.com or by post to 97 Mellerstain Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 6UD or leave in our basket in the church vestibule.

THANK YOU – NEWSLETTER TEAM