

Abbotshall Church Newsletter – October 2012

Letter from the Minister

Dear Friends,

We had the first meeting of our new Thursday Fellowship Group last week and we got off to a great start. A busy hall, a good speaker, a lot of laughter and all rounded off with a nice cup of tea! George Grant, a retired Headmaster from Bennoch Church, was sharing with us some humour from the classroom. During his talk he remarked that schools today are very different from the schools we attended as children.

As a school chaplain I spend a lot of time in schools. Whilst I still use books and my guitar in my work with the children I also have all sorts of modern technology at my disposal. I can put pictures, maps and video clips on a memory stick and show them to a class on their 'smart board', an interactive whiteboard. When I lead Assemblies I can put a PowerPoint presentation on my memory stick (a series of slides) and project them onto a screen via a laptop computer. This means I can illustrate everything I say - and printed out song sheets are a thing of the past.

I'm in the middle of Harvest Thanksgiving Assemblies at the moment and so I've been putting together a series of PowerPoint's with suitable harvest-time photos. I found one on the internet of a round straw bale sitting in a field against a bright blue sky. It could have been taken anywhere. A couple of days later I was driving to Kinghorn and just as I came over the hill the sight that greeted me took my breath away – a clear view right over the Forth and a newly harvested field scattered with straw bales. Later in the day I went back with my camera and took my life in my hands as I shot a series of photos from the side of the road. So, my harvest Assemblies have a very local feel.



At this time of year we give thanks to God for the harvest, the worldwide harvest that we enjoy each day. We give thanks to God for the farmers who work so hard to bring that harvest to us. We pray for them too. Our increasingly extreme weather has made it a difficult year. We show our thanks by giving – whether it's by filling a shoebox for Blythswood care or an envelope for some other charity, or putting a couple of cans in a collecting box at the supermarket.

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
For all his love.

Rosie

NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION MEETING - Thursday 30th August 2012

Morna Scriven gave an Elders' training presentation entitled "Take Time – A Look at Personal Faith Development". This encouraged Elders to become aware of the driving nature of time and the associated dangers. Ways of avoiding the dangers were considered, examples from Christ's life reviewed and our daily walk with God emphasised.

Jim Browning reviewed the September Stewardship Month activities which had been published in the extra August newsletter. It was agreed that the income from the £2 challenge would be used to pay for the Bibleworld Bus. Details of the Promise Auction process were analysed and the comments noted. Concern was expressed at the loading on the catering group. It was agreed that more people need to be involved.

The Session considered the proposals in principle, made by Morag Michael after the Elders' lunch regarding "Better use of the Church Sanctuary". After a protracted debate and having considered the main aspects the following conclusions were reached:-

- Tea and coffee should not be offered in the Church
- The Sanctuary should be used for worship out with Sundays
- Communications in general should be improved
- Better accommodation should be provided for children but not within the Sanctuary.

Due to the behaviour at recent baptisms the Session Clerk proposed that guidelines should be given to guests. The main issue was a lack of respect for the sanctity of the service largely due, it was felt, to the poor understanding of the nature of the service by guests. It was agreed that this was a very difficult issue as it concerned the inclusive nature of the Church. It was agreed that guidelines should be drawn up by the Minister and the Session Clerk.

The Bibleworld Bus will be parked at the west end of the promenade from 29th October to 9th November. There has been a very positive response from the local schools many of which will be allowing students to visit assisted by the free bus provided by Stagecoach, The Bibleworld Bus will be open on two evenings for Church groups.

The joint services over the summer had been well attended and there had been a lot of positive feedback. It was suggested that joint services might be more appropriate during the cold weather to reduce heating costs.

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of Abbotshall I wish to express our grateful appreciation of a £500 legacy from the estate of the late Miss Berry, Abbots Mill.

This is a good opportunity to catch up on the thanks due to those who supported various activities over the past few months:-

Retiral offerings allowed us to forward £135 to KART.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides donated £361 from funds raised at their May Coffee Morning.

Our own coffee mornings –

April, Valentine £341;

June, Jubilee £532 (Remember the Street Party?);

July, Strawberry £322;

August, Olympic £213;

September, Harvest £241

Our online buyers, through www.easyfundraising.org.uk raised £61 in the past 6 months.

Andrew Duncan

Team Prayer

Now that Olympics are over and we can reflect on the marvellous achievements of our sportsmen and women it is worth noting that the fact that they were all members of Team GB seemed to give them a real sense of pride which enabled them to outdo all our expectations. Perhaps being part of that team was what gave Andy Murray the confidence to push the boundaries and win both an Olympic gold medal and then his first Grand Slam.

Often, a group can be more than the sum of its parts. Being part of a team changes how people think and behave – the collective responsibility becomes more important than the individual one and prayer can benefit from this “togetherness” too. While we all value our private prayer time, bringing before God our concerns and needs, praying in a group can have a wider impact than we can often see.

The Prayer Group continues to meet on the second and last Sundays of the month at 10.20 in the Vestry. Why not come and experience that feeling of being in a prayer “team”? Imagine the power and greater impact the group would have with more members and how it would feel to be contributing to that. The good news is you don’t have to be as fit as Mo Farrah or as speedy as Chris Hoy!

Morag Michael, Prayer Promoter

WALKING GROUP

Our September walk on Saturday 15th was blessed with breezy but sunny weather. Taking advantage of the wind's direction we walked from Lower Largo to Elie. The coastal path uses first the old railway track and then a path through the dunes of Dunbarnie Links which proved a little tricky but walking along the beach itself allowed for easier progress. The old anti-tank defences at the entrance to Shell Bay caravan site provided a convenient resting spot before the walk on the raised beaches leading to the headland of Kinraig. We picnicked on the beach below Kinraig enjoying the warm sunshine and the dancing waves. Thereafter it was an easy walk past the golf course and along through Earlsferry and into Elie where we had refreshments before catching a bus back to Lower Largo. Although that stretch of the coastal path is well known for its wild flowers in summer there were still a number to gladden the heart: red campion, yellow rock roses and sow thistle, purple headed black knapweed, blue meadow cranesbill and the magenta of bloody cranesbill to mention a few.

The next walk on Saturday 20th October will be on the Loch Leven Heritage Trail. We will walk from Kinross to Loch Leven’s Larder where we will stop for lunch and return by the same path.



Social Committee



In a earlier issue of the newsletter the social committee indicated there would be a silent auction at the October coffee morning but this has been put back until the New Year as the promise auction was held at the end of September. If you managed to find some items over the summer please hold on to them for a little longer and we will let you know of the new date in a future newsletter.



BEREAVEMENTS

We were saddened at the passing of
Mrs Peggy Neilson and
Mrs Dorothy Labuda both in August.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY – CONGRATULATIONS



Colin and Jean McCreadie celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in September.

Cherry Tree Railway



Janice and I would like to thank everyone who came to visit the railway. We hope you all enjoyed the afternoon as much as we did. There are certainly some young potential train drivers in the extended Church family!

Tom Scott

The Craft Group

A big thank you to all those who supported our craft table at the harvest coffee morning in September. This enabled us to donate £150 to church funds.

Throughout the summer our members have been crocheting and knitting prayer/comfort shawls for members and friends in our congregation. So far 21 have been distributed, and have been much appreciated by the recipients. We have also

been supporting our troops in Afghanistan by knitting beanie hats to be worn under helmets during the cold Afghan winter. Hats were dispatched in September.

Our group continues creating articles for the Xmas Fayre in November. Although small in number, we have a very enthusiastic and productive group; however we would be more than happy to see some new faces on a Wednesday morning. Please come along bringing whatever you are working on or even join us for a cuppa.

Bett Duncan, The Craft Group

Shoe Box Appeal 2012



The last date for handing in shoeboxes to the Church will be

Sunday 11th November. The boxes will be taken to Templehall Parish Church for collection on Thursday 15th November. Anyone wishing to assist on transporting the boxes to Templehall Church please speak to Bill Page (262009) or Diane Murray (265744).

On the Thursday there will be a short service at Templehall Church at 2pm after the boxes have been collected in and everyone is welcome to attend this service.

PROMISE AUCTION

The Promises listed below were not taken at the auction at the Harvest Lunch on Sunday 30th September. If you wish to bid for any of the Promises please contact Jim Browning on 01592 267239 to leave your bid. Bids close after Sunday 28th October.

Children's Page -

WHICH ANGEL?

Write the first letter of the answer to each of these questions in the boxes below. Then rearrange the letters to make the name of an angel who delivered a special message....

1. The first man
2. A book of the Old Testament is named after this queen
3. A giant killed by David
4. He was Ruth's second husband
5. Son of Abraham, father of Jacob and Esau
6. A doctor who wrote the third Gospel and Acts
7. Another book of the Old Testament named after a woman.

□□□□□□□□

ANSWERS: 1. Adam 2. Esther 3. Goliath 4. Boaz 5. Isaac 6. Luke 7. Ruth

Rearranged the letters give you Gabriel.