

which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with prayer.

**Tribute to Alan  
Mentiplay**

The Minister began the meeting with a tribute to Alan Mentiplay.

The chair to my right is empty and it is probably symbolic of how we all still feel. There is an emptiness, it still seems so hard to believe. Alan was such a larger than life character and I still expect to see him walking down Milton Road or striding into church, quickly combing his hair, ready to enjoy worship and fellowship, ready to sing with gusto. It's only when someone is no longer there that you realise just how much they did, all that they were involved in, how much you relied upon them, how much you enjoyed their company.

As I said at his funeral service Alan was the first person I got to know at Abbotshall. He came along to Largo with other members of the Nominating Committee and I still remember him standing at my front door, looking out at the view over the Forth and asking 'How can you possibly want to leave this?'

Alan loved the church, he cared for the people of Abbotshall. He was committed to the service of his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was committed to the Eldership, ordained to that role back in 1990 along with Michael Baxendine, Bruce, Euan, Anne Steward and John Wallace. He was a natural leader and so he was just the man to take over from Raymond as Session Clerk some 7 years ago. He was a great Session Clerk. Indeed just the week before he died I was saying (boasting) to a colleague, 'I've got the best Session Clerk.' He loved it and he took it seriously. Went to all the training days, kept abreast of all that was happening in the church locally and nationally – whether that was with his fellow Session Clerk and best friend Stewart on a Tuesday evening in the Novar Bar or by regularly trawling through the Church of Scotland website. He was always well prepared for every piece of business, he always did his homework.

Alan thrived on being involved and busy. Early retirement from Boots meant all the more time to give to the Church and Christian service. In his working life he was a good manager and very much a team player. He carried these skills over into his church work - always mindful that in the church he was working with volunteers. Grace and not law was his catchphrase.

I've joked before that Alan was a great talker! He really seemed to get energy from working with other people, brain-storming, encouraging and enabling. Our new church website was the last project he was involved in. It has taken longer than anticipated and thanks go to all who've worked so hard. I think we've done Alan proud.

We're conscious of Alan's absence at Kirk Session. Our thoughts and prayers must be with his wife Marilyn and his children and grandchildren as they come to terms with their loss.

**Opening  
Prayer**

Our Father God

We gather here as your Kirk Session of Abbotshall.

We gather to give you thanks for Alan, for his life, his dedicated service, the memories he leaves behind.

We pray for your strength and support in the weeks and months ahead as we continue to serve your people in this place.

We pray for Alan's wife, Marilyn and their family. Be their comfort and their strength. In their grief may they know something of your love and your grace.

Be with us in our meeting this evening, guide us in the decisions we have to make about the future. May all we say and do be to the glory of your name.

We pray for our districts, our congregation, our parish, the people in our care.

We pray for each other that you would strengthen us in our faith, fire us up with zeal in your service, give us a real vision for your church in this place.

We remember those not with us this evening because of other commitments, work or holiday, ill health or growing frailty. Bless them all wherever they are.

As we commit this time to you we pray in the words that Jesus taught, saying.....(The Lord's Prayer)

**Sederunt**

Rev R Frew with I Anderson, M Baxendine, J Browning, I Clark, A Duncan, R Duncan, T Espie, B Farrell, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, R Kirkhope, J McLeod, D Murray, J Napier, W Page, M Petrie, M Scriven, J Scott, A Steward, G Webster.

**Apologies**

P Bell, W Beveridge, S Docharty, J Farrell, J Henderson, G Houston, R Macintyre, M Michael, R Michael, A Moyes, E Smith.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 were approved.

<b>Matters Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Jenny McLeod, Isobel Anderson and Alice Halliday had agreed to be World Mission partners.</li> <li>b) Work on the Supplementary Roll had been completed.</li> <li>c) The website was now live and training for contributors will be arranged.</li> <li>d) The local Church of Scotland Stewardship advisor, Sandra Holt, will give a presentation on the ‘Stewardship of Time’ at the next Session Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June.</li> </ul>
<b>Appointment of New Session Clerk</b>	The Session was advised that Morag Michael, who had been deputising as Session Clerk, was prepared to take on the role. The Kirk Session agreed unanimously with this appointment.
<b>Deputy Session Clerk</b>	The Minister indicated that this new appointment left a need for a Deputy Session Clerk and asked the elders to give this prayerful thought.
<b>Beadle</b>	During recent weeks both the Beadle and the Hall cleaner had retired. Now was considered to be a good time to adjust these duties within the church. After some discussion it was agreed that the number one elder on duty at services would be responsible for the tasks previously performed by the Beadle. The Minister had compiled a list of the Beadle’s activities and would provide these and a training session for elders. Wedding and funeral services were considered and it was agreed that duty sheets would also be provided for these. The new arrangements are to be reviewed in a year.
<b>Communion</b>	All the necessary arrangements had been made for the Communion on 2 <sup>nd</sup> June.
<b>Summer Services</b>	During June and August there will be services at 9 am and 11 am. In July we will travel around the town centre churches for united services of worship at 11 am as follows:- Sunday 7 July – Bennoch Church Sunday 14 July – St Bryce Kirk Sunday 21 July – Linktown Church Sunday 28 July – Abbotshall Church
<b>Safeguarding</b>	It was reported that Mike Baxendine was well on with the training and that completed disclosure forms were now required.
<b>Presbytery Update</b>	<p>St Columba’s has a new Minister.</p> <p>There is to be an elders’ training day on Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> May and interested elders should advise Rosie.</p> <p>On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April there had been a well supported church and community joint meeting of those interested in setting up a food bank.</p>

<b>Prayer Promoter</b>	On 12 <sup>th</sup> May there is to be a service involving all the Presbytery prayer promoters in St Columba's to celebrate the ending of the banner pilgrimage.
<b>Pastoral Care Update</b>	Anne had little to report but reminded Elders that they should keep her informed of member's needs.
<b>Diary Dates</b>	<p>The following diary dates were noted.</p> <p><i>Sunday 12 May, 11.00am</i> – Christian Aid Service</p> <p><i>Sunday 12 May, 7.00pm</i> – Presbytery Praise Service in St Columba's Church, Glenrothes</p> <p><i>Thursday 30 May, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group</p> <p><i>Sunday 2 June, 9.00am and 11.00am</i> – Celebration of the Lord's Supper</p> <p><i>Thursday 6 June, 7.30pm</i> – Kirk Session meeting</p> <p><i>Sunday 9 June, 11.00am</i> – Young Church Service</p> <p><i>Thursday 20 June, 7.30pm</i> – Congregational Board meeting</p> <p><i>Thursday 27 June, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group</p>
<b>AOCB</b>	<p>Chris Beattie of KART was seeking the use of church halls during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> August to host a holiday club for school pupils. Chris will provide all the necessary youth workers and activities but needs help from the church for refreshments. The session was keen to support this and Mike Petrie agreed to check the availability of the halls during that week.</p> <p>The forthcoming presentations to Alex McLean and Willie Beveridge were discussed. Morna Scriven and Anne Moyes agreed to organise framed photographs of the church, Rosie Frew already had a certificate for Willie and would organise a suitable bottle of whiskey in consultation with Richard Michael for Alex and Jane Gilmour would organise flowers for Mable McLean.</p> <p>The Hall cleaner, Ruth Moyes, had announced her retirement after 26 years of service to the church. She had found a suitable candidate, Kerin Campbell, to take her place and had provided her with training. She was now running a trial with Kerin, including cleaning the church, to confirm her suitability. Jane Gilmour would organise a gift of flowers for Ruth.</p> <p>Gordon Webster expressed concern about congestion caused by elders socialising in the church vestibule prior to services. This perennial problem was briefly discussed and it was agreed that elders would endeavour to leave the route into the church clear and move elsewhere to discuss matters with each other.</p>

Janice Scott and Jane Gilmour had visited Mark Petrie to review the questions for the quiz night to be held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May. They were pleased with the quality of the questions and indicated that teams of six would compete and that they are also considering inviting teams from other churches.

The Thursday group had a presentation from the Minister about her school chaplaincy. It was noted that this had been very informative and that those present were pleased to hear about the extensive nature of this work.

**Date of Next Meeting** The next Session meeting will be on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm.

- Action Items**
- a) The website was now live and training for contributors will be arranged. Morna Scriven
  - b) The Minister had compiled a list of the Beadle's activities and would provide these and a training session for elders. Rosie Frew Elders
  - c) Mike Petrie agreed to check the availability of the halls during the week of 5<sup>th</sup> August. Mike Petrie
  - d) Morna Scriven and Anne Moyes agreed to organise framed photographs of the church for Alex McLean and Willie Beveridge. Morna Scriven
  - e) Rosie Frew would organise a suitable bottle of whiskey in consultation with Richard Michael for Alex McLean. Rosie Frew
  - f) Jane Gilmour would organise flowers for Mable McLean and Ruth Moyes. Jane Gilmour Elders
  - g) It was agreed that elders would endeavour to leave the route into the church clear and move elsewhere to discuss matters with each other.

Minute Clerk

Moderator