

## May 2013 Newsletter

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly meets in Edinburgh from Saturday 18 May until Friday 24 May. On the afternoon of Sunday 19 May there will be a celebration of the life and work of the Church of Scotland in Princes Street Gardens. Thousands will gather from all over Scotland for worship, drama, teaching, prayer, fun and fellowship. Richard Michael our organist has been roped in to knocking a ministers' Jazz Band into shape....

On Monday 20 May the long-anticipated report of the Theological Commission will be presented. A Commission charged with examining the theological issues around same-sex relationships, civil partnerships and marriage, and whether the Church should ordain ministers and deacons who are in same sex relationships. Commissioners to the General Assembly have a hard decision to make. There can be no more procrastination. There will doubtless be fall out.

We often describe the Church of Scotland as a broad church – it is able to accommodate a wide range of theologies and opinions – and there is respect for the differences. My hope and prayer is that whatever decision is reached there will be gracious acceptance and a re-commitment to our broad church. We recently used this challenging prayer in our worship...

Welcoming God  
You fling wide the gates  
and push back the boundaries  
proclaiming that 'all are welcome'.

You dismantle dress codes  
and membership criteria  
carefully formulated  
over the years

You stop us in our tracks  
and rock us to the core  
when you present us with  
your minimalist  
rules of engagement

For you institute  
the broadest of churches  
nudging our peripheries  
out of touch  
beyond the horizon.

Please pray for our Church of Scotland at this time. **Rosie**

### **Tribute to Alan Mentiplay given at his funeral service in the church on Wednesday 27 February 2013**

Alan was the first person I got to know at Abbotshall Church. He was the Convener of the Nominating Committee that recommended me to the congregation and not long after I became minister here he became Session Clerk. He was also just about my next door neighbour! The last time I saw Alan was at a church coffee morning, a reminder of the many conversations and discussions we have had over a cup of tea. Kirk Session planning meetings, in between services on Communion Sunday or just sorting out the next bit of business that was remitted to Minister and Session Clerk.

I quickly came to appreciate that Alan was a man of deep faith and strong commitment who gave unstintingly and enthusiastically in Christian service to the church, the community, the work and

mission of the Gideons, the support of many worthwhile causes and concerns. He and Marilyn were both Samaritans for a time, he was Chair of Fife Shopmobility, on the Board of NHS Fife, a past chair of the Town Centre Management. In his younger days he was very involved in Round Table, he recently joined Probus and was greatly enjoying it.

I also came to appreciate that Alan was an incredible fount of knowledge – local history, local politics, world travel, sport, music – he even appeared to read every page on the Church of Scotland website regularly and would come up with obscure pieces of information. I'm being honest when I say that no meeting with Alan was ever short but it was always interesting and could go off on amazing tangents!!

Alan used the experience he gained from his working life in his service of the church. He was a good manager, a good organiser, an enabler and encourager. He always did his homework and was well prepared for whatever meeting, project or discussion he was a part of. He had the wisdom to recognise that church work, working with volunteers is very different from working with paid employees. Grace not law was his catchphrase.

Alan was very much a people person. He will be remembered as a kind pastoral visitor, a wise counsellor, a strong encourager and a good friend to many.

Alan was a Gideon. He had a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus, for raising money for scripture distribution around the world, for helping with the distribution of Bibles among first year pupils in the local secondary schools. As one of the school chaplains at Balwearie 'Gideon week' in January has become a highlight of our year and a wonderful opportunity to work in partnership with the Religious Education teachers and local Gideons. I know that Alan greatly enjoyed his visits to many of the secondary schools in West and Central Fife – not always easy, sometimes challenging but all worthwhile.

Alan's Bible was lying open on his desk at Proverbs 16 and 17. We don't know what he was reading but there are several appropriate verses...

Grey hair is a crown of splendour - It is attained by a righteous life. (16:31)

Children's children are a crown to the aged,  
And parents are the pride of their children. (17:6)

A wise man's heart guides his mouth- And pleasant words promote instruction. (16:23)

In his heart a man plans his course - But the Lord determines his steps. (16:9)

I close with the words of Jesus...

'Well done good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your master.'

## **Silent Auction Thank You**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Silent Auction by donating items and/or bidding for the many items there. A total of over £270 was raised. Remaining items have been stored for the Christmas Fayre.

Social Committee

## **What to do if you suspect or witness harm or abuse or it is reported to you**

If serious harm or sexual abuse is reported, immediately contact the police or social work service. If you attend a Church of Scotland congregation, immediately contact your Safeguarding Coordinator.

The Safeguarding Coordinator for Abbotshall church is:

Michael Baxendine,  
2 Southerton Road,  
Kirkcaldy, KY2 5NA  
Tel: 01592 260801  
Mobile: 07801 729093

A notice is displayed in the Church and the Halls giving Safeguarding Contact numbers including Fife Social Services and Police.

For more information about what you need to know and do see The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service, Safeguarding Handbook 1, 2011.

### **How to contact The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service**

The service is available 9.00am-4.45pm, Monday to Friday. You can leave a telephone or email message outwith this time. But if you suspect or witness serious harm or abuse, or it is reported to you, contact your local police or social work service.

The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service  
The Church of Scotland  
121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN  
Tel: 0131 240 2256  
Email: [safeguarding@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@cofscotland.org.uk)  
Web: [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **BLUEBELL COFFEE MORNING**

The next coffee morning is on Saturday 11th May 10am– 12 noon

Tickets are £2. The theme for this one is bluebells

Mugs with a black print of the church will be on sale at this coffee morning and at Fellowship After Church every Sunday. The mugs are £4 each.

### **and an ADDITIONAL MAY COFFEE MORNING**

will be held on Saturday 25th May, 10am – 12 noon. Tickets are £2. This one will be run by the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows.

## **Christian Aid Week – 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

This year's Christian Aid Week theme is **bite back at hunger** and planning is well under way. But there are still opportunities to get involved.

In addition to the traditional red envelopes, which many of you will be distributing and collecting, there are exciting fundraising events up-and-down the country. There are sponsored events; events that offer the chance to meet like-minded people over a bowl of soup, whilst raising funds plus lots of sales of work & books. For more information about events near you visit the Christian Aid [website](#).

Euan Fraser, our Christian Aid Co-ordinator, is hoping all the regular volunteer collectors will be available this year and would welcome any new collectors as there are large areas of the town that do not have a door to door collection.

**ANY OFFERS????**

Gift envelopes will also be available at the church for donations on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

Thanks – Euan (Telephone 01592 266451)

### **Quiz Night**

Not to be missed!

Wednesday 29th May, 7.30pm in the hall.

Come along and experience the quiz of quizzes. Forget the image of the quizmaster reading all the questions and being bored, this is really interesting and up on a screen with pictures. Teams of up to 6 people can take part and have a fun evening with the questions covering a wide range of subjects. Cost will be £1 per person.

If you would like to come along could you please complete ONE SLIP PER TEAM and place it into the newsletter basket in the church vestibule to give us a rough idea of how many teams to expect so we can set out enough tables.

Tickets for the quiz night will be available from Sunday 5th May.

We hope you can manage along.

**The Social Committee**

### **ABBOTSHALL WALKING GROUP APRIL 2013**

The Holy Strollers were blessed with dry sunny weather for their first walk of the year on 20<sup>th</sup> April, which was hopefully a sign that the long hard winter was over and that spring had finally arrived.

We started walking in Limekilns, an old settlement on the shore of the Firth of Forth dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Lime was burned there in relatively small amounts in the early life of the village, though there was a much larger operation going on in the neighbouring village of Charlestown. Limekilns was mainly a fishing village with a large natural harbour for small to medium transport and cargo ships.

We set off in an easterly direction from the old pier along the Fife Coastal Path passing Capernaum Pier and the Forth Cruising Club before turning inland on the Windylaw Heritage Path, used for many years as a Coffin Road, where mourners carried their dead, possibly from as far away as Dunfermline, to Rosyth Churchyard. We continued up this road to Pattiesmuir where we stopped to have a look round Douglas Bank Cemetery which contains a War Graves area. A Cross of Sacrifice erected centrally is surrounded by 4 graves in a naval plot from the 1914-18 war and nearly 130

casualties from the 1939-45 conflict, the majority of whom were men of the sea. From here the path took us past the edge of a wood and farmland into the Broomhall Estate. We stopped beside the Gellet Rock, an interesting geological formation, which is a remnant of limestone quarrying for our picnic lunch. The stump of rock was left by the limestone quarriers when they removed all the surrounding rock, and its height shows the thickness of the rock which was quarried out here.

Exiting Broomhall Estate we came into the village of Charlestown which we took time to explore. The name, Sutlery, above one of the shops intrigued us and we felt it was worthy of some investigation. This building originally stabled horses at ground level and stored grain on the first floor. It is now a licensed provision store combined with post office. The legal definition of a Sutler is a civilian merchant assigned to an army in the field to provision soldiers with consumer goods and a Sutlery is a place where provisions, liquor, etc are sold. The lime kilns in Charlestown date from the Industrial Revolution but are now redundant. The lime, which was produced in the kiln by heating the limestone in a process which took a week from start to finish, was used in building mortars and in agriculture to sweeten the soil.

From here it was a short walk along the Esplanade to return to the car park. Fellowship continued over refreshments at the Walled Garden at Righead Farm near Kincardine. This garden centre and coffee shop is well worth a visit.

A warm welcome is extended to all to join us for our next walk on which will be at Plean Country Park, near Larbert, on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May. Please meet at Kirkcaldy Railway Station at 9.30 am. For further details please contact Myra Muncey (01592 262980) or Jenny McLeod (01592 268415). Future walks this year will be on 15<sup>th</sup> June; 20<sup>th</sup> July; 17<sup>th</sup> August; 21<sup>st</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October. **Jenny McLeod**

## **Thursday Fellowship Group**

The speaker at the February meeting was John Halliwell who has been a volunteer for the charity Mary's Meals for a number of years.

The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow visited Malawi during a famine and saw children where hunger and poverty stopped children from gaining an education. On one such visit Magnus asked a young boy what his dream in life was and he replied "To have enough to eat and to go to school one day". His dream is now a reality as through Mary's Meals children are provided with a daily meal in a place of education.

John told of his visit to Malawi last year and showed pictures of children and schools he visited. As well as providing food for the children and other benefits, parents are now involved in the preparation and serving of meals which for most children is the only food they receive. One other thing we noticed from the pictures is that children all look healthier and very happy.

We welcomed our missionary partner Jenny Featherstone to our March meeting. It is a few years since Jenny last spoke to us and she brought us up to date with her work in Zambia. Jenny is funded for her work by the Church of Scotland and the Methodists Church and is very grateful of the support she receives.

Several projects are in progress where she works and she showed slides of ladies making colourful clothes which are sold to help pay for food etc. Another interesting project which involves the men is furniture making. We were all interested in the beautiful furniture they are making and which is a good source of income.

It is nice to read of what Jenny does in her newsletter to the Church but we had a very enjoyable afternoon speaking to her personally.

## **Fellowship after Church**

This has been a very successful addition to the social life of the Church. Since October many people have regularly enjoyed a chat and a cuppa after Church. Despite the possibility of reduced numbers because of the two services in summer months and people hopefully(!) having holidays, this will

continue each Sunday throughout the summer – although I will reiterate the information elsewhere in the newsletter – that Sundays 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of July are exceptions because of the united services in other churches. As a bonus, the treasurer has been pleased to receive over £450 from the voluntary donations!

All are very welcome. Come and share your news and listen to others. See you there.

## **USED STAMP APPEAL**

Thank you all for the used stamps which you have kindly donated to the church to help raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide.

The appeal for this year is to raise money to help the work of our partner church in the Czech Republic, the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, and in particular an ecological project run by the congregation at Horni Krupa. The 'Living Water' is a set of programmes for school children and the wider community providing practical education about water life. Money raised from stamps will help expand the programme by restoring an old well and building a small lake.

In 2012 the appeal raised almost £3,300.

**Anne Moyes**

## **Pastoral Care**

I will take the opportunity of the last letter before the summer break to remind everyone that I appreciate all information about members who are ill at home, or in hospital, and information of special events happening in member's lives. Please keep in touch with myself on 262988 or with Rosie on 260315, or with any elder or indeed with any other member of the Church who would pass information to me.

I wish you all a happy, healthy summer (and hope that I will not hear any bad news about anybody).

**Anne Steward**

**Pastoral Care Team leader**

## **Come along to Heart and Soul 2013, 1.00pm-5.00pm, Sunday 19 May, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh...**

In recognition of the 1450th anniversary of Columba landing on Iona, Heart and Soul 2013 will be inspired by Celtic Christianity, with all the richness of its themes: hospitality, pilgrimage, journeying, deep peace – healing and wholeness, creation and its care, celebrating the good earth, contemplative prayer, Trinity, representing Christ to the world, inclusive community, Christ in the stranger's guise, rhythm of the seasons, prophecy, soul-friends, being 'on the edge'. And it's exciting that Sunday 19th May also coincides with Pentecost on the church calendar.

So come along with your congregation and bring your friends to celebrate the life of the Church in Princes Street Gardens. Come and meet friends old and new, enjoy kids and youth fun, music, drama, interviews and seminars. Come and learn more about how God is at work in His Church. Come and sing for all you're worth along with thousands of others at closing worship...

## **Diary Dates**

**Saturday 11 May, 10.00 – 12.00** – Bluebell Coffee Morning

**Sunday 12 May, 11.00am** – Christian Aid Service

**Sunday 12 May, 7.00pm** – Presbytery Praise Service in St Columba's Church, Glenrothes

**Saturday 25 May, 10.00 – 12.00am** – Guides, Brownies & Rainbows Coffee Morning

**Wednesday 29 May, 7.30pm** - Quiz Night

**Thursday 30 May, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group

**Sunday 2 June, 9.00am and 11.00am** – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Thursday 6 June, 7.30pm** – Kirk Session meeting

**Sunday 9 June, 11.00am** – Young Church Service

**Thursday 20 June, 7.30pm** – Congregational Board meeting

**Thursday 27 June, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group

## **Summer services**

During June and August there will be a 9.00am service as well as our usual 11.00am one. The 9.00am service is slightly shorter and very informal. In July we travel round the town centre churches for united services of worship at 11.00am.

Sunday 7 July – Bennoch Church

Sunday 14 July – St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 21 July – Linktown Church

Sunday 28 July – Abbotshall Church

## **BEREAVEMENT**



We were saddened at the passing of  
Ms Margaret Howden in April



Archie Thomas James Cooper was baptised on Sunday 24 March.

## **MARRIAGE – CONGRATULATIONS**

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

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - CONGRATULATIONS**



Raymond and Carolyn Duncan celebrated their Golden Anniversary in March.

## **KART CORNER**

### **SPRING 2013**

Registered Charity No. SC037866

### **What's been happening:**

The Personal Search Week took place at Viewforth High School from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Chris lead a team made up of SU workers, local youth leaders, chaplains and the drama team 'Foolproof'. A variety of creative learning methods were used to share more about the Christian faith in line with the Curriculum For Excellence to S1 and S2 pupils. There was also an evening event on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at Connect Church.

## **Coming up**

The KART weekend at Lendrick Muir takes place in the summer term. This weekend is for secondary school aged children.

**Please get in touch if you would like more details about this event and if any secondary school aged children attend your church.**

Powerpoint Edinburgh is a Christian youth event supported by local churches in Edinburgh, Scripture Union Scotland and Alpha Scotland, and is open to secondary school aged young people from all backgrounds.

**Again, please contact Chris if you know of anyone interested in attending.**

From 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July Chris is leading a Football camp at Lendrick Muir for P5-P7. **If you would like to volunteer to be a leader at this camp please contact Chris as soon as possible.**

## **Points for Prayer**



Give thanks for the Activity Days and pray for more churches to get involved in this important work of outreach.

Give thanks for the great opportunities and blessing of the Personal Search Week. Pray for young people to seek to find out more about God after the week is over.

Pray that God will guide and lead the local churches as they look how best to provide a follow-up event after the PSW ends.

Please pray for all those attending residential weekends. Pray for God to be at work in their lives and for them to learn of His great love for them.

If you would like more details on any of the above information please contact Chris by:  
**Email – [chris.beattie@kart.me.uk](mailto:chris.beattie@kart.me.uk)**

**Telephone – 07746373860**

Thank you for your support

## **SIGN OF THE FISH**



In the early days of Christianity it could be very dangerous to admit that you were one of Jesus' followers. You could be arrested, imprisoned and killed, simply for your beliefs. Christians had to meet in secret - but how could you tell if a stranger was a Christian or not? Who could you trust? Christians used secret signs to recognise one another. And one of these was the sign of the fish which could easily be scratched on a wall or drawn in the dust of the road. If the other person wasn't a Christian they'd just think you were doodling.

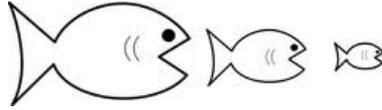
The fish was used as sign because, in Greek, the first letters of the words 'Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour' spell 'ichthus', the Greek word for fish.

How can you show other people today that you are a Christian? If you have the joy of knowing Jesus in your heart then it should show on your face!



**Where does seaweed look for a job?**

In the 'Kelp-wanted' ads!



**What game do fish like playing the most?**

Name that tuna.



**What do you say to a hitch-hiking frog?**

Hop in!

**What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?**

Lost.



## **All in the month of MAY**

*It was....*

250 years ago:- on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1763 that the British literary figure Samuel Johnson met his future biographer, James Boswell, for the first time, in London. 'The Life of Samuel Johnson' is claimed by some to be the greatest biography ever written.

200 years ago: - on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1813 that Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher, theologian, religious writer and critic was born. He had a major influence on Existentialism.

Also 200 years ago: on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1813 that Richard Wagner, major German composer, best known for his dramatic operas (eg. The Ring Cycle), was born.

125 years ago: on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1888 that Irving Berlin, prolific Russian-born American composer and lyricist; one of the greatest American songwriters, was born. His songs include 'White Christmas', 'There's No Business Like Show Business', 'God Bless America' and many more.

100 years ago: on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1913 that Richard Dimbleby, pioneering British journalist and broadcaster, one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history, was born.

90 years ago: on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1923 that the first Le Mans 24 hours endurance race was held.

80 years ago: on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1933 that the first modern sighting of Scotland's Loch Ness monster was reported in the 'Inverness Courier'.

70 years ago: on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1943 that the Dambusters Raid took place when Britain's RAF launched Operation Chastise, deploying bouncing bombs to bypass anti-torpedo nets and breach dams, causing catastrophic flooding in Germany's Ruhr Valley.

65 years ago: on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1948 that David Ben-Gurion declared Israel an independent state as the British mandate in Palestine came to an end. The neighbouring Arab states of Egypt, Transjordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq invaded Israel the following day in support of the Palestinians, and Saudi Arabia invaded three days later.

60 years ago: on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1953 that New Zealand mountaineer Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay became the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest.

40 years ago: on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1973 the Watergate hearings began in the US Senate, and were televised nationally.

25 years ago: on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1988 that Kim Philby, British intelligence officer and Soviet double agent, a member of the Cambridge spy ring, died.

Also 25 years ago: on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1988 that the US Surgeon General C. Everett Coop published a report entitled 'The Health Consequences of Smoking: Nicotine Addiction', which stated that nicotine has a similar level of addictiveness as heroin and cocaine.

15 years ago: on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1988 that Sinn Fein formally backed the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland.

Also 15 years ago: on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1998 that a French mint began producing the first euro coins.

Also 15 years ago: on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1998 that the people of Northern Ireland voted to accept the Good Friday Agreement, with 75% in favour of a Northern Ireland Assembly.

10 years ago: on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2003 that during the occupation of Iraq, the UN Security Council gave the USA and Britain a mandate to rule Iraq. The following day all economic sanctions were lifted.

## **Daydreaming is good for you**

Daydreaming is not a waste of time; periods of quiet introspection can help boost concentration, memory and moral judgment. This is because inward focus impacts the way we build memories, make meaning and transfer that learning into new contexts. Research at the University of California has found that periods of quiet reflection help us to become more motivated, less anxious, perform better, and plan more effectively. "But our fast paced urban and digital environment could be undermining the chances of reflection." Psalm 46:10 urges us to slow down, "be still, and know that I am God."

## **Smile Lines**

### **How to stay safe this Spring**

1. Avoid riding in automobiles - they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home - 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or pavements - 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid travelling by air, rail, or water - 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in Hospitals. So, ... above all else, *avoid hospitals.*

BUT,

.... You will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

...And...Bible study is safe too. The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less. So, attend church, and read your Bible - IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

### ***Some miscellaneous one-liners.....***

Help! I keep hitting ESC but I'm still here!

Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

What's the first thing you should learn in chemistry? Never lick the spoon.

A circle is just a round straight line with a hole in the middle.

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.

I'm worried that my inferiority complex is not as good as yours.

Not afraid of heights - afraid of widths.

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2013**

The close down for the September newsletter will be **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August**. Please send your contributions to Diane Murray on e/mail at [dianemurray953@btinternet.com](mailto: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