

Abbotshall Church**Thursday 26th February 2015**

which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly convened with a reading (1 Peter 5, 1-7) *Tending the flock* and prayer.

Sederunt Rev R Frew with I Anderson, M Baxendine, P Bell, J Browning, I Clark, A Duncan, A Elder, T Espie, M Hope, R Kirkhope, J McLeod, M Michael, D Murray, J Napier, B Page, J Paton, M Petrie, J Scott, A Steward. James Bisset trainee minister.

Apologies S Docherty, R Duncan, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, R Michael, A Moyes, M Scriven, E Smith, K Wilkie.

Minutes The minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 30th October 2014, Wednesday 26th November 2014 and Sunday 7th December 2015 were approved.

Matters Arising The duty rota for the coming months had been issued.

Communion The church had been prepared for Communion on Sunday next 1st March.

Due to work on the wall of the graveyard access to the church would only be possible from the top gate. Help would be provided at the road crossing and tubs of de-icer for the path had been placed in the church vestibule in case of frosty weather.

Local Church Review

The questionnaire completed at the last meeting had been returned to the Presbytery. Subsequently there had been a meeting between the Presbytery representatives and the church management team during which information about the life of Abbotshall had been shared. Members of the Presbytery team had met some of the congregation at services and visited the Thursday Fellowship.

The next stage will take place on Thursday 19th March at 7 pm when there will be a meeting between the Presbytery representatives and the trustees of Abbotshall to look at four areas of church life:-

- worship and education
- fabric and finance/stewardship
- congregational life and pastoral care
- mission and outreach.

We will be asked where we are strong in these areas and what developments we would like to see in three years' time.

The purpose of this process is to define the aims and objectives of the congregation for the next three years. It was noted that as a congregation we are already well organised and so it should not be difficult to clarify these aims and objectives. As many

trustees as possible should attend this meeting due to its importance.

Presbytery update

Presbytery last met on 2nd December.

Lesley Childs from the Fife Carers Centre addressed Presbytery about the work of the Centre. This is a small charity which supports the many unpaid carers in our society.

Presbytery approved the accounts for 2013/14. Thanks were accorded to the independent examiners of the accounts, one of them being Andrew Duncan.

M & D Musings is a new quarterly newsletter produced by the Mission and Discipleship Committee. It will contain a list of all the resources that are available to congregations and information about events taking place. The first issue was distributed in December and the next issue will be appearing shortly.

Pulpit Interchange Sunday took place on 8th February.

The God Question: An information evening was held on 3rd February to introduce this new resource. Representatives from the company who produced the DVDs and accompanying study guides presented the programme. Exploring *The God Question* is a 6-episode DVD Series in 2 parts with contributions from both theists and atheists. Each episode is around 30 minutes which makes it a perfect time for study groups to allow time for questions and discussion. The four town centre Churches in Kirkcaldy bought a set at a special discount price of £100.

The next meeting of Presbytery is on 3rd March.

The Minister announced that she will be the Moderator of the Presbytery during the coming year and was congratulated by the Session. Consequently the annual Presbytery communion service will be held in the Church on Tuesday 3rd November.

Safeguarding

Michael Baxendine reported:

1. Safeguarding Training for Elders

Safeguarding training for Elders took place in the Kennedy Hall on Thursday 26th November 2014. 30 out of a possible 39 Abbotshall Elders attended this training. This training should be refreshed every 5 years. We were joined for this training by a number of Elders from other Churches.

2. Future Safeguarding Training

The next Elders' Safeguarding Training will take place on 2nd March at 7pm at Burntisland Parish Church joint with their

Kirk Session. Two Elders have agreed to attend this training. One Elder has declined and another is unable to attend leaving seven Elders still to attend this mandatory training.

3. Part 1 Training for Pastoral Care Team Members

The next Part 1 Safeguarding Training will take place at St. Ninians Parish Church, Glenrothes on Saturday 7th March from 09:00 to 12:00 hrs. It is hoped that the last Pastoral Care Group members to receive training will attend.

4. Protection of Vulnerable Groups Scheme (PVG) - Reminder

The Scottish Government requires all existing paid staff and volunteers doing regulated work to join the PVG scheme by 31st October 2015. After this date it will be an offence to recruit, or keep in post, a person who has been barred from working with vulnerable groups. The only way to know if a person has been barred is if they have a PVG scheme membership which links with Disclosure Scotland.

Pastoral Care Update

Anne reported that she is in the process of reorganising the pastoral care activity because it is six years since it started. She is trying to make the pastoral care process more rigorous and recorded her gratitude and thanks for the support of the team so far.

KART

The Spring newsletter had recorded the successful raising of £1863 in September from a fund raising activity to be matched by the bank of Santander. Three football groups were now active and the Elders were asked to pray for their success. Chris and his wife are starting a family and the Session was asked to give them its prayerful support. Mention was also made of the Easter Code event being led by Rosie, James and Chris in Strathallan School on 1st April.

A letter received by the treasurer from KART thanking Abbotshall very warmly for its support.

Correspondence

There is a *Going for Growth* conference planned by the church of Scotland and the notice of this will be posted on the board.

A new eldership training resource, LEARN, had become very popular and so four copies of this are to be purchased and passed around the elders.

A lady in Bennoch Church was in contact with Jenny Featherstone who is seeking help with funds to allow students to continue their education. It was agreed that the retiring offering on Communion Sunday would go to Jenny.

The Moderator, John Chalmers, had placed a series of meditations for Lent on the Church of Scotland website alongside the Christian Aid resource “Count Your Blessings.”

A fundraising activity for the benefit of Crossreach is being organised by the Moderator. A day out for 24 golf teams is to be arranged and will include a round of golf, a golf masterclass and a meal all to be played with the Moderator. Interested elders could find out more at. <http://www.crossreachevents.org.uk/>

Diary dates

Sunday 1 March, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

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

Thursday 19 March, 7.00pm – Meeting with Local Church Review Team

Thursday 26 March, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Grp.

Thursday 26 March, 7.30pm – Trustees meeting followed by Congregational Board

Sunday 29 March, 11.00am – Palm Sunday

Tuesday 31 March, 7.00pm – Linktown Church

Wednesday 1 April, morning – Easter Code in Strathallan School

Wednesday 1 April, 7.00pm – Bennochty Church

Thursday 2 April, 9.30am – Strathallan Easter Service

Thursday 2 April, 1.45pm – Kirkcaldy West Easter Service

Thursday 2 April, 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Service in St Bryce Klrk

Friday 3 April, 7.00pm – Good Friday Service in Abbotshall Church

Sunday 5 April, 8.30am –Beveridge Park service (by the fountain)

Sunday 5 April, 11.00am – Easter Day Family Service

Saturday 11 April, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning

Wednesday 22 April, 7.00pm – Meeting with Local Church Review Team

Wednesday 29 April, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting??

Thursday 30 April, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Saturday 9 May, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning

Saturday 16 May – Friday 22 May – General Assembly

*Sunday 17 May, 1.00pm – 5.00pm – Heart and Soul in
Princes Street
Gardens*

Thursday 28 May, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 28 May, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Sunday 31 May, 11.00am – Young Church Service

*Sunday 7 June, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the
Lord's Supper*

*Wednesday 10 June, 7.00pm – KART AGM in Abbotshall
Church Hall*

Saturday 13 June, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning

Thursday 25 June, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

*Thursday 25 June, 7.30pm – Congregational Board
meeting*

*Wednesday 1 July, 9.30am – Strathallan end of term
Service*

*Thursday 2 July, 9.45am – Kirkcaldy West end of term
Service*

?? Services in June and August??

Sunday 5 July, 11.00am – Bennochy Church

Sunday 12 July, 11.00am – Abbotshall Church

Monday 13 July – Sunday 26 July – Minister on holiday

Sunday 19 July, 11.00am – St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 26 July, 11.00am – Linktown Church

A O C B

The minister advised the Session that she will be using her August study leave to make a self-funded visit to Peru as a member of a Traidcraft delegation. As Abbotshall is a Fairtrade congregation this will give her first-hand experience of Fairtrade suppliers.

It had been noted that the two services offered during June and August had both been poorly attended. After a brief discussion it was agreed that one service only will be offered during June at the new time of 10 am.

Dates of next meetings Thursday 19th March 7.00 pm, meeting with Local Church Review Team.
 Thursday 26th March 7.30 pm, Trustees followed by Board
 Wednesday 22nd April 7.00 pm, meeting with Local Church Review Team.
 Wednesday 29th April 7.30 pm, Kirk Session meeting??
 Thursday 28th May 7.30 pm, Kirk Session meeting.
 Thursday 25th June 7.30 pm, Board meeting.

Closing Prayer The meeting was closed by the Session saying “*The Grace*” together.

Action Items Trustees meeting with Presbytery representatives on Thursday 19th March at 7 pm. Elders
 Seven Elders are still required to attend this Mandatory Protection of Vulnerable Groups training. The seven Elders

Minute Clerk

Moderator

DRAFT