

**Abbotshall Church****Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

which place and date the Kirk Session met. At the start of Lent the Minister read from Mathew 16 v21-28 and convened the meeting with prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with P Bell, J Browning, A Duncan, R Duncan, A Elder, T Espie, Jane Gilmour, J McLeod, M Michael, B Page, M Petrie, J Scott, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward.
- Apologies** I Anderson, M Baxendine, W Beveridge, S Docherty, B Farrell, J Farrell, E Fraser, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, R Macintyre, R Michael, A Moyes, J Napier, D Smith,
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013 were approved.
- Matters Arising**
- a) Morna Scriven had agreed to be the new Deputy Clerk and was warmly welcomed by the Session.
  - b) The system of preparing the church by the Elders was agreed to be satisfactory.
  - c) Arrangements for the musical entertainment to be provided by the Organist and family were now well advanced.
  - d) The Minister was currently approaching five potential new Elders.
  - e) An area in the Church on the west wall had been cleared of pews and provided with soft furnishings and toys to allow parents with small children to participate in services.
- Communion** The new arrangements were satisfactory but two Elders had been allocated door duty as members arrived and departed.
- General Assembly** An Elder from Abbotshall is required to attend the General Assembly from 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May. At least 10 of the 13 sessions have to be attended in order to claim expenses. Alex Elder indicated that he would attend if there were no other volunteers.
- Celebrate and Discover** Morna Scriven reported as follows:-  
She and Anne Moyes had attended the Drop-in at St Bryce Kirk on Saturday 25th January to meet with the Presbytery team (which included Jenny McLeod), receive some more information about timings for setting up etc. and ask any questions they had about this event. Invitations were then given to everyone who attended church on Sunday 9th February. Thanks to Jenny for helping us with our display even though she is heavily involved in the Presbytery organisation team.
- Beryl Luke has thanked us for our enthusiasm. Abbotshall has put forward volunteers in all areas except the band. All stewards have been emailed asking them to turn up to a briefing session at Kirkcaldy High School on Friday evening of 21st March at 7pm.

This will take place in the café area on the ground floor. They will meet with the Centre Manager to familiarise themselves with the building, emergency exits etc. Margaret Garvie, Jean Napier, Bett and Andrew Duncan, Bill and Anne Page and Diane Murray have all volunteered to manage Abbotshall display/stand and their timetable has been given out so a big thank you to them. Abbotshall display coming along nicely. Organisations have all been contacted and have been asked to have their display contributions ready for 1<sup>st</sup> March so that the co-ordinators can get the display finalised. Thanks to all who have already contributed.

There is going to be a mini bus shuttle service running from the town centre up to the High School. The bus pick up/drop off point is in front of the school. In the town centre, the pickup/drop off point is still to be confirmed but will hopefully be the car park of the Council building on the corner of Wemyssfield and South Fergus Place, within easy walking distance of the bus station. Elders are asked to inform anyone who asks about this of these arrangements. Rosie will include this in intimations also.

Elders were encouraged to go along on the day and support.

**Data  
Protection**

Rosie Frew, as Presbytery Clerk, had attended a conference on data protection as she is ultimately responsible for the protection of any personal data held within the Presbytery. She read out a list of the eight principles of data storage by which the church is bound. Religious belief is considered a sensitive piece of personal data and so church membership lists and information stored by treasurers have to be protected, as has information held about members by pastoral care groups. All such electronically stored data should be password protected and any paper documents or records should be kept under lock and key. Care should be taken if people demand to see their data records which they have a right to. She had also been informed that people can and have demanded to have data records altered or deleted. She concluded by seeking extra vigilance from those handling such data.

**Statistics for  
Mission**

The Minister advised the Session that information gleaned from the 2011 census about the Parish of Abbotshall had been circulated with the agenda. This was of general interest as it provided helpful information about the parish. She noted some aspects and advised that similar data was also available for any other parish in Scotland.

**Stewardship**

Roddy Henderson had provided a list of topics for consideration as follows:-  
1. To do nothing is not an option  
2. Elders should make it clear to all their “flock” just how serious the present position is

3. Approach the congregation for ideas to improve the situation
4. Approach 121 for guidance and assistance
5. Approach Fife Council, Scottish Heritage, The National Trust for Scotland, Scottish government and UK government for financial assistance
6. Offer a “Church share” to New Craigs congregation
7. Approach Linktown /St Brycedale with a view to merger
8. Find a secular Partner (see 5 above) above which could use the church during the week for a (substantial) rent
9. Close Abbotshall and liquidate its remaining assets.

This opened up a general discussion which covered most of the topics dealt with at the Trustees meeting at the end of January. The financial commitments of the trustees on behalf of the congregation were reviewed and possible cost reductions considered. Income generation ideas were also discussed and it was agreed that steps should be taken to establish some form of grant seeking activity to help with building maintenance costs. The proposed stewardship of money publicity process was reviewed and it was noted that this was to be iterative in nature, would result in the same financial message being communicated to the members several times and would involve targeted services during September culminating in a giving day for Abbotshall at the end of that month.

**Safeguarding**

The Safeguarding Officer was unable to attend due to travel delays.

**Presbytery Update**

Rev Maudeen MacDougall was inducted as the new minister at Dysart St Clair on 23rd January

Peter Chirnside, Church Partnership Manager of the Scottish Bible Society addressed Presbytery about some of the current initiatives of the Society. Presbyters were given 2 leaflets – one about some of the challenges the SBS faces, the other about the Penny Gospel.

Douglas Galbraith, our ecumenical ‘friend’, drew attention to the six Lent Studies from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, written by a Church of Scotland team, based on the 2012 Assembly report, 'A right relationship with money'. Beryl Luke is running a series of 6 Bible Studies for Lent. They begin on Saturday 1 March, 10.00am – 12noon in St Bryce. The cost is £3.

Dr Bob Purdie, a member of Bennoch Church, is organising a visit from churches in and around Kirkcaldy to Belfast and the Corrymeela Community Centre at Ballycastle. His suggestion is to take part in this year’s Friends Weekend, which will be from Friday 9th to Sunday 11th May 2014. In addition there will be a visit to Belfast to learn about the Troubles.

Gillian Paterson enthused Presbytery with her report on the preparations for Celebrate and Discover on 22nd March.

In place of a 'Talking up the Eldership' day, it has been decided to offer a day of pastoral care topics open to all members, not just elders. This will be called "Caring for God's People" and will be held on Saturday 10th May from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the St Bryce Kirk Centre at a cost of £10, including lunch.

<b>Prayer Promoter</b>	The Minister indicated that Anne Gardner, the new prayer promoter, had become very involved in Celebrate & Discover and was enjoying her new role.
<b>Pastoral Care Update</b>	Anne updated the Session about the needs of various members.
<b>Diary Dates</b>	<p><i>Thursday 27 February, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group <i>Sunday 2 March, 9.00am and 11.00am</i> – Celebration of the Lord's Supper <i>Saturday 8 March, 10.00am-12noon</i> – Coffee Morning <i>Sunday 9 March, 11.00am</i> – First Sunday of Lent, Sacrament of Baptism. <i>Wednesday 12 March, 2.00pm</i> – First Lent Study Group <i>Saturday 22 March</i> – Celebrate and Discover in Kirkcaldy High <i>Thursday 27 March, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group <i>Thursday 27 March, 7.30pm</i> – Congregational Board meeting <i>Saturday 12 April, 10.00am-12noon</i> – Coffee Morning <i>Sunday 13 April, 11.00am</i> – Palm Sunday Service</p> <p><b>Holy Week Services</b> <i>Tuesday 15 April, 7.00pm</i> – Bennochy Church <i>Wednesday 16 April, 7.00pm</i> – St Bryce Kirk <i>Thursday 17 April, 7.00pm</i> – Abbotshall Church. Lord's Supper. <i>Friday 18 April, 7.00pm</i> – Linktown Church. Good Friday Service. <i>Sunday 20 April, 8.30pm</i> – Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park <i>Sunday 20 April, 11.00am</i> – Easter Day family worship in Abbotshall.</p> <p><i>Thursday 24 April, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group <i>Wednesday 30 April, 7.30pm</i> – Kirk Session meeting <i>Saturday 10 May, 10.00am-12noon</i> – Coffee Morning <i>Saturday 17 May – Friday 23 May</i> – General Assembly <i>Sunday 18 May, 1.00pm – 5.00pm</i> – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens <i>Friday 23 May, 7.30pm</i> – Michael Family Concert <i>Thursday 29 May, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group <i>Sunday 1 June, 9.00am and 11.00am</i> – Celebration of the Lord's Supper</p>
<b>Date of Next</b>	There will be a Trustees meeting on Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March and

**Meeting** the next Session meeting will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**Closing Prayer** The meeting was closed by the Session saying the Lord's Prayer

<b>Action Items</b>	a) An Elder from Abbotshall is required to attend the General Assembly from 17 <sup>th</sup> to 23 <sup>rd</sup> May.	Elders Rosie Frew
	b) It was agreed that steps should be taken to establish some form of grant seeking activity to help with building maintenance costs.	Alex Elder Jim Browning

Minute Clerk

Moderator

DRAFT