

**Abbotshall Church****Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

which place and date the Kirk Session met. The Minister read hymn 359 about St Andrew and then convened the meeting with prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with J Browning, I Clark, A Duncan, A Elder, T Espie, Jane Gilmour, R Henderson, R Kirkhope, J McLeod, M Michael, D Murray, B Page, J Paton, M Petrie, J Scott, M Scriven, A Steward.
- Apologies** I Anderson, P Bell, S Docherty, R Duncan, J Farrell, Jim Gilmour, J Henderson, R Macintyre, R Michael, A Moyes, J Napier, D Smith, E Smith.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2013 were approved.
- Matters Arising**
- a) No appointment of Depute Clerk had been made.
  - b) A volunteer was still required to help with the preparations for formal communion.
- Eldership Consultation** The Minister collated responses from the Elders and would return the completed consultation paper.
- New Elders** Five potential new Elders were considered and it was agreed that they should be approached by the Minister.
- Session Clerk's Questionnaire** Morag thanked the Elders for their replies and summarised them.
- All are content with their current district
  - Most agreed to extend their district if necessary
  - Five Elders already have enlarged districts
  - 20 members are to be transferred to the postal district
  - Further district expansion is unlikely
- She reviewed the use of the new communion invitation cards which had been generally well received and had resulted in some members return to communion after an absence. The cards had been considered more modern, a good conversation point, enabled more visiting and had cost only £15. After a discussion about individual cards for couples and coloured printing it was agreed that this type of card should be used in future.
- Celebrate and Discover** Plans were now well advanced and the steering group having developed suitable publicity material would now await January to start the ten week count down to the event on 22nd March. Four stewards had volunteered from Abbotshall but more would be welcome as well as choristers and musicians. There will be a children's competition and four workshops are planned to run concurrently both morning and afternoon with the topics:-
- Stewardship Sandra Holt
  - Pastoral Care Mark Evans
  - Out of School Clubs Chris Beatie

- Worship Speaker undecided

**Safeguarding** No report.

**Stewardship of Money** Jim Browning had prepared a *Stewardship of Money Preview* paper and reviewed it with the treasurer subsequent to discussing it with a small working group. He was hopeful that the outcomes of their deliberations could be taken to the Congregational Board at its January meeting.

Jane Gilmour advised that plans for the fund raising musical entertainment to be provided by the Organist and family on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 were developing well. Volunteers to help with publicity and the creation of a brochure, catering (wine and nibbles) and sponsorship were required. Tickets are to cost £12.

**Presbytery Update** Presbytery met on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and was led in the celebration of Holy Communion by Myra Dees the Moderator.

The Rev. Jim Reid is to serve as the interim moderator for Dysart St Clair. Presbytery agreed with the congregation of Dysart St Clair that both the manse of Viewforth and Dysart should be sold and replaced by a new manse subject to the approval of the General Trustees.

Reductions proposed for the 2014 Ministry and Mission contributions of specific congregations were approved.

Paul Wilson of Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland gave an address about its provision of pastoral care and spiritual support for people in major retailers, shopping centres, manufacturing companies and the emergency services

**Pastoral Care Update** Anne updated the Session about the health of three members.

**Diary Dates**

*Sunday 1 December, 11.00am* – A House in Nazereth-  
Mary and the angel Gabriel

*Sunday 8 December, 11.00am* – The hill country of Judea-  
Mary and Elizabeth

*Sunday 15 December, 11.00am* – A stable in Bethlehem-  
The Birth of Jesus

*Saturday 21 December, 5.00pm* – Christingle Service-  
Light in the dark

*Sunday 22 December, 11.00am* – Out in the fields nearby-  
Shepherds and Angles

*Tuesday 24 December, 11.00am* –The meeting place of heaven  
and earth

*Wednesday 25 December 11.00am* – Immanuel, God with us

*Saturday 29 December, 11.00am*– In the temple –  
Simeon and Anna

Throughout January and February there will be worship in the

Church Halls for warmth and ease of access on winter mornings.

*Sunday 2 February, 11.00am* – Pulpit supply-  
Rev Alastair McLeod

*Sunday 9 February, 11.00am* – Pulpit interchange

*Thursday 30 January 7.30pm*- Trustees and Congregational  
Board

*Wednesday 26 February 7.30* – Kirk Session Meeting

## **AOCB**

It was agreed that a small area in the Church on the west wall should be cleared of pews and provided with soft furnishings and toys to allow parents with small children to participate in services.

The Ministers in the town churches had been considering offering *Messy Church* which had proved popular elsewhere. The Session agreed that the Rosie should support this.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Christmas retiring collection should be donated to the Aberlour Childcare Trust and The Scottish Bible Society for Bibles to be sent to the Philippines.

On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November Jane Gilmour and Tom Espie had visited the Young Church. There were nine children present ranging in ages from the 3 to 15, there being 4 girls and 5 boys. A Bible story was read to them and they were asked questions about it. This was followed by singing practice for the Nativity service and craft work making Christmas decorations to be hung the Hall. In the short space of time there were a lot of different activities. The children were looking forward to the Christmas disco with family and friends. The visiting Elders realised that the young church was moving with the times and that the children are now very active participating in a variety of tasks designed to help their Christian education.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

There will be a Trustees meeting on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January and the next Session meeting will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

## **Closing Prayer**

The meeting was closed by the Session saying "*The Grace*".

## **Action Items**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| a) Appointment of Depute Clerk   | Members                   |
| b) A volunteer was still required to help with the preparations for formal communion.                                  | Elders<br>Rosie           |
| c) Jane Gilmour asked for volunteers to help with the musical entertainment to be provided by the Organist and family. | Elders<br>Jane<br>Gilmour |

Minute Clerk

Moderator