

Abbotshall Church **Wednesday 3rd September 2014**
which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly convened with prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with I Anderson, M Baxendine, I Clark, A Duncan, T Espie, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, J McLeod, M Michael, A Moyes, D Murray, M Petrie, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward, R Wright
- Apologies** P Bell, J Browning, S Docherty, R Duncan, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, R Michael, J Napier, B Page, J Scott.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 29th May 2014 were approved.
- Matters Arising** Safeguarding training – dealt with under Safeguarding report.
- Resignation –
Jean Walsh The resignation of Mrs Jean Walsh was accepted. Morag wrote the following for the Church Newsletter: The Session has respectfully accepted Jean Walsh's resignation as an Elder. Until her deteriorating health forced her to cease attending on a Sunday, Jean was an active member of Abbotshall, giving of her time with commitment and enthusiasm. She carried out her duties as an Elder with dignity, and the minister valued her local knowledge when it came to the administering of Home Communion, a task she assisted with for a year or two. Jean was also a regular member of the Prayer Group for many years. Now resident in Marchmont Care Home, we thank Jean for her example of Christian living and wish her well in her new surroundings.
- Summer Services** The united services had been friendly and enjoyable. Having a theme was appreciated. There was discussion about the 9.00am service. The minister reported that numbers varied from 7 – 25. Numbers at the 11.00am service affected.. It was suggested that we worship at 10.00am during June and August. For further discussion.
- Stewardship** Our Stewardship Season begins on Sunday. There will be 4 themed services throughout September with a focus on money and the work of the 5 Councils of the Church of Scotland beginning with Crossreach. Children (and adults) to be encouraged to make collecting boxes and collect coins for the wider work of the church. Anne Steward hopes to have a Crossreach Christmas card and calendar stall at the Christmas Coffee Morning. Minister and Stewardship Convener have articles in the Church Newsletter.
- Trustees Responsibilities** Jim Gilmour asked the Moderator to comment on the financial responsibilities of Trustees. There is a real fear that Trustees will be held financially liable for the debts of Abbotshall. The minister assured Session that one of the roles of the Trustees is

to ensure that we do not live beyond our means and spend money we do not have. She also commented that all congregations of the Church of Scotland have the weight of the national church behind them.

New Elders

The Moderator reported that Kay Wilkie, Marina Hope and Glenn Bruce had expressed a positive interest in eldership. George Warner to be approached along with Fiona Welsh and Anne Falconer. Ordination before November Communion.

Communion

Elders were asked to let Morag know if they were not available on 2 November. Invitations to be issued at the Board meeting on 25 September.

Presbytery Update

JUNE 2014

General Assembly: Rev Alan Kimmitt, Glenrothes St Columba's, gave the report from the General Assembly and highlighted Heart & Soul, respectful dialogue and encouragement for young people.

Gypsy Travellers: Rev Tilly Wilson who is an unofficial Chaplain to the Travelling People addressed Presbytery on the sometimes difficult relationship between the church and gypsy travellers. Presbytery agreed to respect Gypsy Traveller Culture, to campaign for Traveller friendly sites and listen sensitively to the travelling community.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Welcome: The Moderator, Myra Deas, welcomed new members of Presbytery at the start of the 2014 / 2015 session. She welcomed a visitor, Rev Joshua Nyangulu, chaplain to Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi. Joshua was sponsored by the Church of Scotland to study for a Masters degree in leadership and change management. He addressed Presbytery and gave us an insight into his work.

New Moderator: Rev Robin MacAlpine of Bennoch Church was appointed Moderator for the coming year.

Myra Deas: Myra thanked Presbytery for the great privilege of being Moderator. She confessed that she began her year with trepidation but was very grateful for the help, support and prayers of all of Presbytery.

SRT Project : Dr Murdo MacDonald of the Church of Scotland's Society, Religion and Technology Project gave a fascinating address to Presbytery on the work of the Project. It was set up in 1970 to help the church engage with the scientific community and with the aim of renewing a right relationship between science and faith.

Youth Delegate Report : Iona Kimmitt of St Columba's Church, Glenrothes represented Presbytery at the General Assembly. She really enjoyed her week in Edinburgh and was inspired by John Chalmers with his theme of respectful dialogue, Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens, the range of work done by the Councils of the Church and the special bond

established amongst all the youth reps. She also reported on the recent National Youth Assembly at Gartmore House and the establishment of regional C of S youth groups. It is hoped to establish a group in Fife.

PIMS: PIMS is the Presbytery Information Management System and it is one way that information is transmitted between Presbyteries and '121'. This year our 'Persons and Agencies Form' will be sent out, completed and returned electronically and then transferred onto PIMS at the click of a computer key. George Luke is overseeing this and will provide clear instructions and a helpline! The forms should be sent out on 1 November 2014.

Congregational Per Capita Levy for 2014/15: Presbytery agreed to assess congregations within the bounds at the rate of £2 per member on the roll as at 31 December 2013.

Attestation of Accounts: Rev Richard Baxter reported on the attestation of accounts and thanked congregational treasurers and finance conveners for their diligent work and for the high standard of the accounts presented this year.

Local Church Review: The next 3 congregations for LCR are Kirkcaldy Abbotshall, Kirkcaldy Bennoch and Glenrothes St Ninian's.

Congregational Publicity Contact: All congregations are encouraged to appoint a Publicity Contact person for the Mission and Discipleship Committee by 30 October 2014. The M & D committee will send out a quarterly newsletter.

EMMS: Coastal Route Challenge, Saturday 13 September (the new look Bike and Hike)

Local Church Review

The Clerk received a letter from the Presbytery Superintendence Committee advising that it is Abbotshall's turn for a local church review. (Formerly quinquennial visit.) The Moderator and the Clerk have received a questionnaire about the congregation to fill in by 31 October. They will liaise with relevant office bearers and circulate the completed report around Session for comment.

Safeguarding

Michael Baxendine reported:

1. Safeguarding Register

Safeguarding Register for Abbotshall Parish Church for year ending 31st December 2013 was submitted to Presbytery for inspection in April. The signed original has not been received back, apparently lost.

2. Pastoral Care Group

1 Pastoral Care Group Member, Isobel Anderson, still to undertake the required half day training course and then apply for registration under the PVG scheme.

3. Elders

All Elders should undertake Safeguarding Training Part 1. Over the last 5 years the course has changed and it is recommended that all Elders should undertake the refresher training.

Course for Elders can be organised either as an afternoon or

evening session. Need minimum of 10 names to run the course. It was suggested that we use a Session meeting in the near future as a time for training.

4. Minister

Ministers are still to undertake Safeguarding training and then be registered under the PVG scheme. This training should have started during 2014! All registration must be completed by end 2015.

5. Panel Members

All panel members are now required to undertake Part 1 & 2 Safeguarding Training (1 day course). For Abbotshall this is the Minister, Session Clerk & Safeguarding Coordinator. Need minimum of 5 names to run the course.

Pastoral Care Update

Anne reported that it had been a quiet summer. She's putting an article in the Newsletter reminding members to let her know of anyone in hospital etc.

Diary dates

Sunday 7 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 1 - Gifts from God, gifts for God
Wednesday 10 September, 10.00am-12noon – ‘Who is my neighbour?’ at St Bryce Kirk
Saturday 13 September, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning
Sunday 14 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 2 - Support one another
Sunday 21 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 3 - Our giving helps the church grow
Thursday 25 September, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Thursday 25 September, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting
Sunday 28 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 4 - Harvest Thanksgiving
Monday 29 September – Sunday 12 October – Minister on Study Leave
Sundays 5 and 12 October – Worship conducted by Rev Dr Andrew Munro
Saturday 11 October, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning
Thursday 30 October, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Thursday 30 October, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Sunday 2 November, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Saturday 8 November – Christmas Fayre
Sunday 9 November, 10.50am – Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday 26 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Thursday 27 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Sunday 30 November – First Sunday in Advent
Saturday 13 December, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning
Sunday 14 December – Gift Sunday
Saturday 20 December, 5.00pm – Christingle Service
Sunday 21 December, 11.00am – Family Christmas Service with Young Church
Wednesday 24 December, 11.15pm – Christmas carols,

Watchnight Service

Thursday 25 December, 11.00am – Christmas Day Service

Sunday 28 December, 11.00am – United Service in St Bryce Kirk

Communication The Clerk expressed a concern about e-mails not being received or answered. She asked elders to check that her communications weren't going into the spam bucket and that her address is in their address book. E-mail is the easiest, cheapest and most effective way of communicating.

Correspondence The Clerk received a request for financial support from The Samaritans. They have experienced an increase in calls and an increase in costs. It was agreed that the Christmas Eve / Day offerings would go to them.

Halls update Mike Petrie reported on the situation with the Church Halls following the break in and vandalism on Friday 29 August. The Insurance Company has asked for single estimates from all our usual contractors. Total cost up to £5,000. We should only be liable for £100. May also be reimbursed for loss of earnings. Lead damage on Church roof may be another £100. Loss adjustor to visit on Friday 5 September. Halls out of use for at least another week or more. Discussion about Hall users and alternative accommodation. Committed to use as polling station for Referendum on 18 September. The Moderator thanked Mike for all his hard work.

Dates of next meetings Thursday 25 September – Congregational Board

Thursday 30 October – Kirk Session

Wednesday 26 November – Kirk Session

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

Action Items Feedback about summer services / times. (everyone)

Congregational Contact Person for Mission and Discipleship Committee

Completion of Local Church Review Questionnaire

Check e-mails!! (everyone)

Minute Clerk

Moderator