

Abbotshall Church**Wednesday 30th April 2014**

Which place and date the Kirk Session met. The Minister continued the theme of the Resurrection that we should listen for God's voice and rest in His peace. This was followed by a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with M Baxendine, J Browning, R Duncan, T Espie, R Henderson, J McLeod, M Michael, R Michael, A Moyes, D Murray, J Napier, M Scriven, E Smith, R Wright.
- Apologies** I Anderson, W Beveridge, S Docherty, A Duncan, A Elder, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Macintyre, R Kirkhope, B Page, D Smith, A Steward,
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 27th February 2014 were approved.
- Matters Arising**
- a) Morag Michael had agreed to attend the General Assembly
 - b) There was no report on the grant seeking activity.
- Jim Henderson** The Session Clerk gave the following intimation.
- “As you will by now know, Jim and his wife Margaret have moved to Dingwall to be near their daughter following the sudden death of their son last year.
- It is with regret that we accept Jim's resignation from the Board and Session of Abbotshall. Jim was everything a conscientious and committed Elder should be – devoted to his District by his visiting and attention to his parishioners needs, actively involved in the work of the Board and Session, where he regularly contributed at meetings with wisdom and common sense, and carried out his duties with exemplary dignity.
- Jim was Hall keeper for 22 years until handing over to Bill Page in 2007 and, as such, enjoyed involvement with the Women's Guild as a driver to escort the ladies home, and the Panto Group where he was not afraid to tread the boards at times.
- What came across so clearly from Jim was that he was a man of faith, trusting in God when times were tough and we will all miss his example of Christian living among us. I am sure you would all join me in hoping that Jim and Margaret find a sense of peace in their new life and that they make friends who will give them the love and support they have known in Kirkcaldy”.
- Communion** Envelopes containing Elder's duties for the June Communion were distributed.
- Jenny McLeod agreed to assist the Minister with the informal communion on Sunday 4th May.

Presbytery Elder	Jenny McLeod agreed to continue. It was hoped that Jim Gilmour would also continue, Morag would clarify this.
New Elders	Kay Wilkie had agreed to join the eldership while Jean Davidson, although interested, was already over committed supporting her family. Jim Penman had also been approached but was currently considering becoming a Street Pastor and would review joining the eldership once this new activity had settled down. A further three potential new elders were to be approached. It was hoped that all those willing would eventually joined the eldership after the summer.
Training opportunities	<p>Three training opportunities were being offered as follows: – Caring for God’s people on Saturday, 10 May. Equip on Saturday, 14 June. Session Clerks’ conference.</p> <p>All three activities were commended by the Minister and in particular the Session Clerks’ conference was considered of value. It was proposed that the Congregational Board should be asked to meet the costs of attending this for Morag and Morna.</p>
Stewardship	<p>The Session was advised by Jim Browning that all the preparatory Stewardship of Money work for the next newsletter was complete. This included a special leaflet setting out the financial position of Abbotshall and leaflets from the Church of Scotland on the subjects of Mission and Ministry, Gift Aid and Legacies. He expressed gratitude for the support of the printer who had contributed all aspects of the preparation and printing of the Abbotshall leaflet including envelopes for their distribution as well as the Church of Scotland which had donated the other leaflets. A lead article had also been prepared for the newsletter to alert members to the importance of studying the leaflets which were to be distributed with the newsletter.</p> <p>Additional stewardship activities were to include an electronic information board for the halls as well as leaflet holders in the Halls and the Church to make leaflet copies available to anyone not on newsletter circulation list.</p> <p>Session was also reminded that during September the Minister would preach sermons on the subject of the Stewardship of Money. At the end of September it was also planned to have a special giving Sunday when the church would be open for members to bring gifts.</p> <p>There was a general discussion about the Michael family concert on the 23rd of May. Preparations for this were very well advanced, considerable money had been raised through sponsorship, the printer had agreed to donate the programs, at least 200 tickets had been sold with many Elders in the process</p>

of concluding further sales as well as advertising the concert as widely as possible.

Safeguarding

Mike Baxendine reported as follows:-

1. "Safeguarding Congregational Register for Abbotshall Parish Church completed for year ending 31st December 2013 and submitted to Presbytery this month but approval has not yet been received from Presbytery.
2. The Register shows that all 3 Young Church Leaders have now completed mandatory training and their Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme Membership is confirmed. All now satisfy Safeguarding criteria for Young Church Leaders,
3. Nine Pastoral Care Group Members have now completed mandatory training and their PVG Scheme Membership is confirmed. All now satisfy Safeguarding criteria for Pastoral Care of Adults.
4. One Pastoral Care Group Member has still to undertake the required half day training course and then apply for registration under the PVG scheme.
5. Seven Pastoral Care Group Members have resigned during 2013 and their names have now been removed from the Safeguarding Register.
6. All Elders should undertake the half day Safeguarding Training Course. Over the last 5 years the course has changed and it is recommended that all Elders should undertake the refresher training. The Elders Safeguarding training is a half day course. The next course is next Saturday 3rd May at Torbain Church. I will notify Elders when the next training is scheduled. How many Elders require this training?
7. Ministers are also required to undertake Safeguarding training and be registered under the PVG scheme. This training should start during 2014. I believe all registration must be completed by end 2015."

The Minister indicated that PVG training for Ministers was being centrally organised on a presbytery basis.

Presbytery Update

Jenny McLeod reported as follows:-

"Presbytery met on 1st April.

The Service of Union of Markinch and Thornton will take place on Thursday 5th June.

Commissioners to the General Assembly (13 in total) include Rev Rosemary Frew and Mrs Morag Michael.

Fabric and Finance committee would like congregations to share their good experiences of businesses employed to carry out repairs and maintenance to their church property.

Gillian Paterson and her team were thanked for organising Celebrate and Discover. Gillian shared her recipe for a successful day.

Pastoral Care Conference “Caring for God’s People” will be held on Saturday 10th May. As of last week only 2 people had signed up so unless any more interest is shown the event will be cancelled.

Prayer Pilgrimage on 7th June (day before Pentecost) is being organised by George Luke.”

Prayer Promoter

The Minister indicated that information about the Prayer Pilgrimage would follow once it was available. So far it was known that the date for this was 7th June, that Abbotshall would be visited by another congregation and that there would be a combined prayer service to celebrate the day.

Pastoral Care Update

Elders were reminded to advise Anne of members needing pastoral care.

Diary Dates

Saturday 17 May – Friday 23 May – General Assembly

Sunday 18 May, 1.00pm – 5.00pm – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens

Friday 23 May, 7.30pm – Michael Family Concert

*Thursday 29 May, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
(Marc Prowe, Kirkcaldy Food Bank)*

Thursday 29 May, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

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

Saturday 14 June, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning in the Hall

Thursday 19 June, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting

Wednesday 25 June, 9.30am – Strathallan end of term Service

Wednesday 25 June, 7.00pm – KART AGM in Abbotshall Church Hall

Thursday 26 June, 9.45am – Kirkcaldy West end of term Service

Thursday 26 June, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Friday 27 June – Thursday 24 July – Minister on holiday

Sunday 29 June – Supply, Rev Alex Forsyth

During June and August there will be a short, informal service at 9.00am in addition to our regular service at 11.00am. In July we join with our friends from the other town centre churches for a series of united services.

Sunday 6 July, 11.00am – St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 13 July, 11.00am – Bennochty Church

Sunday 20 July, 11.00am – Linktown Church

Sunday 27 July, 11.00am – Abbotshall Church

Date of Next Meeting The next Session meeting will be on Thursday 29th May 2014.

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

Action Items

a) 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
b) It was hoped that Jim Gilmour would continue as a Presbytery Elder.	Jim Gilmour Morag Michael

Minute Clerk

Moderator

DRAFT