

February 2014

Dear Friends

As we journey through Lent and prepare for Easter the disciple we probably read most about is Peter. Peter who confessed, 'You are the Christ, the son of the living God.' Peter, the rock on which Christ would build his Church. Peter who was with Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration. Peter who promised to die with Christ - but soon after ran away and disowned him. Peter who looked into the empty tomb. Peter who went out fishing. Peter who declared his love for Christ and promised to look after his sheep. Peter who was always upfront. Peter who was very much a leader.

Right back at the beginning of the gospels we're told that Peter was initially brought to Christ by his brother Andrew. Andrew who was very much in Peter's shadow – and happy to be so. Happy to play a supporting role. Happy to work away quietly in the background.

The composer Leonard Bernstein when once asked about the hardest instrument to play, replied: 'The second fiddle. I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who can play the second fiddle with enthusiasm – that's a problem; and if we have no second fiddle, we have no harmony.'

Hollywood nods to this in its awards for 'Best Supporting Actor' and 'Best Supporting Actress', acknowledging that even if the leads are doing their very best work, the film will flop if the rest of the cast give lacklustre performances.

The writer Jennie Pollok comments, 'We know no great – or even small – achievement can happen without a team, but how often do you hear people express a desire to be one of the little guys? People aspire to be leaders, not followers, and – even within Christian circles, where we should know better – we train people in leadership much more readily than in followership, and esteem it much more highly.'

How are we esteeming those playing the supporting roles in our lives? If you're a leader of any kind, have you thanked those quiet servants who put their all into facilitating your vision recently? And if you're more the 'third grip, second unit' type, well done, good and faithful servant. Aspire to serve well this year. It may go unnoticed here and now, but will not be in vain, and will not go unrewarded in eternity.'

May God bless you all – first violins and second fiddles.

Rosie

Lent Study Group

A warm invitation is extended to you to join the Lent Study Group. We will be meeting in the Manse, 83 Milton Road, at 2.00pm on Wednesdays 12, 19 and 26 March, 2 and 9 April. We will be using special Lent material produced by York Courses. Each week we have a bit of preparatory reading (homework) to do. When we are all together we will listen to a 10 minute CD introduction to the theme and then look at a series of questions to stimulate discussion. You can contribute as much or as little to the discussion as you feel able. Each session lasts about 90 minutes.

BUILD ON THE ROCK (Matthew 7.24) starts by looking at faith and doubt. Is it wrong – or is it normal and healthy – for a Christian to have doubts? Is there any evidence for a God who loves us? We hear from many witnesses. At the heart of a Christian answer stands Jesus himself. We consider his 'strange and beautiful story' and reflect upon his teaching, his death, his resurrection and his continuing significance.

Session (1) Believing and doubting
Session (2) Jesus - our teacher
Session (3) Jesus - our Saviour
Session (4) Jesus - conqueror of death
Session (5) Jesus - Lord and brother

Course booklets available from the minister.
e - rosiefrew@blueyonder.co.uk t – 260315

Children's play corner in the Church

A children's play corner has now been developed within the church set up with quiet toys, books and colouring sheets where parents can sit with young children if they prefer to keep their infants and toddlers with them during worship.

The area also has activities for older children when the Young Church is not running.

Christian Aid Week

Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th May 2014

Christian Aid Week this year is from Sunday 11th to Saturday 17th May. Euan Fraser, our Christian Aid co-ordinator, is hoping that his great team of collectors will be available during that week and it goes without saying he will always welcome any NEW volunteers, so that the total collected by Abbotshall Collectors is even more than the wonderful total of £1800+ collected last year

Prayer Group

We meet on the second and last Sunday of the month at 10.20am for a short time before church. We are a very small group of three and would be so pleased if others would like to join us. If you are interested please talk to Rosie or to me.

There is a prayer request box in the church vestibule and one in the halls. Please feel free to use them.

Anne Gardner

Prayer Promoter

Phone: 01592 265876

Abbotshall Church Concert Friday 23rd May 2014 at 7pm

We invite you all to come along to Abbotshall Church on the evening of Friday 23rd May, 2014 to hear our organist, Richard Michael, and his family in concert.

Early Bird tickets are on sale from now until 30th April and cost £10, thereafter tickets will cost £12. Included in the ticket price is a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles.

Tickets are available from Jane Gilmour either at the church or by telephone (01592 200838) or by email at janegilmour12@hotmail.com

This will be a major fund raiser for the church so please invite all your friends to this great event.

Celebrate and Discover

Kirkcaldy High School
Saturday 22nd March

Opening Worship at 10am
Closing Worship 4pm
“Here’s an idea” Workshops
Displays from every congregation,
lots of exhibitors’ **stands**,
drop-in zones for young people,
and a **Prayer** area.

Helpers on the day still needed. If you can offer an hour or two please talk to Morna Scriven or Anne Moyes or contact Kirkcaldy Presbytery directly.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS

Charlie and Sheila Oliver celebrated their Golden Anniversary in October 2013.

Mabel and Alex MacLean celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in December 2013.

*Thank
You*

To all our friends at Abbotshall Church

This is to thank you all for the good wishes, cards and flowers received on our 60th wedding anniversary.

We had a lovely day with our family. Lots more memories to treasure.

With our very best wishes to you all in this New Year.

Love from Alex & Mabel

MANY THANKS

Thank you to everyone who sent me cards, good wishes and flowers on the occasion of my 90th Birthday in January – they were all much appreciated.

God bless you all, Ruth Macintyre

Trust In Fife

Working together to promote social equality

Volunteering Opportunities with Trust In Fife

Trust In Fife is a voluntary sector organisation, providing a range of services to homeless people throughout Fife.

To assist in supporting these services, we operate two charity outlets, The Cairn Centres, in Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly. Both offer good quality, previously owned goods to the local community.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in both our Kirkcaldy and Lochgelly outlets who have an interest in Trust In Fife's services. The role would include advising and assisting customers, cash handling, stock rotation, dealing with telephone enquiries and recording of messages. Volunteers with retail experience would be particularly welcome.

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to find out more then please contact:-

Helen Mitchell, Co-ordinator

Trust In Fife

The Cairn Centre, 83-85 Dunnikier Road, Kirkcaldy KY1 2QW

T 01592-644060

e cairncentre2@trustinfife.co.uk

New Year and a New Challenge

This year's Stewardship activity focuses on money and is very timely as in the last 5 years we have been spending reserve funds on major fabric projects as follows:-

- The stained glass windows have been repaired and protective screens installed
- The Roofs of the Church, Halls and Manse have been extensively repaired
- Masonry repairs to all three buildings have been carried out
- Considerable work has been done in the halls
- Work has been done in the manse
- The main Hall chairs have been renewed

Our usual giving has not kept pace with all the other expenditure on Ministry, Mission and building maintenance and consequently the reserve fund is now below the minimum set by the Trustees. Strenuous efforts have been made to reduce expenditure and increase income.

The New Year Challenge is to lift Abbotshall's finances back up to a healthy state and so we need to:-

- Increase the membership
- Increase the weekly giving of all members
- Rebuild the reserve fund with targeted donations

Please pray that all of us at Abbotshall will be guided to respond to these needs.

PROPERTY UPDATE.

The properties under the Stewardship of Abbotshall Trustees and the Congregation comprise of the:

- Church;
- Halls complex , and the
- Manse.

All three properties are listed buildings scheduled by Historic Scotland under current Historic Buildings Legislation. The duty of care for the maintenance and upkeep of these properties falls to the trustees and congregation of Abbotshall and to this end the trustees and congregational board have an appointed property convener to oversee the care and upkeep of them. The title deeds of all three properties resides with the Church of Scotland.

The Trustees also have additional responsibilities for the Manse property as landlords with the Manse family as tenants. The condition of the 3 properties is formally reviewed annually by an inspection carried out by the property convener and is also reviewed by the presbytery through a quinquennial inspection and report carried out and prepared by an appointed firm of chartered building surveyors. However, the condition of the properties is monitored on a more regular basis throughout each year by regular visits by the property convener. All three properties are covered by public, third party liability, property and contents insurance. Since the last quinquennial inspection a decision was taken by the management group that the principal focus for upkeep of the properties should be to ensure that the main envelope of the buildings is structurally sound, wind, watertight and free from any possible condition that could affect the health and safety of anybody within or around them. To this end, a considerable amount of the congregational funds have been spent on these items over the past 5 years to complete this remit. This has been done but has reduced our funds to a figure below our reserve policy limit. The focus now must be to ensure the condition of the 3 properties that has been achieved is maintained.

Expenditure on property maintenance falls into 9 categories. These are:

- Statutory maintenance;
- Landlord requirements;
- Emergency repairs;
- Planned maintenance;
- Planned projects;

Additionally, there are annual running costs which are attributed to the overall management of the properties. These are:

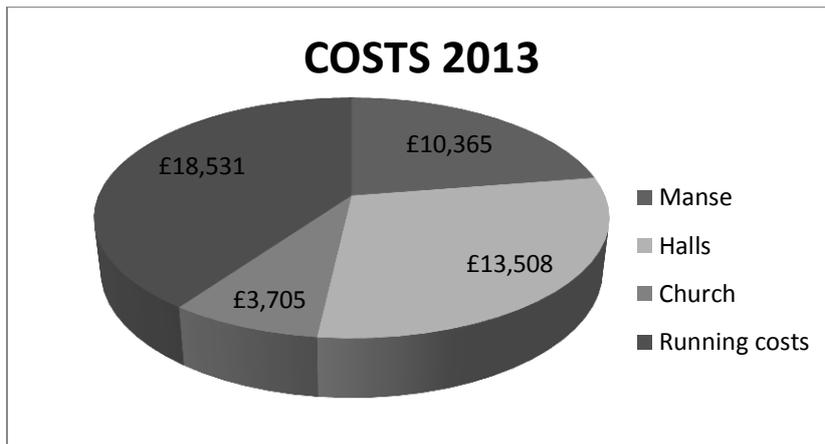
- Heating and lighting;
- Cleaning;
- Halls upkeep, and
- Insurance.

Expenditure against all of these items, where relevant, makes up the total sum expended on the property upkeep in any one year.

In 2013 the total expenditure for the maintenance costs was £27,578. Running costs were in the region of £18,530.

This gives a total property expenditure of £46,109.

This can be broken down as follows:



Typically the type of maintenance works carried out during 2013 across all 3 properties covered;

- Repairs to guttering, downpipes and blockage clearance;
- Window repairs and redecoration;
- Redecoration of bedroom;
- Kitchen redecoration and installation of fittings;
- Fire extinguisher maintenance;
- Organ tuning;
- Gas systems servicing;
- Electrical repairs;
- Alarm servicing;
- Grounds maintenance;
- Provision and installation of 2 new noticeboards; and unfortunately this year
- Intruder repairs and increased security to halls and church.

Hopefully, in the next few years repairs and maintenance to all 3 properties will be able to be restricted to statutory maintenance, meeting our Landlord obligations, planned maintenance and unfortunately there will always be some emergency repair works. However, within 2014 there are some carry over works from 2013, these are:

- the completion of the play area in the church,
- repair and redecoration of the toilets in the church;
- installation of a projector screen in the main hall; and
- water heater replacement in the hall kitchen.

Typically the annual costs for this range of restricted works will be in the region of £10,500 plus running costs of say £18,600. There is therefore a potential annual saving of £17,000 measured against this year's expenditure. This does not allow for the cost of the carried over works for this year only. Estimates for these carried over works are in preparation. A further update report will be prepared for the summer edition of the newsletter.

Michael Petrie (Property Convener).

HALLS UPDATE.

Once again the year ended on a successful note. Halls usage has continued to be an important source of income for church funds with an end of year figure of £9744. At the time of writing some income is still outstanding and every effort is being taken to have this paid as soon as possible.

The hall users are either church or non-church groups with a total number of users at 15, 6 users are church groups and 9 are non-church groups. There was also a smattering of single use events in the form of local group meetings, birthday parties and charity events. A large proportion of our halls income therefore comes from community use of the halls.

Cleaning of the halls takes place on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon with additional cleaning where required being carried out by the Hall Keeper.

Possible income from the same user group as 2013, based on current arranged and agreed lets, should be in the region of £11,000. This is a considerable amount of income for our church. However, there is still more hall time available for letting particularly on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and at the weekends. Effective marketing and uptake of this availability could increase our income from the use of the halls even further.

Arrangements for hiring the halls are available on our website <http://www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk> under the calendar tab on the home page. You can also arrange a hire of either hall by contacting me on 01592 265489 or at mike.petrie@blueyonder.co.uk. The cost of hiring either hall is £12 per hour or if both halls are required at the same time a discounted rate of £18 per hour applies.

Michael Petrie (Halls Convener).

Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee

"Land is Life" talk on Friday 7th March 2014

The Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee is running an evening on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm in the Old Kirk when our speaker is Amy Menzies, who is the Christian Aid Events Fundraising Officer based in Glasgow, and her illustrated talk will be entitled "Land is Life" following her recent visit to Christian Aid supported projects in Cambodia. We are not only looking for support from the churches within the Kirkcaldy C A group, we are also inviting several of the "new" churches within Kirkcaldy to try and get them involved in the local Christian Aid effort.

Christmas Retiring Offerings

The retiring offerings at the Watch Night and Christmas Day Services amounted to £246. Accordingly, £123 was forwarded, in the name of Abbotshall Congregation, to each of Aberlour Child Care Trust and Scottish Bible Society (Philippines Appeal).
Andrew Duncan

BEREAVEMENT



We were saddened at the passing of

Doreen Gourlay in January 2014.



Ailish Rose Oliver was baptised on 29 December 2013.

Kirk Session and Congregational Board minutes

All Kirk Session and Congregational Board minutes are posted on the website. If you wish to look at the full reports please visit www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk/documents

Diary Dates

Saturday 8 February, 10.00am-12 noon – Valentine's Day Coffee Morning
Wednesday 26 February, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Thursday 27 February, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Sunday 2 March, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Saturday 8 March, 10.00am-12noon – Daffodil Coffee Morning
Sunday 9 March, 11.00am – First Sunday of Lent, Sacrament of Baptism.
Saturday 22 March – Celebrate and Discover in Kirkcaldy High School
Thursday 27 March, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Thursday 27 March, 7.30pm – Meeting of Kirk Session and Congregational Board
Saturday 12 April, 10.00am-12noon – Easter Fayre Coffee Morning
Sunday 13 April, 11.00am – Palm Sunday Service
Thursday 24 April, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Wednesday 30 April, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Saturday 10 May, 10.00am-12noon – Bluebell Coffee Morning
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, at 7pm – Concert in the Church
Thursday 29 May, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Sunday 1 June, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Holy Week Services

As in previous years we will join with the other town centre churches for worship during Holy Week.

Tuesday 15 April, 7.00pm – Bennochry Church

Wednesday 16 April, 7.00pm – St Bryce Kirk

Thursday 17 April, 7.00pm – Abbotshall Church. Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Friday 18 April, 7.00pm – Linktown Church. Good Friday Service.

Sunday 20 April, 8.30pm – Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park (beside the fountain)

Sunday 20 April, 11.00am – Easter Day family worship in Abbotshall.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – SUMMER EDITION 2014

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 11 May 2014**. Please send your contributions to Diane Murray on e/mail at dianemurray953@btinternet.com or by post to 97 Mellerstain Road, Kirkcaldy KY2 6UD or leave in our basket in the church vestibule.

THANK YOU – NEWSLETTER TEAM