

An Uncertain Future

You may have read in the last newsletter that the Trustees of Abbotshall, the Elders and the Congregational Board, are confronting a serious shortage of money and an unsustainable deficit. This has happened even with the generous and diligent giving of some of the members for which the Trustees are very thankful. To make the financial situation as clear as possible and to encourage you to help you will find enclosed with this newsletter four leaflets as follows:-

Abbotshall Church --- Stewardship of Money This sets out the current financial position of your Church.

Ministries and Mission 2014 This shows what happens to the contributions we make to the Church of Scotland

Gift Aid Your Offering This explains how you can increase your giving if you are a tax payer.

Your Legacy This provides information about supporting the Church with a legacy.

Please study these leaflets and give them your prayerful thought and action. You will find contact information at the end of the Abbotshall leaflet for Andrew Duncan, the treasurer, if you have any questions regarding your giving or you are seeking more details about the Abbotshall finances. You will also find contact information for me, Jim Browning, if you have more general questions.

I give grateful thanks for the Church of Scotland leaflets supplied to us without any cost and for the Abbotshall Church leaflet whose preparation and printing costs along with the envelope have been donated.

Jim Browning

Stewardship Convener

ROSIE'S LETTER

May 2014

Dear Friends

A couple of weeks ago I attended the annual Adam Smith Lecture given this year by Professor Michael Sandel of Harvard University, described as the most popular lecturer in the world. His lecture on 'What Money Can't Buy' was very good and very thought provoking. However, it doesn't always take a world famous lecturer to get you thinking. Daniel Olsson, aged 10, wrote this:

Money Can Buy

A job, but not accomplishment.

A house, but not a home.

Medicine, but not health.

A ring, but not love.

An education, but not knowledge.

Toys, but not fun.

Clothes, but not beauty.

A piano, but not a song.
A bed, but not sleep.
Food, but not a meal.
Money is the car, but not the driver.

Yes, money can buy you a comfortable life but there is so much that money cannot buy...

Some things in life are both free and priceless – God's love for each one of us; the gift of his son Jesus; his life, death and resurrection; the forgiveness of our sins; the call to a life of discipleship; life in all its fullness; the promise of eternal life.

Give thanks to God for all the things that money can and cannot buy. Give thanks – not just with your words but with your life - with your time, your talents, your possessions, your service.

Yours in Christ

Rosie

Abbotshall Church Concert
Friday 23rd May 2014 at 7.30pm

Remember there is still time for 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. The tickets 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 janeilmour12@hotmail.com

Please can people park at the railway station or Beveridge Park car parks and not at the BEVERIDGE PARK HOTEL.

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

Jim Henderson

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 convener 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.

Morag Michael
Session Clerk
30 April 2014

PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care team continues to visit, send cards and flowers, and provide appropriate support. We appreciate incoming information regarding varying situations in which members of the Church find themselves – illness, hospitalisation, moving into residential or nursing care home, bereavement, and also celebratory occasions – special birthdays (80th / 90th / 100th !!) special wedding anniversaries (Golden/ Diamond/ Platinum!) and possible other happy events?

We would appreciate if members would continue to input information in weeks/ months to come. We are always so disappointed if we miss an important event within the pastoral care remit because we have not known about it! Telephone contact numbers are: - Rosie Frew 260315 or Anne Steward 262988.

Thank you for your support.

THANK YOU

A big “Thank you” to our friends at the Church for the beautiful orchid and lovely card received on the occasion of our golden wedding anniversary.
Your kind thoughts and best wishes added greatly to our happy day.

Anne and Les Steward

Thank You

Now that I am back home I would like to say a big thank you to Rosie and all my friends who visited me in Victoria, Cameron and Randolph Wemyss Hospitals and for all the cards, letters, good wishes and prayers which helped speed my recovery. Ruth Macintyre

WALKING GROUP

Saturday 15th March was a sunny but very windy day when 5 Holy Strollers set off from the west end of the Links, Burntisland for Kinghorn via the Binn. We headed up Cromwell Road, across East Toll Roundabout and up Cowdenbeath Road. The serious business of climbing to the top of the Binn then began. The path zigzagged up through woodland and an open grassy area passing the Binn Pond and the Craigkelly broadcasting and telecommunications mast. At the top we were rewarded with glorious far reaching views in all directions, including Benarty Hill, West and East Lomond, Largo Law, May Island, Bass Rock, the Lammermuirs and East Lothian, Edinburgh, the Pentlands and the Forth Bridges. We descended to the ruined remains of Binnend village where we stopped to have our picnic lunch. Binnend was founded in 1878 by James “Paraffin” Young to accommodate the workers employed in the production of shale oil. We continued on a downhill track passing the enclosed spoil heap which was a reminder of the Burntisland Aluminium Plant which opened in 1917 and closed in 2002. We headed east past the Whinniehall landfill site and entered the Ecology Centre at Craigencaft Farm where we spent some time exploring the Ecology Centre, established in 1998. Our route continued on the footpath by the eastern edge of Kinghorn Loch, crossed the main road to Burnside Path. This took us by the edge of recently ploughed fields and the perimeter of Kinghorn Golf Course and into Kinghorn. From Kinghorn we returned to Burntisland by bus.

On 19th April 4 Holy Strollers were fortunate to have a beautiful warm sunny day for their walk round Falkland Estate. We set off from the car park in the centre of Falkland and the first landmark was the statue of Onesiporous Tyndall Bruce outside the Parish Kirk. We left the village via the play park and entered Falkland Estate. Our route took us past the cricket pitch and playing fields and along the

“Talking Stanes” footpath. It is so called because some of the stones in the dry stone dyke are engraved with old Scots words such as plowterin, stravaigin, jalousin, shaughlin to name but a few. Next we went along the Red Squirrel path. We stopped for a coffee break at the Pillars of Hercules café. Refreshed we continued on our way along the minor road to Chancefield and then along the woodland paths of Arraty Den and by the Kilgour Crags. Out in the open again we found a sunny spot near the Witches Cave to have our picnic lunch.

After lunch we went along the path between the beech hedges, known as the Gilderland Walk, and were rewarded with views of the floodplain of the River Eden towards Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo. Our next stop was to admire the architecture of the House of Falkland which was commissioned by Onesiphorous Tyndall Bruce and his wife Margaret Stuart Bruce. Falkland House School was established here 30 years ago and specialises in the education of boys who require additional learning support. The last part of the walk through parkland led us to the Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart Memorial Chapel. This Gothic chapel was built between 1912 and 1916 and is unfinished and roofless. There are several memorial stones, the most easterly of which commemorates Lord Ninian Crichton Stuart, who was killed in action in 1915.

Fuller descriptions of the walks are on Abbotshall Church web site. Future walks will be held on 17th May, 21st June, 19th July, 16th August, 20th September and 18th October.

Bike & Hike which is a Presbytery wide event will be on 13th September.

Key points from the Session Meeting of 30th April 2014

Depute Session Clerk – We welcome Morna Scriven as our new Depute Clerk.

General Assembly - Morag Michael will attend the General Assembly this year along with the minister.

Presbytery - Jenny McLeod will continue as Presbytery Elder for another year with Jim Gilmour as Additional Elder.

Eldership - The Minister is discussing Eldership with some members.

Equip – The minister commended Equip, Kirkcaldy. It will be the sixth in a series of regional events organised by the Mission & Discipleship Council, featuring inspiring speakers, practical ideas and useful resources for mission. To be held in St. Bryce Kirk on Saturday, June 14th, 10 am till 3.30pm. Workshops will include: Messy Church, Café Church, Worship and “Go For It”. The keynote speaker will be Martin Fair, minister of St Andrew’s church, Arbroath. More details from Rob Rawson, Mission Development Worker (East), M&D Council on 07966286614 or e-mail on rrowson@cofscotland.org.uk

Conference - Morag Michael and Morna Scriven will attend the Session Clerks’ conference at Tulliallan in September.

Stewardship – September is our Stewardship Season. During that month the Minister will preach sermons on the subject of the Stewardship of Money. At the end of September it is planned to have a special giving Sunday when the church would be open for members to bring gifts.

Safeguarding: Mike Baxendine reported that the Safeguarding Congregational Register for Abbotshall Parish Church was completed for year ending 31st December 2013 and submitted to Presbytery. 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. Nine Pastoral Care Group Members have now completed mandatory training and their PVG Scheme Membership is confirmed. All Elders should undertake the half day Safeguarding Training Course. Elders will be notified when the next training is scheduled. Ministers are also required to undertake Safeguarding training and be registered under the PVG scheme. This training should start during 2014. The Minister indicated that PVG training for Ministers was being centrally organised on a presbytery basis.

If you wish to read the Session Minutes in full then please go to our website
www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk/minutes

Thursday Fellowship Group

Our meeting in January took the form of a games afternoon when we joined in various board games before finishing with our usual chat over tea and coffee. Although we were few in number a pleasant afternoon was had.

In February Rosie did a presentation on Fair Trade and we were amazed by the amount of Fair Trade items which can be purchased. We then sampled tea, coffee and biscuits and delicious banana muffins made by Jenny.

Following on from the very successful "Celebrate and Discover" day held at Kirkcaldy High School, at our March meeting we admired the Abbotshall display and had a most interesting discussion regarding the event.

We celebrated Easter at our April meeting when members contributed by way of photos, stories, memories etc. which we associated with Easter. A very happy afternoon was enjoyed by us all.

Our speaker on Thursday 29th May will be Rev. Marc Prowe who will tell us about the food banks being operated in Kirkcaldy. This promises to be a very informative afternoon and a warm welcome is extended to you if you wish to join us.

The final Fellowship meeting before the summer break will be on Thursday 26th June.

Bereavements

We were saddened at the passing of.

Dave Laing in March;

David Watt in April.

Baptisms

Millie Gilmour was baptised on 9 March 2014;

Thomas James Rush was baptised on 13 April 2014.

Wedding Anniversaries Congratulations

Alex and Una McDonald celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in March;

Anne and Les Steward celebrated their Golden Anniversary also in March.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all members of the Church who sent cards and attended Dave's funeral at the Crematorium.

Many thanks also for the flowers received.

Ann Laing and Fiona Welsh

Shop online to raise money for Abbotshall Church

Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy has received more than £458.07 simply from our supporters shopping online! This amount is part of over £5 million generated by leading UK good cause shopping website easyfundraising.org.uk for over 50,000 causes just like Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy.

Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy earns the cash donations when people register to support us and shop online through the site. It's a really simple process, all you have to do is:

- Register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- When you're asked to choose your cause, select Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy.
- Get shopping - it couldn't be easier!

There are over 2,700 online retailers available, including Amazon, John Lewis, eBay and Tesco and all will give a small percentage of what's been spent back to Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy to say thank you for shopping with them. What are you waiting for? Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk to boost your fundraising for Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy now. Already registered? Spread the word to family and friends to let them know just how easy it is!

USED STAMP APPEAL

Thank you all for the used stamps which you have kindly donated to the church to help raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide.

The appeal for 2014 is raising money to help the work of the Greek Evangelical Church, which has recently opened Dorcas, a Refuge House for Women Victims of Violence and their children in Milotopos, north Greece. Following an extensive refurbishment programme, the first tenant moves in this spring, but she will never be charged rent. Recognising the need of these women, the Church will cover all the running costs of the house and money raised from your stamps will help cover these costs.

In 2013 the appeal raised over £4,000. Can you help make that figure over £4,500 in 2014? Anne Moyes.

STAMP COLLECTION

Would the lady who handed a large bag containing stamps to Andrew Duncan to pass onto Diane Murray, please let yourself be known to her by phone: 265744, by post at 97 Mellerstain Road, Kirkcaldy, KY2 6UD or by e/mail: at dianemurray953@btinternet.com

Thank You. Diane Murray

Abbotshall Parish Church, Kirkcaldy Halls available for hire - Scottish Charity No: SC002586

Are you looking for a venue to hold a dance/ceilidh or children's party or somewhere to hold a meeting, workshop, training session, or an exercise or arts class? Abbotshall Church Halls offer a convenient and cost effective solution. We have two halls available for hire (with or without seating). Halls can be booked from 9am to 10pm.

Hall 1 (Main Hall) Our main hall is the larger of the two halls and has a stage. You can view this hall on www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk/facilities

Hall 2 (Kennedy Hall) The Kennedy Hall is the smaller hall and can also be viewed on www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk/facilities

Our facilities offer: Wheelchair access, Ladies, Gents and disabled toilets and baby changing facilities, kitchen with water heater, hob, oven and fridge, stage in main hall with stage lighting, sound system and limited back cloths. Fire extinguishing equipment in all areas. (Please note that all facilities would be shared if two events were in the halls at the same time).

Our charges: £12 per hour for both the Main Hall and the Kennedy Hall.

Church Sanctuary and Session Room: Or sanctuary and session room are also available for hire but rates for these would need to be discussed with our Property Convener.

You can view our facilities and terms and conditions on the Church website, visit www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk where you can see available dates and make online enquiries.

Please also pass this information on to anyone you know who is looking for a venue.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN EDITION 2014

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 31st August 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

Diary Dates

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
(Rev 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

Sunday 8 June, 11.00am - Young Church Service

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

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

Thursday 26 June, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

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.

Sunday 6 July, 11.00am – St Bryce Kirk

Sunday 13 July, 11.00am – Bennoch Church

Sunday 20 July, 11.00am – Linktown Church

Sunday 27 July, 11.00am – Abbotshall Church

Saturdays 12 July and 9 August 10.00am-12noon –
Coffee Mornings in the Church Hall