

Letter from the Minister - November 2013

Dear Friends,

As I watched breakfast telly this morning I listened to a discussion about 'the perfect Christmas'. There was much talk of children, presents, decorations, food and new clothes. Little talk of Jesus, worship, hurting people or hard times. In church over recent months we've been thinking about the best use of our time. I read a poem called 'Time – Some Advice on its Use' which I've used as my inspiration...

Christmastime – Some Advice on its Use

Make time to prepare – Advent is all about preparing for the coming of Jesus.

Make time to think – What is it all about? What does it mean for me?

Make time to pray – Share your thanks, thoughts and concerns with God.

Make time to laugh and play – Enjoy the fun, the festivities, the celebrations.

Make time to help and serve – Who needs my help? Who is in need? What can I do?

Make time to read – Share the story of the birth of Jesus with others.

Make time to worship – Come and worship Christ the new born King.

Make time to love – Your family, your friends, your neighbour, the stranger.

Make time to be alone with God – God who knows you and loves you.

It still seems a long way off. Plenty of time to get ready!

When it comes, may the wonder of Mary, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.

Rosie

Advent and Christmas Worship

There is a Celtic saying that heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in the thin places that distance is even smaller. A thin place is where the veil that separates heaven and earth is lifted and one is able to receive a glimpse of the glory of God. In our worship throughout December we are going to visit some of the thin places in our Christmas story.

Sunday 1 December, 11.00am - A house in Nazareth – 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

With the Church Choir

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

Follows the Young Church disco, all welcome

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

Young Church Nativity Play

Tuesday 24 December, 11.15pm – The meeting place of heaven and earth
Carol singing and Watchnight Service

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

Sunday 29 December, 11.00am – In the Temple – Simeon and Anna
United service in Abbotshall

Throughout January and February we will be worshipping in the Church Halls for warmth and ease of access on wintry mornings.

A Christmas Prayer

All over the world,
this is a time of celebration;
a time for rejoicing and feasting.
Yet we remember amidst all the joy,
those whose hearts are heavy.

We pray for who are on their own this Christmas,
with just memories to keep them company;
those whose families seem incomplete,
their contemporaries diminishing year by year.

We pray for those who have lost a child,
and whose memories of loss are heightened
by reference to happy children and family celebration.

We pray for those who are far away
in war zones, keeping an uneasy watch;
and those who wait at home with anxious hearts.

We pray for those who are in homeless shelters,
off the streets for a few days,
given a feast by the goodwill of others.

We pray for all those people around the world
who can only dream of feasts
and what it is like to feel full.

God whose name is love,
you came to turn the world upside down.
May we help you in that task,
whatever that may mean for us.
Amen.

The Church of Scotland – Panel on Review and Reform **Shaping the Future of the Church of Scotland**

A series of regional consultations exploring how the Church can respond to the challenges we face and to allow open discussion about the future shape and priorities for the Church.

The consultations are open to ministers, elders, members of congregations and anyone else who is interested in the future of the Church.

Vision consultation venues

Thursday 21 November

1.30pm to 4pm Dundee – Chalmer’s Adler Church
7pm to 9pm Kinross Parish Church

Friday 22 November

10.30am to--12.30pm Edinburgh – Liberton Kirk Centre

Thursday 12 December

1.30pm to 4pm Stirling – St Columba’s Church



Shoebox Appeal

The 2013 Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal is drawing to a close. Thanks to all those who filled shoeboxes and made donations. The boxes collected at Abbotshall will be taken to Templehall Church for a Dedication Service on Thursday 14 November at 2.00pm. Templehall Church will be open from 10.30am that day to receive any final shoeboxes. All the boxes will then be taken away by Blythswood Care and distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

BEREAVEMENT



We were saddened at the passing of
Mrs Kathleen Smith in September.



Emily Christina Page was baptised on Sunday 1 September.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Isobel and Andrew Anderson celebrated their Emerald Anniversary (55 years) in October.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the church for the lovely flowers I received on the second anniversary of Hugh's death.

Betty Smith

THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS

Frank and Patricia Nuthall would like to thank the church for sending the flowers recently on the occasion of his Aunt's death. Frank said that they lasted well and cheered us up in the next days. It was reassuring to know that so many people were thinking of us.

Frank Nuthall

OUR THANKS

Jim and Margaret Henderson would like to thank all members of the Church and friends who sent cards, flowers and phone calls with condolences at the sudden loss of their son, Graeme (46). To those who were able to join them at the Crematorium, and Rev. Bryan Tomlinson for his comforting service. Many thanks to Rosie for her visits and to Bill and Anne Page, Andrew and Bett Duncan and Diane Murray for laying on refreshments in the Hall afterwards.
God bless you all

LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE – 2014

The Life and Work Magazine is again available in 2014.

Why not place an order and read the Church's views both nationally and internationally. The magazine remains at the price of £2 per copy. If readers wish to subscribe for 2014 the annual payment remains at £20 cash, or cheque which should be made payable to "Abbotshall Church" and given to Diane Murray, Life & Work Distributor, as soon as possible.

Current subscribers will be notified individually of the above costs.

Back copies of the magazine are available in the Church vestibule now if anyone would like to 'try before they buy'. **Diane Murray - Life & Work Distributor**

NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION MEETING

Thursday 5 September 2013

Due to the variations in size of districts, Elders will be asked to indicate those in their district with whom there is little or no contact. Subsequently greater use of the postal district might be made to communicate with those members who do not wish to be visited.

Anne Steward had received her Protection of Vulnerable Groups clearance. The other members of the Pastoral Care Team were in training. Ministers are to be 'processed' over the coming year alphabetically by Presbytery.

Jenny McLeod, the Presbytery Elder, reported on the last two Presbytery meetings

- four ministers, including Rosie Frew, were congratulated on having reached the 25th anniversary of their ordination
- six new members were welcomed to Presbytery, including Eileen Miller. A Graduate Candidate Service had been held for her in Kinghorn Church on 25th August
- Myra Deas, Session Clerk at St Ninian's Church Glenrothes, was appointed as Moderator for 2013/14
- A Service of Union for the charge of Auchterderran Kinglassie was to be held on Sunday 27th October
- To help develop a network of *Congregational Learning* facilitators, Presbytery urged congregations to identify people with the appropriate gifts and skills to be trained to develop learning across the Presbytery
- Craig Higgins of St Ninian's Church Glenrothes had been our Youth Representative at this year's General Assembly. Craig gave a very interesting and enthusiastic illustrated report about his memorable week
- Congregations were encouraged to reflect on their community involvement

The Minister and Mike Petrie updated the Session on progress with the repair of the church yard's boundary wall and the possible impact on the worshipping congregation. She also reported on discussions she had been having over the interment of ashes and the erection of headstones. She had been advised that all lairs in the church yard had been sold. The use of 'Eddie Speed's garden' to the left of the path to the crypt was discussed. The minister was to ascertain if this is an option with Burial Services.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY FOR 2014....

COMING SOON!



SATURDAY MARCH 22ND 2014

KIRKCALDY HIGH SCHOOL

10AM TO 5PM

CLOSING PRAISE SERVICE AT 4PM

Our theme is "I am the vine, and you are the branches"

Come and see the wide variety of displays and resources that show this theme in action in congregations around the Presbytery!

Be part of our "Here's an idea" workshops

Join in the music group and choir which will be formed for the Praise event

Bring the family – something for all ages including a children's activity area

Visit the Prayer zone which includes a Prayer Journey designed for Holy Week

In the foyer there will be a large selection of exhibitors and resources available

Be part of this exciting event organised by the Mission and Worship team in Kirkcaldy Presbytery

We have been asked to remind members of the need for volunteers to help on the day and those wishing to join in the events. Stewards are needed to help navigate people round the High School both inside and outside. Singers are needed to join the choir and musicians to play in the band at the closing worship.

If you think you would like to help then please let either Rosie, the minister, Jenny McLeod, our Presbytery Elder, Anne Moyes or Morna Scriven know. Presbytery Team needs to know this by 15th November.

Presbytery website address www.presbyteryofkirkcaldy.org.uk where you can find out more information.

HOLY STROLLERS AUTUMN WALKS

BIKE & HIKE On Saturday 7th September 4 of us hiked round the 8 churches which were open in Kirkcaldy. The churches which we visited were Torbain, Templehall, Bennoch, St Bryce, Abbotshall, Linktown, Pathhead and Dysart, a distance of 6 miles.

SEPTEMBER WALK On 21st September 5 Holy Strollers set off from Ruby Bay at Elie for a walk along the Fife Coastal Path to Anstruther. The first point of interest was the Lady Tower which was built in the mid 18th century and named after Lady Janet Anstruther who went swimming in the bay below. The path then took us past the ruins of Ardross Castle which was erected in 1370 by Sir William Dishington, who was married to a sister of Robert the Bruce, and was Sherriff of Fife. The next landmark was the ruined Newark Castle. Just beyond the castle is its 16th century beehive doocot. Arriving at St Monans we visited the church which was built between 1362 and 1370 as a chapel and was endowed by David the second. We continued through St Monans stopping to admire the harbour and the many buildings which have been restored by the National Trust. At the east end of the village is the recently restored St Monans Windmill which was used for pumping water to the salt pans. It was a short distance from here to the attractive fishing village of Pittenweem. The next section took us along a path by the edge of a field and then descended to the coast. It followed the edge of Astruther Golf Course close to the rocky shore of Billowness. In Anstruther we crossed the Dreel Burn by the large stepping stones as it was low tide. We stopped at the harbour to have lunch – most of us had brought a picnic but some opted to have a famous Anstruther fish supper. Suitably refreshed we “window shopped” through the town and then retraced our steps back to Ruby Bay car park.

OCTOBER WALK On Saturday 19th October 5 Holy Strollers went to Roslin Glen for the last walk of the 2013 season. Our first stop was for refreshments at the memorial for the Battle of Roslin which was fought in 1303 as part of the 1st War of Scottish Independence and resulted in a victory for the Scottish force. We entered Roslin Glen at Hewan Bank Wood and descended to the River North Esk and followed the river upstream. We had a good view across to Hawthornden Castle, a turreted house once home to the poet William Drummond. The path had many ascents and descents through the dramatic tree clad gorge. It was also very muddy underfoot and there were several fallen trees which we had to negotiate making this a very challenging walk. We passed under the giant arch of the ruined Roslin Castle and then left the glen and returned to the car park.

We had lunch in Roslin Inn. In the afternoon we visited Rosslyn Chapel formally known as the Collegiate Church of St Matthew which was founded in 1446 by William Sinclair, 1st Earl of Caithness, and took 40 years to build. The purpose of the college was to celebrate the Divine Office throughout the day and night and also to celebrate Holy Mass for all the faithful departed, including the deceased members of the Sinclair family. The chapel stands on fourteen pillars which form an arcade of twelve pointed arches on three sides of the nave. At the east end, a fourteenth pillar between the penultimate pair form a three-pillared division between the nave and the Lady chapel. The three pillars at the east end of the chapel are named, from north to south: the Master Pillar, the Journeyman Pillar, and most famously, the Apprentice Pillar. It is little wonder that the beauty of its setting and the mysterious symbolism of its stonework have attracted, inspired and intrigued artists and visitors ever since. The Chapel is the setting for part of Dan Brown's 2003 novel *The Da Vinci Code* and for part of the subsequent 2006 film of the same name. Fuller descriptions of all our walks can be found on the Abbotshall web site.

Thursday Fellowship Group

Rosie was our speaker at the August meeting and her opening remarks were about the life of St Cuthbert and the places he had visited in his lifetime.

We then "walked" St Cuthbert's Way by the aid of photographs Rosie had taken when she and Dave spent 6 days during the summer exploring the route. We started off at Melrose and visited many places of interest en route ending at Lindesfarne. A very pleasant "walk" was enjoyed by all.

In September our speaker was Jim Henderson who took us by bus, train and other means to Fife and Tayside on film. We started at the Forth Rail Bridge visiting various locations in Fife before boarding the ferry from Newport to Dundee. The whole journey was very nostalgic.

The afternoon concluded with Jim entertaining us with some of his poems and quirky sayings.

October saw us on our travels again, this time to Iona with Morag Michael. Before telling us about her visit she told us a bit about St Columba and the Abbey then we set sail in the ferry from Oban to Mull then onto Iona.

Morag had been invited to the island to celebrate the 1450th anniversary of St Columba arriving on the Scottish shores and she was very pleased and privileged to have joined others on their pilgrimage.

Next meeting on Thursday 28th November will be a Celebration of Scotland.

Some dates for your diary...

Thursday 28 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Saturday 14 December, 10.00 am–12 noon – Christmas Coffee Morning. Tickets £2

Saturday 11 January 2014, 10.00am-12noon – New Year Coffee Morning. Tickets £2.

Thursday 30 January, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 30 January, 7.30pm – Trustees meeting

Saturday 8 February 10.00 am-12noon – Valentine's Day Coffee Morning. Tickets £2.

Saturday 8 March 10.00 am-12noon – Daffodil Coffee Morning. Tickets £2.



NEXT NEWSLETTER – LENT and EASTER /SPRING EDITION 2014

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 26th January 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