

Dear Friends,

I really enjoy being a School Chaplain – and we're having a really exciting time at Kirkcaldy West at the moment as the school involves the local churches and community in a World War One project. (See Ewan Trousdale's letter on page...) We've looked at life in Kirkcaldy in 1914, we've shared many sad stories but we've also seen that in the midst of that sadness there was great change and opportunity. Please come along to the School Showcase on Friday 28 November and see all the work the children have been doing. Some of it will be on display in our Church Halls in the new year.

It will soon be 100 years since the Christmas Truce of 1914. It was spontaneous, reciprocal and became one of the most recognisable moments of the First World War. The fraternisation across no man's land between enemy troops saw weapons set aside, Christmas greetings and gifts exchanged, plum pudding shared, carols sung and even, it was reported, football matches played on the western front.

So much has changed in the last 100 years but so little has changed. We are still a world at war, we are still praying for peace in our time.

Emmanuel,

Humanity waits in darkness longing for your light.

As we pray for peace in the midst of war, be with us.

As we pray for enemies to be reconciled, be with us.

As we pray for lands to be restored, be with us.

As we pray for kindness and community, be with us.

Restore and set right our relationships.

Let your word set alight the hope the world needs.

Let the light of your love shine out.

Amen

May you and yours know the peace of the Christ child this Christmas.

Rosie

**In our worship this Christmas we will be celebrating the Songs of Christmas.**

Sunday 30 November, 11.00am – Mary's Magnificat

Sunday 7 December, 11.00am – Zechariah's Benedictus

Sunday 14 December, 11.00am – The Angels' Gloria

Saturday 20 December, 5.00pm – Christingle Service

Sunday 21 December, 11.00am – Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 24 December, 11.15pm – Songs of Peace

Thursday 25 December, 11.00am – Songs of Celebration

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

Sunday 4 January, 11.00am – Simeon's Nunc Dimittis

## **A word from the Session Clerk**

The Session is very pleased that we will be ordaining some new Elders towards the end of the year. This will give us a chance to look at the Elders' Districts and perhaps do some reorganising so that there is a more even distribution for Communion visiting. It means that some people may have a change of Elder before the March Communion but I'm sure you will welcome whoever comes to give you your Communion Invitation.

Morag Michael

## **JAMES BISSETT**

The church is full of traditions, and one of the lesser known ones is the need for trainees to describe themselves in the parish newsletter whenever you start a new placement. I find these things a struggle because I'm not very good at talking about myself. So how do you write for the newsletter and seem original? Perhaps I should write it in the style of a dating agency profile? Male, 39, likes computers, recumbent bicycles, real ale and home baking. Drinks black tea with milk and two sugars. Owns two gerbils. Partial to Jelly Babies, rock music and steam engines. Believes that broccoli and most other vegetables are evil.

I'm training for the role of an Ordained Local Minister, which is similar to that of a full time Minister, it's just that we do it alongside our day jobs.

If I was to quote the band Whitesnake here, "I don't know where I'm going, but I sure know where I've been" I have absolutely no idea where I will end up working, as it all depends on where I'm living at the time. I can tell you that I started off my Ministry training down the road at Linktown where I was a member of the worship group. After taking part in a few services, I decided that I would see if I really was called to Ministry. So after a placement at Dysart where my call was tested, the Church accepted me to train as an OLM.

I did my first placement at Pathhead church, and my second at South Queensferry. I'm also finding the time to do a degree as part of my training, and the wonders of the internet means that my classroom is in Dingwall, but the desk that I sit at is in Cowdenbeath. I'm about halfway through a degree, and I'm writing this page as I take a break from a particularly difficult essay.

Training has been a fabulous journey so far. It's a privilege to be able to share in people's lives, and to help spread the Gospel.

So I will be at Abbotshall for the next year as I complete my probationary placement. I look forward to meeting you all, and I'll try not to get in the way.

With every blessing,

James

Now, back to that essay. ☹

## **Letter from Ewan Trousdale**

Kirkcaldy West Primary School, in partnership with Abbotshall and Linktown Churches, is embarking on a whole school project entitled "1914: 100 Years" to commemorate the century passing since the beginning of World War 1. Each year group is looking at different themes, comparison of then to now, to help our pupils appreciate and empathise how different life was one hundred years ago. The themes range from Toys, Shops, Lifestyles, Education and of course the impact war had on our former pupils and families. We have our own

roll of honour and senior pupils have been investigating the real people detailed on this. We are going to showcase our learning on Friday 28th November and extend an invitation to all members of our wider community. Details of times will be posted on our website [www.fifedirect.org/kirkcaldywestps](http://www.fifedirect.org/kirkcaldywestps). We are also keen for our pupils to hear the experiences of community members and would encourage anyone with photographs, stories or other artefacts to get in touch!

With very best wishes,  
Ewan Trousdale, Headteacher.  
(01592 583432 and [kirkcaldywestps.headteacher@fife.gov.uk](mailto:kirkcaldywestps.headteacher@fife.gov.uk))

## **Our Church History - Can You Help**

Over the last 10 years Bruce Farrell has slowly built up a history and archive of our church. So far the main thrust has been on the buildings & fabric and our ministers. He has also found or has been given some photographs and articles about some of our congregational activities. Bruce would like to expand this history to include the social aspects of our congregational life.

If you are interested in helping with research or have information you would be willing to share and publish. Please contact Bruce on 266003 or [brucefarrell@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:brucefarrell@blueyonder.co.uk)

The areas Bruce is expanding in to are –

To expand the detail of those remembered in our war memorials;

- Our choir to add to the two early 1900 photographs
- Our Guild and its activities
- Abbotshall Platoon of the BB - rather than just the limited information found in the History of the Kirkcaldy Company
- Our Guide Group
- Our Youth Fellowship from the early 1900's till the 50's – to add to the pre-first world war photos
- Our Drama/Pantomime Group - something of the early years would be greatly appreciated as Jim Henderson had a collection of material for the later years

Currently Bruce is working on a small presentation of the information he has archived and hopes he will be able to present it at a Thursday Fellowship meeting early in the New Year.

## **George Robertson**

George Robertson was born in January 1927, the fourth of five children. He attended Pathhead Primary School and Viewforth Secondary School. In 1941, aged 14, he began an apprenticeship to become a French Polisher with A H McIntosh of Kirkcaldy. Towards the end of the war he was called up as a Bevin Boy and then in 1946 came National Service in The Royal Military Police at Mannheim in Germany.

George met Cis Watters at A H MacIntosh. Romance blossomed and they were engaged in '45, after demob, and married on 26 March 1951. They were blessed with the arrival of a son, David, and then daughter, Sheila, and in time with grandchildren Marianne, Emily and Andrew.

Through the forties and into the fifties football was a major part of George's life, playing in goal for East Fife and Cowdenbeath. He often told the story of the Saturday afternoon he was in the church hall, French polishing a piano, his football career a memory, when at 2.15pm Johnnie Urquhart appeared looking for a goalkeeper for 3.00 p.m. at Starks Park.... The French polishing was forgotten..... and Rovers won 2 – nil.

Another big part of George's life was the Boys' Brigade, as a boy at Dunnikier, by 1968 he was OC of the Abbotshall Platoon. A lifetime of commitment. Many will have memories of camps and pantomimes and funds raised from selling George's famous pancakes.

George was a Kirk man good and true. He was ordained an elder at Abbotshall in 1958 and served on the Kirk Session until retirement in 2009. He was actively involved in the life and work of Abbotshall until last year.

George died after a lengthy illness on Sunday 19 October 2014. We thank God for his long life and committed Christian service. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cis and the family at this time.

## **WALKING GROUP SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2014**

On **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September** 4 Holy Strollers took part in the EMMS Coastal Route Challenge – this year's "new look" Bike & Hike event. A member of Auchterderran Kinglassie Church accompanied us. The first church which we visited was Burntisland Parish Church, one of the first to be built in Scotland after the Reformation. It was here that the General Assembly met in 1601 and proposed to King James VI that a new English translation of the Bible would make the Scriptures more accessible to the people. This was approved and 10 years later this was published as the King James or Authorised Version of the Bible. It was a short walk from here to St Serf's Scottish Episcopal Church. Whilst admiring the interior of the building our visit was enhanced by the sound of the organ being played. The tide was too high for us to walk along by the shore between Burntisland and Kinghorn so we had to go on the pavement beside the busy main road which passes the monument marking the spot where Alexander III met his death. Our next stop was Kinghorn Parish Church – the Kirk by the Sea. The walk from Kinghorn to Kirkcaldy on the undulating coastal path was very pleasant. There was a slight sea mist and an abundance of rosehips and brambles at the side of the path just waiting to be picked which signified that we were indeed in the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness". We stopped at Seafield for our picnic lunch. Suitably refreshed we made our way along Kirkcaldy Esplanade to Linktown Church. The route continued along the Esplanade, up the Path and through Ravenscraig Park to Dysart St Clair Church. A very striking feature in this building is the murals by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. In all the churches visited we received a very warm welcome and tea/coffee and home baking.

As it was an extremely wet morning when 5 of us met for our regular monthly walk on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September** we decided to go to the Adam Smith Centre for a coffee. The rain had almost cleared by the time we came out so we returned to the station and took the train to Kinghorn. On leaving the station we went uphill to the War Memorial, passed the school, walked by the edge of the golf course, up Burnside Path and round by the east side of Kinghorn Loch to Craigenalt Ecology Centre. The Earthship Visitor Centre is situated here and we were fortunate to meet one of the volunteers who gave us a conducted tour. So, what is an Earthship? An Earthship provides for the basic needs of shelter, water and electricity through its design and systems. An Earthship is a passive solar building with thermal mass. This means that it maintains a comfortable living temperature year round. It is made from natural and recycled materials – predominately earth-rammed tyres and aluminium cans. It is powered by renewable energy, such as wind, water and solar power. It catches its own water supply from rainwater, and treats and contains its own sewage in planter beds. Earthships are a concept, not a set design and can be adapted for any climate worldwide.

We left Craigenalt via the Woodland Walk and stopped on Rodanbraes to admire the views and have our picnic lunch. The route continued along by a field edge and farm track passing the ruined hamlet at Common and on to Standing Stanes Road from where we had superb views across the Firth of Forth to Edinburgh and the Bridges. We left the road to walk through a stubble field which we thought would be a short cut to the main Kirkcaldy/Kinghorn road, but not so – we reached the Tyrie Burn which had no crossing place! This meant we had to retrace our steps and trudge back through the mud and stubble to Jawbane Road. We soon reached the main road at Inveriel railway bridge. Morrison's café provided a welcome refreshment stop before we walked uphill to the station car park.

6 Holy Strollers enjoyed perfect walking weather for our last walk of the year on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October** in the St Andrews area. Our walk started at the car park in Argyle Street near the West Port. We passed a row of houses to emerge at Cockshaugh Park and on to the Lade Braes Walk. The path went through a fine woodland area by the side of the Kinness Burn and on to Hallow Hill. This is the site of an early Christian Burial Ground where several cists (stone-lined graves) have been found. We crossed the Lumbo Burn and noted an impressive beehive doocot nearby and then crossed Bogward Road. We followed the well constructed footpath up through Lumbo Den and Lumbo Wood to reach Craigtoun Country Park. We stopped for refreshments and after a stroll round the park returned to St Andrews by the same route. On the return journey we were able to admire the panoramic view from St Andrews up to the Angus coastline. As well as the scenery we also appreciated seeing the trees displaying their spectacular autumn glory. At the conclusion of the walk we went to Balgove Farm Shop Restaurant and had a most enjoyable lunch.



## **Young Church Snowman Drive**



The Snowman Drive takes place on Wednesday 10th December at 6 pm. Tickets are priced at £2 for adults and £1 for children. The cost includes refreshments after the drive. Tickets are now on sale or get them on the night. See you there.

## **Christmas Fayre Thanks**

Thank you to all who contributed to the stalls for the Christmas Fayre and to the band of willing helpers who manned the stalls and to the kitchen staff who attended to the tables for the unending stream of customers. The final total raised was £1500.

A very enjoyable morning was had by all.

Bill Page

## **BEREAVEMENT**

We were saddened at the passing of  
George Robertson in October  
Ashley Forbes in November

## **Baptism**

Charlie KennethThomas Gourlay was baptised on Sunday 14 September 2014.

## **MARRIAGES – CONGRATULATIONS**

On Saturday 27 September – Stuart William Matthew Emslie and Fiona Adams married in Abbotshall;

On Saturday 25 October – John Charles Hay Scott and Anne Logan Collins married in Abbotshall.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

During 2014 we were pleased to welcome into our church family, by certificate:

Ewan Archer, Kay and John King and Jean and Ian Butchart

## **Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust**

*"We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders" Ps 78:4*

### **KART – securing the future**

Over the past 5 years Chris Beattie, the Christian youth worker employed by KART has established sound relationships with two high schools and six primary schools in this area as well as working with local school chaplains. His involvement includes assemblies, RME classes, activities such as 'Journey through the Bible' and 'Easter Code' presentations, football coaching and a high school 'Personal Search Week'. Three school SU groups have been established with volunteers from local churches and a group of churches in the Pathhead area is working together with Chris to put on out-of-school youth events. Chris is also involved with holiday clubs and in-service 'activity days' at local churches, and SU camps in which some local youngsters have taken part.

All in all Chris has contact with up to 1900 young people during the course of a year. Having established KART as part of the local Christian outreach to young people, we now need to secure KART's work into the future. KART already receives support from some churches and individuals locally. However to remain viable KART requires more support from local churches and church members in two ways.

- More volunteers to be part of the KART team – committee and working group members (reachout, finance, publicity, prayer), a prayer co-ordinator, SU group leaders/helpers
- Financial support – from 2015 KART needs to raise an additional £10,000 each year as start-up grants from external funders come to an end.

Thank you, KART management committee

Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART, K.A.R.T.) is a charitable body

Registered in Scotland with registration number SCO37866

To contact KART email the secretary – [enquiries@kart.me.uk](mailto:enquiries@kart.me.uk)

or the treasurer: [finance@kart.me.uk](mailto:finance@kart.me.uk)

KART website can be found at: <http://www.kart.me.uk>

## **LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE – 2015**

The Life and Work Magazine is again available in 2015.

Why not place an order and read the Church's views both nationally and internationally. The magazine price has increased to £2.20 per copy. If readers wish to subscribe for 2015 the annual payment has increased to £23 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**

## **The 2014 Shoe Box Appeal**

The 2014 Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal has ended. Thanks to all those who filled shoeboxes and made donations. The boxes collected at Abbotshall were taken to Templehall Church for a Dedication Service on Thursday 6 November. All the boxes were then taken away by Blythswood Care to be distributed.

### **Diary Dates**

**Wednesday 26 November, 7.00pm** – Kirk Session meeting – Safeguarding Training

**Thursday 27 November, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group – a visit from The Samaritans

**Sunday 30 November, 11.00am** – First Sunday in Advent

**Saturday 13 December, 10.00am-12noon** – Coffee Morning

**Sunday 14 December, 11.00am** – Gift Sunday. Bring a gift for a child who may not receive much this Christmas.

**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

*During January and February we will be worshipping in the Church Halls.*

**Saturday 10 January, 10.00am-12noon** – Coffee Morning

**Thursday 29 January, 2.00pm** – Thursday Fellowship Group – Kirkcaldy Street Pastors

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