

Minister's Letter September 2014

Dear Friends

We read in the Bible, 'While Jesus was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.'

This is a story that speaks of impulsiveness, of generosity, of gratitude. It tells of one woman's response to the love and forgiveness of Jesus.

How do we respond to the loving generosity God shows to each of us? Is it with a generous sharing of our time, talents, money and possessions? Or do we keep them all to ourselves? We readily take but we don't give.

Christian Stewardship acknowledges the many gifts we receive from God and reminds us that these gifts should be used to praise God the giver.

- We have a responsibility to care for God's creation.
- We have a responsibility to use time in a balanced way that enables us to enjoy life as God intended it to be.
- We have a responsibility to make full use of our particular talents if our lives are to be all that God has intended for us.
- We have a responsibility to love and care: the measure of our love for God is the extent to which we care for his people throughout his world.

The way we use our money and other possessions is another indication of our willingness to praise God in every aspect of our lives. We are expected to display a sharing, unselfish attitude in the way we use these resources at our disposal.

Are we prepared to respond to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ by breaking the jar?

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord, for all his love.

Yours in Christ
Rosie



Stewardship of Money

You will have read in the last two newsletters that the Trustees of Abbotshall 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. During the summer the Treasurer has been monitoring the finances and has provided some selected highlights as follows.

- At the end of July expenditure exceeded income by about £6,000
- The estimated deficit at the end of December is projected to be over £16,000
- The number of households supporting financially is now 161 compared to 184 last year

During September the Minister will preach every Sunday on the theme of the Stewardship of Money. These will cover gifts from God and gifts for God, supporting one another, how our giving helps the Church grow and our response to God's gift of the harvest. There will be a further opportunity to learn more about the work done nationally by the Church of Scotland and how our offerings help to develop this.

While increased weekly giving may not be possible or suitable for all members there will be an opportunity to make a special donation to Abbotshall. If you are minded to make a special contribution to Church funds please place these in a separate envelope. The envelope should be marked *Special Donation* and put into the collection at any of the September services or given to one of the Elders.

Jim Browning

Stewardship Convener

WALKING GROUP SUMMER 2014

On 17th May 3 Holy Strollers took the train to Haymarket and then the bus to Balerno to the start of the Water of Leith Walkway. The Water of Leith is one of the greatest assets of the City of Edinburgh. It flows in a north easterly direction from its source in the Pentland Hills to the river mouth at Leith, where it enters the Firth of Forth. The morning saw us travelling from Balerno to Currie, Juniper Green, Spylaw, Colinton Dell and finally Slateford. The first part of the walk was on the dismantled Old Balerno Branch railway. Points of interest along this section included the ruins of several mills which were powered by the force of the water – Woodhall Grain Mill, mossy Mill, Upper Spylaw Mill, West Mills and Redhall Weir and Mill. Other landmarks included Spylaw House, Redhall House and Woodhall House. We had a brief stop for coffee in Spylaw Park and a longer stop for our picnic lunch at the Water of Leith Heritage Centre which is situated beside The Slateford Aqueduct and Viaduct. The afternoon route took us from Slateford to Roseburn via Gorgie, Saughton Park, Balgreen, Murrayfield Rugby Ground and Ice Rink and Roseburn Park.

On Saturday 21 June 4 Holy Strollers completed the Water of Leith walk starting near Haymarket. The path leads you past old mills, roaring weirs and under towering bridges passing through Dean Village and the remnants of mills long gone and onto St Bernard's Well, an area of woodland and rugged rocks. As you descend the cobbled road in Dean Village, the river rushes under the colossal stone Bridge of Dean. We then walked on to Stockbridge. At Stockbridge, the river bends South and runs parallel to the Royal Botanic Gardens in the Inverleith area, passing along a pleasant leafy path behind the artisan row houses of the Stockbridge colonies and on to Leith following the track of the old railway. We walked round the harbour at Leith stopping to look at pieces of sculpture and things of interest. From Leith we then chose to walk back to the Waverly Station.

On Saturday 19th July 4 Holy Strollers walked on the recently opened section of the Loch Leven Heritage Trail between Vane Farm and Kinross, which completes the circular trail round the loch. The formal opening ceremony took place on 30th May at the spectacular viewpoint at East Brackley. It was performed by Dame Seona Reid, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund Scotland which had been the major sponsor of the project. Loch Leven is a

sparkling jewel surrounded by rolling hills and fertile farmland. This picturesque loch is a National Nature Reserve with a remarkable range of wild life, including tens of thousands of breeding and wintering birds. We enjoyed exercising in the outdoors and finished up at Lochend Farm Coffee Shop for refreshments.

On 16th August 6 Holy Strollers crossed the Forth and had a lovely walk between Blackness and Bo'ness. The walk is on part of the John Muir Way and took us along an already good footpath which was in process of being upgraded. On one side we had farmland and trees and on the other the Firth of Forth. We had good views across the water to Fife and the Ochils. At the Bo'ness end we reached Carriden Parish Church and the ruins of the adjacent former church which dates back more than 200 years. Within the shell of the old church are several well tended graves of well known local families. Fellowship continued over refreshments and retail therapy at the New Hopetoun Garden Centre.

Future walks will be held on 20th September in the Kinghorn area and on 18th October between St Andrews and Craigtoun. Further details can be had from Jenny McLeod, 01592 268415, j.mcleod415@btinternet.com.

Pastoral Care

The pastoral Care Team appreciates the information it receives from elders/members etc. Please continue to pass on any information/news about our members. Contact Anne Steward on 262988, Rosie Frew on 260315 or Morna Scriven on 268172 (who keeps a special eye on members in care homes).

Thursday Fellowship Group

In May Mark Prowe was the speaker at our meeting when he spoke about the Food Bank organised in Kirkcaldy. It is a large organisation receiving gifts of food items, keeping records of the recipients etc. and all people helping are volunteers. Donations are collected from various churches and supermarkets and other points round the town and are stored and distributed from Dysart Church. Most of the people who receive parcels are on benefits which have been reduced and causing hardship.

In June we had a very interesting demonstration of two floral arrangements by Pat Nuthall, one of our members. As she worked Pat explained all the greenery she used and as the display grew by the addition of the colourful flowers, they were very impressive. As Pat worked she told us some of her experiences attending shows and festivals and of the various themes used in displays.



At our August meeting we shared stories of Rosie and Dave's holiday in Europe during July. Starting off at Kirkcaldy by train to Newcastle then by ferry to Immogen in Holland, we "got

on our bikes” and visited Holland, Belgium, Germany and Luxumburg. Dave had planned the route through lovely countryside visiting quaint villages and larger towns. They camped en route or stopped for B &B on occasion. The roads in Europe are well geared up for cycling which makes it very pleasant for people (of all ages) enjoying this type of holiday. Weather was good most of the time but they did encounter some VERY wet days. All too soon we were back at the Ferry to Newcastle and home to Kirkcaldy. A total of 1040 miles had been travelled. Rosie was thanked for a most interesting afternoon.

Jean Walsh

The Session has respectfully accepted Jean Walsh’s resignation as an Elder. Until her deteriorating health forced her to cease attending on a Sunday, Jean was an active member of Abbotshall, giving of her time with commitment and enthusiasm. She carried out her duties as an Elder with dignity, and the minister valued her local knowledge when it came to the administering of Home Communion, a task she assisted with for a year or two. Jean was also a regular member of the Prayer Group for many years.

Now resident in Marchmont Care Home, we thank Jean for her example of Christian living and wish her well in her new surroundings.

Morag Michael

Session Clerk

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

With the days shortening and the nights lengthening our thoughts are with winter approaching, and of course that means that the Christmas Fayre will once again be upon us. The date this year is **Saturday 8th November.**

All the usual stalls, home baking, jams, confectionery, tombola, craft, greeting cards, cosmetics, bric a brac and raffles, all will be there.

WE HOPE YOU WILL BE TOO.

All donations and enquires please to Bill Page on 262009.

Tickets on sale soon at £2.

Thank You

Bill Page

BEREAVEMENT

We were saddened at the passing of John Gourlay in August;

Baptisms

Max David Salmond was baptised on Sunday 22 June 2014;

Eve, Lawson & James Duncan were baptised on Sunday 3 August 2014.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Frank and Pat Nuthall celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary in August.



NEXT NEWSLETTER – ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION 2014

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 9 November 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

The 2014 Shoe Box Appeal

This year is the 21st anniversary of Blythswood running the appeal and over 1.7 Million boxes have been donated and distributed through the years.

You can help us this year by filling a box yourself or as part of your church, school or other organisations you belong to.

It's not difficult to choose gifts for someone who has so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty.

Boxes will go to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia this year.

By filling a shoebox you can bring some joy and laughter this year and share the true meaning of Christmas from heart to heart.

Harvest Thanksgiving at Abbotshall Church is on 28th September. We will again support Blytheswood Care Shoe Box Appeal at this service. If time is short you have until **Sunday 26th October** to hand in your shoe box.

A dedication service for the shoeboxes filled and collected in Kirkcaldy for Blytheswood Care will be held in Templehall Church on **Thursday 6th November** at 2pm. The church will be open from 10.30am to receive shoeboxes.



Donations of home baking etc for the coffee mornings would be appreciated very much.

Volunteers are also required to help out at the coffee mornings.

MANY THANKS

Newsletter dates for next year

Sunday 16th November 2014
Sunday 1st February 2015
Sunday 3rd May 2015
Sunday 6th September 2015

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 coordinator, SU group leaders/helpers
- Financial support – from 2015 KART needs to raise an additional £10000 each year as start-up grants from external funders come to an end.

Your church leadership team will soon be sent a comprehensive information pack about KART's activities and ways in which churches and individuals can help. Please consider what you can do to support this essential work of outreach to young people in your area.

Thank you, KART management committee

Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust (KART, K.A.R.T.) is a charitable body,
registered in Scotland, with registration number SC037866

To contact KART email the secretary: - enquiries@kart.me.uk

or the treasurer: finance@kart.me.uk

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

You can donate to KART:

- via standing order (SO and gift aid forms are on the website or available from the treasurer. Some copies of the forms have also been sent to your church leader),
 - online at <http://www.btplc.com/mydonate> (charity name KART),
- when you shop online by using the <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> website (charity name Kirkcaldy Area Reachout Trust)

by using the <http://www.easysearch.org.uk> search engine and by text at JustTextGiving (text to 70070 with the message KART07 £x showing how much you would like to donate eg KART07£10).

Diary Dates

Sunday 7 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 1 - Gifts from God, gifts for God

Saturday 13 September, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning

Sunday 14 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 2 - Support one another

Sunday 21 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 3 - Our giving helps the church grow

Thursday 25 September, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 25 September, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting

Sunday 28 September, 11.00am – Stewardship 4 - Harvest Thanksgiving

Saturday 11 October, 10.00am-12noon – Coffee Morning

Thursday 30 October, 2.00pm - Thursday Fellowship Group **Thursday 30**

October, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Sunday 2 November, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Saturday 8 November, 10.00am – 12 noon – Christmas Fayre

Sunday 9 November, 10.50am – Remembrance Sunday Service

Wednesday 26 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Thursday 27 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group