

Abbotshall Church **Thursday 5th September 2013**

which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly convened with prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with I Clark, A Duncan, T Espie, Jane Gilmour, J McLeod, M Michael, D Murray, J Napier, B Page, M Petrie, A Steward.
- Apologies** I Anderson, M Baxendine, P Bell, J Browning, S Docherty, R Duncan, Jim Gilmour, J Henderson, R Henderson, R Macintyre, R Michael, A Moyes, M Scriven, E Smith, J Scott.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 6th June 2013 were approved.
- Matters Arising**
- a) Website working smoothly. A number of new bookings coming from it.
 - b) Church to be prepared for Communion prior to Session Meeting on 31st October. Available Elders to meet in church at 7.00pm.
- Deputy Session Clerk** It would be good to make an appointment soon. Interested Elders should speak to the Minister.
- Prayer Promoter** Morag has indicated that she wishes to stand down from this role. It's a job that could be shared by a couple of people. Members of Prayer Group to be approached first but anyone interested should speak to the Minister or Morag.
- Communion** Invitations are being printed and will be used for the first time. Morag will give full instructions on how this should be done. It was agreed that whilst it would be helpful for invitations to be brought to Communion it was not compulsory. We want to move away from the feeling of having attendance taken whilst acknowledging that it's a helpful indicator of involvement. We will re-assess after Communion. Morag has already asked for those unable to attend to let her know.
- Review of districts** There is a real disparity in the sizes of Elders' districts which will need to be addressed. A greater use of the postal district could go some way to solving this. Elders will be asked to indicate those in their district with whom there is little or no contact. In the context of the Stewardship of Time this has to be seen as a better use of time.
- Celebrate and Discover** The Minister read the following report from Anne Moyes and Morna Scriven:-
- ‘On behalf of Abbotshall Church, Morna Scriven and Anne Moyes attended the first planning meeting for the next Kirkcaldy Presbytery Celebrate and Discover event taking place in Kirkcaldy High School on 22nd March 2014. The theme for this event is “I am the vine and you are the branches”.

We are asked as a congregation to

- show what we are doing day by day, week by week as a branch of the vine.
- display what we can celebrate about our church life, what we are involved in.
- share ideas with others
- creatively interpret this Bible passage in whatever way we think relates to our congregation.

1. Every church in the Kirkcaldy Presbytery is asked to contribute towards the main display hall with a visual display of how their congregation lives out these words.
2. In addition to the displays will also be 4 workshops to either help with or attend on the day. Workshops will last for approximately one hour and will happen twice in the day. Each workshop will be chaired by someone knowledgeable in that field. It is hoped one or two members would be willing to come along and talk for five minutes on how they contribute in their church to the topics.

The workshops are:

Stewardship
Pastoral Care
Out of Schools Clubs
Worship.

3. It is also hoped to have a Messy Church and Young Church section which will run throughout the day. Volunteers will be needed to help in this area.
4. Everyone will then be invited to gather together at the end of the afternoon for closing worship. A choir is planned and also a band to lead the singing so an appeal goes out to singers and instrumentalists to help here.

The school will be divided into zones with many interesting displays, workshops, prayer events and a refreshments area.

Stewards will also be needed to help navigate people round the outside of the school and inside.

A detailed advert has gone into the Church newsletter so you can read fully all the appeals for help in all the areas. The Presbytery team of organisers would welcome names of volunteers as soon as possible so that they have an indication of how many helpers they have. At present nothing is set in stone!

Following the initial meeting, Morna, Anne together with Jenny McLeod, our Presbytery Elder, met to decide how Abbotshall Church will contribute. We have some homework to do and are

meeting again before the end of September. Following that meeting we will be approaching the Church organisations with suggestions of how they can contribute/help.

Kirk Sessions are asked to keep this topic on their agendas from now until March for discussion every time we meet. A report on how we are progressing will be given at the next Session Meeting’.

**Kirkcaldy
Foodbank**

The Minister read an e-mail from the organisers of the Kirkcaldy Foodbank outlining the progress with this project to date. Churches are asked to support the project and volunteers are needed to fill a number of roles. The minister will include this in Church intimations and make application forms available.

**Training on
Dementia**

The town centre churches are holding a training day for elders and pastoral care visitors on the pastoral care of those with dementia. This will be on Saturday 26 October in St Bryce Kirk Centre. An indication of numbers is requested by the end of September. Anne Steward will circulate details around the Pastoral Care Team.

**Stewardship
Season**

September is our Stewardship Season. This year we are focusing on the Stewardship of Time during 5 themed services. This is deliberately ‘low key’ as we will be looking at the Stewardship of Money next year which will involve a lot more planning, time and effort.

Safeguarding

Mike Baxendine was not at the meeting. Anne Steward has received her PVG clearance. A number of others are in the pipeline. Ministers are to be ‘processed’ over the coming year alphabetically by Presbytery. There is another training event soon.

**Presbytery
Update**

Jenny reported on the last 2 meetings of Presbytery
June 25th:-

- 4 ministers, including Rosie Frew, were congratulated on having reached the 25th anniversary of their ordination

September 3rd:-

- 6 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 will be held on Sunday 27th October
- Applications for Reduction in Ministry and Mission Allocations must be submitted by 8th October
- To help develop a network of *Congregational Learning* Facilitators, Presbytery urges 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 was our Youth Representative at this year's General Assembly. Craig gave a very interesting and enthusiastic illustrated report about his memorable week
- Congregations are encouraged to reflect on their community involvement
- An update was given re Celebrate & Discover

Prayer Promoter's Report

Very little to report as the annual round of meetings has not begun. Need for a replacement stressed.

Pastoral Care Update

Anne had very little to report. It has been a quiet (and healthy) summer. She updated Session on a number of members who had received visits, prayer shawls etc.

Diary dates

Sundays 1,8,15,22 September – Stewardship of Time
Saturday 14 September, 10.00am-12 noon – Coffee Morning
Thurs 26 September, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group (Jim Henderson – Scotland on Film)
Thursday 26 September, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting.
Sunday 29 September – Harvest Thanksgiving
Saturday 12 October, 10.00am-12 noon – Coffee Morning
Saturday 26 October – Dementia Training
Thursday 31 October, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group (Morag Michael – Iona)
Thursday 31 October, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Sunday 3 November, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Friday 8 November 9.40am, 11.00am, 1.40pm – Kirkcaldy West School visits to Abbotshall
Saturday 9 November, 10.00am-12noon – Christmas Fayre
Sunday 10 November, 10.50am – Remembrance Sunday Service
Wed 27 and Thurs 28 November – Christian Resources Exhibition, Ingliston
Thursday 28 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group (St Andrew's Day Celebration)
Thursday 28 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Day of Session meetings

A number of Elders have never been able to attend Session meetings as they have other commitments on a Thursday. After discussion it was agreed to look at meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in rotation. Dates for 2013 are already set. The minister and the Clerks to the Session and Board will draft a provisional programme of meetings for 2014 for discussion at our next meeting. It was acknowledged that there would never be a day or time that suited everyone.

