

## Abbotshall Church

Wednesday 24 February 2016

which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly convened with a reading from Luke 9:51, a short homily and a prayer.

### Sederunt

Rev R Frew with I Anderson, J Browning, G Bruce, I Clark, A Duncan, B Farrell, M Hope, J McLeod, M Michael, R Michael, A Moyes, D Murray, B Page, J Paton, M Petrie, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward, K Wilkie.

### Apologies

M Baxendine, S Docherty, J Farrell, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, J Napier.

### Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were approved.

### Matters Arising

A report of the “*Think u Know*” safeguarding course was in the agenda.

Anne Steward reminded Elders of the need to keep her informed of members who might benefit from pastoral care.

Comments had been made regarding worship in the halls. Elders were asked to seek views from members during communion rounds.

A new church duty rota was now available. Worshippers who sit upstairs will be asked to place their offering in plates at the gallery stairs’ doors. Elders were asked to explain this during communion rounds.

### How Will our Children have Faith

The following Learn resource was brought to the attention of the Session.



Where are our children and young people? Should we employ a youth worker? Is what we are doing working? If you have asked these questions, then this discussion guide is for you. It will take you through four steps, helping you to reflect on and evaluate ministry with children and young people in your church.

‘How will our children have faith’ will help congregations ask ‘Why?’ they should run a children or youth ministry before they ask ‘How?’ to do it. This short guide is designed to facilitate a discussion about their ministry in this area of church life. We hope that by working through this resource, congregations will be able to understand the importance and the purpose of their

work with children and young people before starting up activities.

- Messy Church** Elders were invited to attend visits to see messy church in action. Those interested should advise Rosie.  
Pathead---Sundays 28<sup>th</sup> February and 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm  
Kinghorn—Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am to 12 noon.
- Developing Prayer** Attendance at the prayer meetings had reduced to two plus the minister. Various aspects of this were reviewed and the minister appealed for more support.
- Souper Sunday** Arrangements for this on Sunday 13 March were nearly complete. The Session Clerk was seeking additional participants for the service.
- Lent Bible Study** The Minister intimated that the Lent Study group had joined up with our neighbours to offer Lent Studies at 3 different times and venues.
- Easter Services** On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm there would be an Easter service at Raith Manor Care Home. Elders were encouraged to attend.  
  
On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March there would be a Holy Week service at Abbotshall after which it was hoped that tea and coffee would be available.
- Presbytery Update** The recently ordained Rev Scott McCrum was welcomed to his first meeting since his induction to the charge of Christ's Kirk in Glenrothes.  
  
Miss Iona Pringle was welcomed as the new Ministries Development Staff worker with Kennoway, Windygates and Balgonie: St Kenneth's  
  
Rev Cole Maynard, Deputy Assistant Chaplain General to the Army, gave an overview of his work as a padre in the armed forces.  
  
Overture amending the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships (Act I 2015): – Rev Rosemary Frew, in her role as Presbytery Clerk, explained that the reason why this Act is already in need of amendment is a result of the passing of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Act 2014 permitting same sex marriage to ensure that there is no anomaly in Church Law. Voting took place in a secret ballot and resulted in 32 votes for and 20 against the amendment. Nothing in this Act implies that the Church permits or will permit its ministers or deacons to register civil partnerships or solemnise same sex marriages.  
  
Presbytery representatives had met with Fife Migrants Forum

which had advised that at present opportunities to give practical support to Syrian Refugees was limited.

Last year the Church of Scotland had accepted twenty seven candidates for the ministry which included two from the Kirkcaldy Presbytery.

Presbytery was shown two video clips from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection organisation as an introduction to “The Parents and Carers Guide to the Internet” programme. Congregations had sent representatives to a meeting on 18th January 2016 to view the video in full.

### **Safeguarding**

Two Elders had attended the “*Think u Know*” Safeguarding course aimed at parents, grandparents and those who look after children and young adults. This pilot course on Monday 18th January had been very enlightening. There is another 90 minute training session to be held at St Bryce Church on the Saturday 30th April at St Bryce at 10am. This programme is designed for parents, grandparents and those who come in contact with young people to increase the awareness of risks associated with the use of the Internet and social media. Elders should advise Mike Baxendine if they wish to attend.

### **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care group had met recently. The Prayer Shawl Ministry was bringing great comfort for those receiving a shawl many of whom expressed deep gratitude for their gift. Anne reminded Elders to keep her informed of members who might benefit from pastoral care.

### **Correspondence**

Morag Michael reminded the Session of the walk by Peter MacDonald, leader of the Iona Community, to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Abbey property. The walking group intend to join him while he is in Fife.

The Church of Scotland central office is holding a conference on 15th March entitled “Civil law and the Church.” Tickets are available for interested elders.

Elders were reminded of the Tulliallan conference as follows.

#### **Conference**

**29-30 April, Tulliallan Police College, Kincardine-on-Forth**

Coming shortly before the launch of the important new Learn 'Office Bearers' publication, this conference is an exciting opportunity for office bearers in local congregations to connect with one another, to be resourced for the tasks ahead, and to be inspired in their important work. Join us for workshops, speakers, worship, and time to meet others

serving across the country!

The following summer school was recommended by the Session Clerk. Details are available on the web.

**Going for Growth Summer School**

**6-9 June 2016, West Park Conference Centre, Dundee**

'The map is not the territory'

Come and learn more about mission and leadership in  
21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland.

**Willie  
Beveridge**

Willie had asked to have his line transferred to St Margaret's in Glenrothes. As Willie had served Abbotshall faithfully for many years including as Session Clerk this was sad news, however, his reasons were respectfully acknowledged. The Minister and Session Clerk had written to him and had contacted his new minister and been assured that he would be made very welcome.

**Stewardship**

An account was given of a recent meeting of the core stewardship group. This had reviewed the stewardship plan conceived some four years previously and its outcomes which had yielded many benefits to the life of the congregation although outreach had been a struggle. It was decided to continue with the same four year cycle starting again this year with the stewardship of talents. This would be based on the interchange of talents between the generations and would involve the Scouts and Guides as much as possible.

**Communion**

Set up would take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 3 pm. Elders were encouraged to help.

**AOCB**

Early services during June and August had been met with a mixed reception. As there was no clear resolution to their timing elders were asked to consult the congregation and advise accordingly.

Jenny McLeod stated that, as a consequence of the Pilgrims' Way Challenge, funds had been sent to Malawi and Nepal as well as a cheque for Abbotshall..

**Diary dates**

*Monday 29 February to Sunday 13 March – Fairtrade Fortnight*

*Sunday 6 March, 9.00 am and 11.00 am – Communion*

*Saturday 12 March, 10.00am – Coffee Morning*

*Sunday 13 March, 11.00am – Souper Sunday Service*

*Sunday 20 March, 11.00am – Palm Sunday Service*

*Sunday 20 March, 2.00 pm – Easter Service in Abbotsford Raith  
Manor*

*Tuesday 22 March, 7.00 pm – Holy Week Service in Abbotshall*  
*Wednesday 23 March, 7.00pm – Holy Week Service in Linktown Church*  
*Thursday 24 March, 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Communion Service in Bennoch Church*  
*Friday 25 March, 7.00pm – Good Friday Service in St Bryce Kirk.*  
*Sunday 27 March, 8.30am – Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park (by the fountain)*  
*Sunday 27 March, 11.00 am – Easter Sunday Service*  
*Thursday 31 March, 7.30pm – Trustees meeting.*  
*Saturday 9 April, 10.00am – Coffee Morning*  
*Sunday 17 April – Annual Stated Meeting following morning worship*  
*Saturday 14 May, 10.00am – Coffee morning*  
*Saturday 21-Friday 27 May – General Assembly*  
*Sunday 22 May, afternoon – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens*  
*Sunday 5 June, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper*  
*Sunday 10 July, 11.00am – United Service in Bennoch Church*  
*Sunday 17 July, 11.00am – United Service in St Bryce Kirk*  
*Sunday 24 July, 11.00am – United Service in Linktown Church*  
*Sunday 31 July, 11.00am – United Service in Abbotshall.*

**Dates of next meetings**

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 pm - Kirk Session  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 pm - Kirk Session.

**Closing Prayer**

The meeting was closed by the Session saying “*The Grace*” together.

**Action Items**

Comments had been made regarding worship in the halls. Elders were asked to seek views from members during communion rounds. Elders

A new church duty rota was now available. Worshippers who sit upstairs will be asked to place their offering in a plate at the gallery stairs’ doors. Elders were asked to explain this during communion rounds. Elders

Elders were invited to attend visits to see Messy Church in action:- Pathead----Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm Elders

Kinghorn—Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 10am to 12 noon. Those interested should advise Rosie.

Souper Sunday arrangements on 13 March were nearly complete. The Session Clerk was seeking additional participants for the service. Elders

There is another “*Think u Know*” 90 minute training session to be held at St Bryce Church on the Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April at St Bryce at 10am. Elders should advise Mike Baxendine if they wish to attend. Elders

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Minute Clerk

Moderator