

Abbotshall Church **Thursday 24th November 2016**
which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with a reading and prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with I Anderson, A Duncan, B Farrell, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, M Hope, M Michael, J McLeod, D Murray, W Page, J Napier, M Petrie, M Scriven, A Steward.
- Apologies** M Baxendine, J Browning, G Bruce, S Docherty, R Henderson, R Michael, A Moyes, E Smith, K Wilkie.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2016 were approved.
- Matters Arising** Reminder from Session Clerk about checking duty rota and arranging cover when necessary.
- Christmas Services** The Moderator outlined the Christmas services planned in both the church and parish. See diary dates. Elders were encouraged to invite those who find access to the church difficult to the Thursday Fellowship Group Christmas Celebration in the Church Hall.
- Build A House** As previously agreed, the retiring offerings on Communion Sunday were earmarked for World Mission's 'Build A House' project. Almost £200 was collected. During Advent there will be a retiring offering for 'Build A House' each week as well as collecting boxes to fill. The retiring offerings on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will also be included. Each congregation in the Church of Scotland has been challenged to raise at least £500 to help rebuild houses in Nepal following last year's devastating earthquake.
- Stewardship** Jim Browning had reported to the Moderator that a number of Talent Exchange Cards had been submitted. The deadline is Sunday 27 November.
- Messy Church** 6 members of Abbotshall have been involved with Messy Church at Bennoch. The general feeling is that it is a lot of work and a very big commitment. The next Messy Church is a Christmas one on Sunday 11 December. A decision about future involvement will be made thereafter.
- Twinning – Jenny Featherstone** Rosie and Morag attended a meeting arranged by Rev Robin McAlpine to discuss a more formal twinning arrangement with our Missionary Partner Jenny Featherstone who serves as Principal of Chodort College in Zambia. Representatives from Abbotshall, Bennoch, Burntisland and Auchterderran Kinglassie were present along with 2 representatives from the World Mission Council. Robin had visited Jenny in Zambia last year. All agreed that we wanted to do more to support Jenny and in a more co-ordinated way. A variety of options were

discussed. The World Mission reps were going to speak with Jenny to ascertain what kind of support would be most useful for her. She has just signed a further 5 year contract.

- Safeguarding** Michael Baxendine submitted a report - Safeguarding refresher training is required every 5 years for all those who are currently covered under Safeguarding. Refresher training for Abbotshall will start to be required from Q3 2017. I will notify our people when they need to be refreshed by undertaking the half day course.
- Pastoral Care** Anne Steward reported that the work of the Pastoral Care Group carries on as usual. She is currently organising the Christmas cards/calendars for distribution around the congregation. A number of particular pastoral issues were discussed.
- Presbytery Update** Jenny McLeod reported that Presbytery met on 1st November in Pathhead Church for a Celebration of the Lord's Supper. This was followed by a conference session entitled Faith in Older People. Maureen O'Neill, Director of Faith in Older People led the session. Their mission is to enable a better understanding of the importance of the spiritual dimension to the well-being of older people.
- Correspondence** Morag drew the Session's attention to the next Vocations Conference to be held on 25 February 2017 at Macdonald Crutherland House, East Kilbride. Morag then went on to share with Session the training she had recently undertaken to be an Assessor at Ministry Selection Schools. She was just about to take an active part in her first Selection School. She asked for the prayers of the Kirk Session for this important, potentially life changing responsibility.
- Diary dates**
- Sunday 11 December, 11.00am – Gift Service
 - Sunday 11 December, 3.30pm – Messy Church in Bennoch Church Hall
 - Thursday 15 December, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group Christmas Celebration
 - Saturday 17 December, 5.00pm – Christingle Service
 - Sunday 18 December, 11.00am – Young Church Christmas Service
 - Sunday 18 December, 2.30pm – Christmas Service in Abbotsford Milton Road
 - Thursday 22 December, 2.30pm – Christmas Service in Abbotsford Raith Monor
 - Saturday 24 December, 11.15pm – Carol Singing and Watchnight Service
 - Sunday 25 December, 11.00am – Christmas Day Service
 - Sunday 1 January, 11.00am – United Service in Linktown Church
 - Saturday 14 January, 10.00am – Coffee Morning
 - Thursday 19 January, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

- Sunday 29 January, 2.30pm - Service in Abbotsford Milton Road
- Thursday 2 February, 2.30pm - Service in Abbotsford Raith Manor
- Saturday 11 February, 10.00am – Coffee Morning
- Thursday 16 February, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Dates of next meetings

Thursday 26 January, 7.30pm – Trustees followed by Congregational Board meeting

Wednesday 22 February, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting.

Thursday 30 March, 7.30pm – Trustees followed by Kirk Session meeting.

ASM – provisionally Sunday 23 April 2017

Closing Prayer

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

Action Items

Check duty rota!!

All elders

Minute Clerk

Moderator