

Abbotshall Church**Wednesday 27 April 2016**

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

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with J Browning, G Bruce, I Clark, R Duncan, T Espie, Jane Gilmour, J McLeod, M Michael, R Michael, J Napier, M Scriven, E Smith, K Wilkie.
- Apologies** I Anderson, M Baxendine, S Docherty, A Duncan, B Farrell, J Farrell, E Fraser, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, M Hope, A Moyes, D Murray, B Page, M Petrie, A Steward.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22nd February 2016 were approved.
- Matters Arising** During communion rounds Elders were still seeking views from members regarding worship in the halls.
- The new church duty rota was now in operation and the gallery offering was being collected at the stairs' doors.
- Souper Sunday on 13th March had been successful.
- Elders wishing to attend the "*Think u Know*" training session at St Bryce Church on Saturday 30th April at 10am were reminded to advise Mike Baxendine.
- Town Centre Churches** This year, by working with our neighbouring churches, 3 study groups were offered in 3 locations at 3 different times. Those who attended really enjoyed the experience and the flexibility but numbers were not great, particularly on the Sunday evening. Looking ahead to next year the ministers were considering a similar format to The God Question – a central venue, watching a film clip and breaking into smaller groups for discussion.
- Summer services on 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st July would explore Paul's journeys.
- A Pentecost 2017 event was discussed and some ideas collected to inform future plans.
- Summer Services** A range of views had been collected from the congregation but there was no consensus regarding the service time. After some discussion it was agreed that there should be one service at 11am organized to create the atmosphere of the 9am service by encouraging the congregation to sit in the central downstairs pews with the choir around the piano. Refreshments would be served in the hall after the service.
- Messy Church** Morag Michael and Elspeth Smith had visited Burntisland on Saturday 19th March from 10am to 12 noon to see Messy Church in action. This is run monthly by Burntisland and

Kinghorn Churches. The essential features of this were:-

- All children are accompanied by an adult
- A lot of grandparents are involved
- Singing, a video and activities with a Christian theme
- Good finger food
- A great atmosphere

The helpers meet monthly, two weeks in advance, to plan the activities with help from the Messy Church web site. As there are already four Messy Church gatherings in Kirkcaldy Rosie would explore combining with Linktown and Bennoch churches. Bennoch has recently begun Messy Church but is finding the commitment hard to maintain.

Developing Prayer

Numbers attending the prayer group have increased. Session and congregation are encouraged to attend and to use the prayer boxes in the church and the halls. "People of the Way." is the new Pray Now resource just published by the Church of Scotland. It gives weekly readings, prayers and meditations and, thanks to a Presbytery bulk order, is available at reduced cost from the minister.

Long Service Certificates

These are in recognition of thirty years' service as an Elder and had not been issued during the last eight years. A list of potential recipients was reviewed and certificates were to be arranged by the Session Clerk. They certificates will be presented at the communion services on Sunday 5th June by the Moderator of the Presbytery.

Presbytery Update

Vine Trust – Liz Bowes addressed Presbytery about the work of the Vine Trust in Peru and Tanzania. In the last few years the Vine Trust's vision and ethos has been "Connecting People to Change Lives". They have built safe accommodation for vulnerable children and orphans and also individual family homes in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania with the help of faithful fundraisers and volunteers. Their two medical ships have provided medical and dental care to poor people living on the banks of the Amazon.

Translations - Rev Richard Baxter from Kennoway, Windygates and Balgonie: St Kenneth's Church to Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh linked with Kilmonivaig. Rev Maudeen MacDougall from Dysart St Clair to Carnwath linked with Carstairs.

Induction - Presbytery met on 12th April for the service of Induction of the Rev Carolann Erskine to Markinch and Thornton.

Missionary Partner –Jenny Featherstone, Missionary Partner, Zambia was visiting Presbytery during April. She came to Abbotshall to the Thursday Fellowship on 21st April and gave

an update of her work with the training college at Chodort.

Refugees –Congregations were encouraged to support the Refugee Befriending Project being run by Fife Migrants Forum.

Rosie intimated that she had been appointed Interim Moderator for Dysart St Clair assisted by Morag and Bill Sweenie, Session Clerk at Burntisland. This was for six months in the first instance to help the congregation find its best way forward.

Jenny Featherstone had sent a card thanking the church for support and the opportunity to speak. It was noted that she does a very difficult job which is to be admired.

Presbytery Elders The Session was grateful that Jenny McLeod and Elspeth Smith agreed to continue for a further year.

Stewardship Jim Browning explained the proposed stewardship of talents activities planned for the autumn. An article giving details of this was to be published in the summer newsletter and Elders were invited to commend it to the congregation. An invitation to the uniformed organisations using the halls to participate was extended and Elspeth Smith agreed to explore this with the various Guide groups.

Safeguarding Elders were reminded of the “*Think u Know*” safeguarding training course to be held at St Bryce Church on the Saturday 30th April at 10am.

Pastoral Care Elders were reminded to keep Anne informed of members who might benefit from pastoral care.

Correspondence The Minister had received a Scottish Church Census form to be completed on Sunday 8th May. Aspects of this gave concern such as the identification of age ranges in the congregation and the publicity associated with the results.

Morag Michael advised elders of the next Vocations Conference for those considering service with the Church of Scotland.

There was to be an Equip event in Dundee on Saturday 18th June organised by the Mission & Discipleship Council, featuring inspiring speakers, practical ideas and useful resources for congregations. A range of workshops - Elders' Visits, Finding Funding, Preparing for Young People, Sharing Faith, Who is my neighbour?

Diary dates *Saturday 14 May, 10.00am – Coffee morning*

Sunday 15 May, 11.00am – Christian Aid Service
Thursday 19 May, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group
Saturday 21-Friday 27 May – General Assembly
Sunday 22 May, afternoon – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens
Wednesday 25 May, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting
Sunday 29 May, 11.00am – Young Church Service

Sunday 5 June, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
Tuesday 7 June, 7.00pm – KART AGM in Abbotshall Church Hall
Saturday 11 June, 10.00am – The Queen’s 90th Birthday Tea and Coffee Party
Thursday 16 June, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group, Picnic in the Park
Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting
Sunday 10 July, 11.00am – United Service in Bennochy 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.

AOCB	The web site had been revised and brought up to date with the front page listing current events.	
Dates of next meetings	Wednesday 25 th May 7.30 pm - Kirk Session.	
Closing Prayer	The meeting was closed by the Session saying “ <i>The Grace</i> ” together.	
Action Items	Ideas for town centre churches combined Lent Studies for 2017 would be explored.	Rosie
		Rosie
	A Pentecost 2017 event was discussed and some ideas collected to inform future plans.	Rosie
	Combined Messy Church gatherings would be explored with Linktown and Bennochy churches.	
		Morag Michael
	Long service certificates were to be	Rosie Frew

arranged by the Session Clerk.

Elspeth Smith

The stewardship of talents activities would be explored with the various guide groups.

Minute Clerk

Moderator

DRAFT