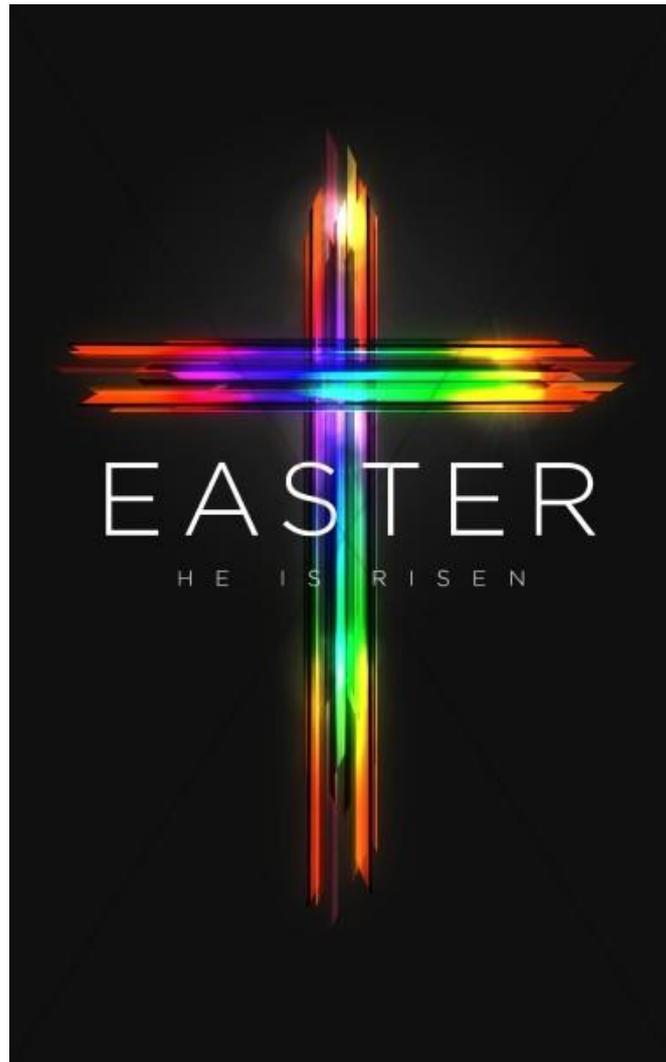


Abbotshall Church Newsletter



SPRING/LENT/EASTER 2020

Greetings from the manse

I spent the beginning of the year looking back at 2019. For us at Abbotshall it has been a trying year but also a year in which to celebrate. Trying in the sense that we have had some hard decisions to make and the loss of some very loved members of our church. However, there is much to celebrate. I feel that we as a community have come on in leaps and bounds and our advent season was a particular highlight for me. Seeing us engage with the community in new ways and building stronger links with each other has been a pleasure to watch.

This year we came closer to balancing the books with regards to finances. People have been incredibly generous not only with their finances but their time and abilities. For all those who have given so generously to the church over the years thank you. I am a firm believer that people will give when they believe in what they are giving to, so thank you.

I am really proud of our little community.

This year brings with it some major changes in the Church structure here in Kirkcaldy. Personally, my time will have to be spread amongst other churches in the Presbytery as well as nationally. With regards to Abbotshall, one thing is certain, that we will have to start working closer with the other churches around us.

I have fallen in love with our community and all we have to offer, and it saddens me that we can't keep things the same. However, we all know that if you love something you share it. No one paints a piece of art and hides it in an attic, rather they share the beauty of what they love doing with others to admire and share in their joy. This is what Abbotshall has to offer the other churches in our community, a sharing of the things we love about our church. We might find that in our mutual sharing other churches bless us in ways we could never imagine. We need to remember that it might be our church, but it is God's Church that we form part of. So, our aim should be together rather than as individuals.

Friends, whatever 2020 brings I pray that we as a community offer each other hope and grace. That we see our future as bright, because I fervently believe that God is still busy in our community. God has not given up on us, and we should not give up on God. There is so much for us to explore and discover, all God requires are eyes to see and a willing heart. Blessings from us all at the manse. Justin

Christian Aid Co-ordinator wanted

The church requires a new Christian Aid Co-ordinator. If you feel this could be something you would like to do then please talk to either Justin or Euan Fraser. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Easter at Abbotshall

Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent is on Wednesday 26th February

Holy Week Services are as follows:-

Monday 6th April at Abbotshall Church at 7pm

Tuesday 7th April at Linktown Church at 7pm

Wednesday 8th April at West End Congregational Church at 7pm

Thursday 9th April (Maundy Thursday Communion) at Bennochry Church at 7pm

Friday 10th April (Good Friday) at St Bryce Kirk at 7pm

On Easter Sunday, 12th April, there will be an 8.30 am service in Beveridge Park by the Fountain then 11 o'clock Morning Worship in the Church.

All are welcome

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!!!

The generosity of Abbotshall Church members over the Christmas period exceeded ALL our expectations, wishes and prayers!

To let you know in detail, the giving was:-

**Retiral collection on Christmas Eve to Kirkcaldy
Food Bank - £439.50**

Christmas Fayre - £2457.11

Christmas Appeal - £6035.00

**These totals are a magnificent effort from all
concerned.**

**This has meant that we virtually paid for the emergency work
at the Manse garage, from our current account, without
raiding our reserves!**

**THANK YOU THANK YOU
THANK YOU THANK YOU**

Abbotshall Craft Group

The group had more successful open mornings last year and were able to donate £1440 to the Church as a result. The first open morning this year will be on Wednesday 29th April, 10.30am until 12 noon in the Kennedy Hall.

The craft group meets on a Wednesday at 10 am in the Kennedy Hall. We would still like to see more people attend both male and female. If you have a craft hobby or a project you are working on (e.g. modelling, art, sewing, knitting etc.) please bring it along and enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

For further information contact Bett Duncan.

Prayer Group

We meet in the Vestry usually on the second and last Sunday in the month for about 15 minutes at 10.10 am. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to join us on any of these dates:-

9th February, 23rd February, 8th March, 29th March, 12th April, 26th April,
10th May, 31st May, 14th June, 28th June.

If there is someone or something you would like the Prayer Group to pray for, please put a note in the prayer boxes in the Church Vestibule or the Church Hall.

Anne Gardner Prayer Promoter 01592 265876

NEWSLETTER REQUESTS

If there is anything you would especially like to see in the newsletter please send your contributions to Diane Murry on e/mail at dianemurray953@btinternet.com or by post to 97 Mellerstain Road, KY2 6UD or leave in our basket in the church vestibule.

It's all in the spelling...

- G** - God
- R** - ran
- A** - alongside
- C** - carrying
- E** - everything

Abbotshall Church Friendship Circle

In September we were entertained by David Muncey telling us his favourite stories etc. and there was much laughter listening to them. He concluded his talk by reading a story he wrote for his son several years ago entitled "What is the missing number". This was a very interesting story and was enjoyed by all present.

In October we welcomed Dorothy Armstrong whose talk was "The Mither Tongue". Dorothy spoke about the way our language has changed particularly in schools and we are losing as many interesting words and phrases we have grown up with. We all had happy memories and there was much laughter when she had us trying to say some of the words and poems she passed round. Again, there was much amusement when Dorothy read a story of how a Scot's lady told of her visit to the opera – most interesting end to the afternoon.

We had a very interesting talk from Susan Hannah in November when she told us about Volunteer Counselling. Susan had done this work with various groups including The Samaritans and told us many interesting facts of that work. She also was a volunteer in the Children's Ward at Victoria Hospital which she enjoyed. Many questions were asked and we learnt a lot from Susan about everyday work being done in our community.

The Young Church at Christmas

Our Snowman Drive was a great success with over 50 people (of all ages) attending. Great fun was had by all and the fellowship continued over tea, mince pies and cake

The Christmas Disco was well attended and was enjoyed by all with fun and games and a lovely tea before going to the church for the Christingle Service.

The Christingle was different this year with Justin telling the Christmas story with a chocolate theme. This was enjoyed by all the children when they were able to pick up the sweets from the clues given.

The Young Church contribution the next day told the story again in a different form but was very enjoyable and informative. The cast included a snowman, a penguin, a cow, a sheep and a cat with Mr Page as Santa helped by Diane and Suzanne was the narrator. Well done to everybody.

Blue Christmas

At the beginning of December, a service was held and despite the wind and rain a fair number of people attended. With readings and hymns and a time of reflection Justin led us

very well. It was a nice gesture when we were able to place personal messages on the Christmas tree. Thank you, Justin, for this service.

Granny's Cakes

You know I loved my granny and my granny she loved me
And every Sunday afternoon she had me round for tea
The school days passed so slowly, but Sunday was full of glee
For then I went to Granny's and the cake she had made for me.

Her table was so beautiful with sandwiches, scones and tea
And a lovely white tablecloth so nice you must agree
As I walked into the kitchen her face a treat to see
As she laid it on the table, the cake she had made for me.

I never knew what cake she'd make; it was a surprise you see
It could be chocolate gateau, sponge cake or torte
An as she cut a big slice, I hoped it was for me
It always was, I always knew when she baked a cake for me.

Now granny's gone, the house is bare, so sad for me to see
When I think of all the happy times, she used to spend with me
But looking in a cupboard were papers plain to see
Receipts from Stuart the baker, for the cakes she'd bought for me.

Now that I'm diabetic sweet things I canna take
But I still go down to Stuarts to buy my Sunday cake
As I lay it on the table, I have a little grin
As I show it to MY GRANDSON, the cake I made for him.

(Poem submitted by Jim Henderson, one of our former members now residing in Muir of Ord)

Lent – a good time to deepen your prayer life

Lent is a time to take stock of ourselves spiritually. This includes setting aside extra time for prayer. Here are some helpful things to remember as you settle down to it: People have been praying since Adam had a grandson named Enosh. The Bible tells us (Genesis 4:26) that it was during his days when 'men began to call on the name of the Lord'. They have been doing it ever since. 9

People have had their prayers answered by God since Genesis, too. But if you want to read some beautiful prayers – and answers to them, browse through the Psalms. Again and again the psalmist writes: "the Lord heard my cry". So – what do you need to bring to prayer? Just the tiniest amount of faith that God is even there.... Jesus assures us that even faith as big as a tiny mustard seed will be effective.

What gives you the right to come before Almighty God? Jesus does. The Bible is clear that "there is one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ". (1 Timothy 2:5) The Bible makes clear that God does not stand on ceremony – in fact, He prefers our personal, spontaneous prayers. Jesus was very matter of fact about it: "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:6)

The Bible assures us that prayer will bring us good things: "we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need". (Hebrews 4:16)

Above all, prayer must be made with a pure heart. "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened." (Psalm 66:18) That simply means that if you know you are doing something wrong, and intend to keep right on doing it, don't waste your time praying.

Finally, what can be the results of your prayers this Lent? Well, here are seven, for starters....

1. Joy and deep happiness. (John 16:24)
2. Relief from your worry, stress and tension (Philippians 4:6,7)
3. Wisdom and more mental clarity (James 1:5,6)
4. Protection and deliverance from temptations (Matthew 26:41)
5. An ability to share the Good News of Jesus to other people (Matthew 9:38)
6. Strength to persevere when you feel under spiritual attack (Ephesians 6:18)
7. A growing thankfulness to God, who is worthy of all glory (Revelation 4:11)

TWO WAYS YOU CAN NOW RAISE FUNDS FOR ABBOTSHALL CHURCH

Some changes have arisen re how we as members can raise funds for Abbotshall Church online. Until very recently the way to do this was by using the website easyfundraising.org.uk This still applies to all retailers but now Amazon is separate and their fundraising website is called **Amazon Smile**.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Abbotshall Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the church.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?

Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations to charities by Amazon. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for smile.amazon.co.uk donation" on their product detail pages.

Can I use my existing Amazon.co.uk account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on amazon.co.uk and AmazonSmile.

How do I select a charitable organisation to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk you need to select Abbotshall Church as the organisation to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.co.uk will result in a donation. AmazonSmile will occasionally contact you about donation amounts disbursed to your chosen charity or about the programme.

Please remember to still use **Easyfundraising.org.uk** for all other online purchases. Abbotshall Church is very grateful for any donation you can raise.

Thank you.

BEREAVEMENTS

We were saddened at the passing of Jean Butchart in November;
Bette Wallace, Brian Sayer both in December;
Laura Morris, daughter of Valerie Elder and the late Alex Elder, in January.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Morna and Peter Scriven celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in December.

MANY THANKS

Thank you for the beautiful plant given by the church and for the many cards and good wishes sent to us for our Golden Wedding Anniversary. **Morna and Peter Scriven**

PASTORAL CARE

Many of you will be aware that the Pastoral Care format is being “refurbished “, so to speak - just small improvements to the organisation.

The bible speaks of us using our unique God given gifts to work with God in caring for all in our community. With this in mind, we are inviting anyone who is interested in joining the team, or finding out more about ways to help, to a short meeting after the service on Sunday 1 March, when Justin, Morna and I will be very happy to speak with you regarding any queries you may have.

Look forward to seeing you then - Sunday 1 March.

Anne Steward

Hedges

A hedge around your property is good for you. A recent study has found that the humble hedge, when in full leaf, can cut air pollution around it by up to half.

A recent study by the University of Guildford measured traffic pollutants on either side of a hedge in a park on the road to Guildford. The survey found that the level of particulate pollutions – those tiny particles of soot and other matter that cause illness – was cut by half after the hedge reached full leaf in April.

So – if your home is along a busy road, grow a hedge!

Communion at Abbotshall in 2020

Changes to Communion at Abbotshall in 2020. There will now be only two formal Communion services but two informal services have been introduced. Common Cup and individual glasses will be offered at formal Communion services. These new arrangements mean you will only have two visits from your elder per year, one in January and one in October. The new arrangements are detailed below:-

Sunday 2nd February Formal Communion at 11am (Common Cup and individual glasses offered.)

Sunday 3rd May Informal Communion at 11am.

Sunday 2nd August Informal Communion at 11am.

Sunday 1st November Formal Communion at 11am. (Common Cup and individual glasses offered.)

Justin will also be offering time for informal communion in the church on the last Sunday of every month during 2020 after morning worship apart from July and December when we visit other churches.

Please remember that there is an informal communion on the second Wednesday of every month and then time for tea and a chat in the Kennedy Hall at 2pm.

All are welcome.

and further dates for your diary

Saturday 8th February Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 26th February Friendship Circle to 2pm

Saturday 14th March Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 25th March Friendship Circle at 2pm

Saturday 11th April Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 29th April Craft Group Open Morning 10.30am to 12 noon in Kennedy Hall

Wednesday 29th April Friendship Circle at 2pm

Saturday 9th May Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 27th May Friendship Circle

Saturday 13th June Coffee Morning 10am to 12 noon

Wednesday 24th June Friendship Circle Outing

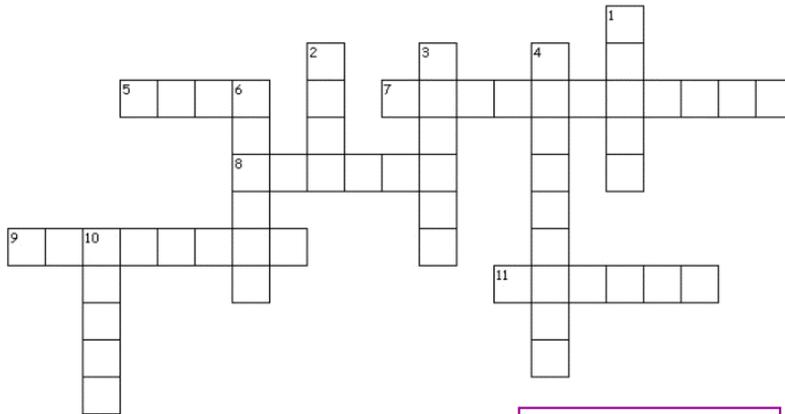
NEXT NEWSLETTER – SUMMER EDITION 2020

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 26 April 2020**. 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

Childrens' Page

Easter Crossword



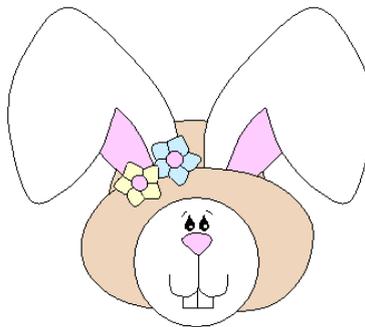
Word List:
basket, chick, chocolate,
crack, duckling, eggs, lamb,
marshmallow, pastel, rabbit,
spring

Across

- 5. Which came first? The chickens or the _____?
- 7. ooey, gooey goodness
- 8. Animal that brings treats and eats carrots.
- 9. baby duck
- 11. Container for collecting eggs at Easter.

Down

- 1. If you drop an Easter egg, it will _____.
- 2. baby sheep
- 3. Pale, light colors.
- 4. Tasty, decadent treat.
- 6. Easter's season
- 10. baby chicken



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