

MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends

Like most people, I like receiving phone calls from friends and family. I also like surprises.

Earlier this year I received both of these at the same time when I got a call from the Convenor of the Presbytery Vacancy Procedure Committee asking me if I would be Interim Moderator at Abbotshall Parish Church. I had finished my training last year and was shadowing one of the present Interim Moderators of Presbytery, but was I ready for this? I needed time to think and pray about this.

I had lots of support, both from my own minister in Kinghorn, Jim Reid, as well as from other Interim Moderators, but I think that mostly I listened to what God was saying. I accepted and then promptly went on holiday for three weeks, still praying about my time at Abbotshall.

At a church service in Apache Trail, Arizona (yes that really is the name!) during a time of silent prayer I suddenly felt relaxed about Abbotshall. I knew then that God had listened to all my worries and he had answered them and yes, I could do this.

Some of you may be wondering why you have both Locum ministers as well as an Interim Moderator. The best way to describe it is that Catriona and Marc look after your spiritual well being and I look after the “legal” side of things for you during the vacancy. Thank you, Catriona and Marc, for agreeing to increase your work load.

There are set procedures that a church has to go through in a vacancy and my job is to make sure that they are done correctly. If you are unsure about any aspect of the vacancy, please don't hesitate to speak to me and I will answer any questions that you might have. If I don't know the answer, I will find out for you.

I have great support from your office bearers and Kirk Session, who are at the end of a telephone and/or an email and so I end my letter with a huge “thank you” to them all. You are making my task so much easier.

Blessings

Ena Hudson

Interim Moderator

From Marc Prowe, our Locum Minister

Passion / Easter time services 2017

Easter services this year again were shared between the 4 town centre churches (of Scotland) Abbotshall, Bennoch, Linktown (linked with Auchtertool), St Bryce Kirk and provided an interesting and stimulating, thought-provoking approach to the Passion and Easter story: March/ April 2017.

We read parts of the Passion story on Sunday 26th March, involving many from the congregation in a reading & singing service.

On Palm Sunday Marc led worship reflecting on "if Christ's disciples keep quiet, these stone will shout aloud", and following that we had a nearly full week of evening services in "Holy Week".

Tuesday in St.BryceKirk, where Ken drew the parallels between a modern whistle-blower and Jesus "cleaning" the temple by turning over tables/stalls; the ancient temple featured, too.

On Wednesday Marc in Abbotshall took Jesus "I am the vine - you are the branches" and other gardening metaphors as focus; the green branches from Palm Sunday now were signs of our will to "be connected into Jesus".

Maundy Thursday in Auchtertool Kirk, Catriona wove Psalm 23 and Jesus last supper into one narrative.

Good Friday in Bennoch Robin thought deeply with us about the gruelling event of Jesus crucifixion; we got to hold and feel nails in our hands, and Robin played the Celtic hand drum bodhrán for one song.

On Easter Sunday Catriona led worship, giving the perspectives of people who had been touched by Jesus - their view of Easter events.

Many people commented how enriching they found the variety of worship offered in Holy Week and how they are looking forward to the next shared worship venture in July when again we shall go from church to church, sharing Christian worship and fellowship.

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From the Session Clerk

When I took over as Session Clerk in 2013 I didn't imagine we would be facing a Vacancy this year. I am sorry to see Rosie go but realise that she felt God's call to Bowden & Melrose and that it was the right thing for her in her ministry at this time.

We are fortunate we are going to be able to call a new minister to an unrestricted charge and also fortunate that we had an Interim Moderator, Ena Hudson, and a locum ministry, Catriona Morrison and Marc Prowe, in place as soon as Rosie left. Thanks to the good work of Andrew Duncan, our Treasurer, and Michael Petrie, our Property Convenor, our finances and buildings are in good shape.

The Kirk Session would like to keep you, the congregation, informed of the progress we are making in the search for a new minister. The next few weeks will be busy with meetings, discussions and voting as we tackle the various legal obligations of a church in Vacancy.

- **Monday 24th April 7.30pm** - Session meets with the Vacancy Advisory Committee.
- **Saturday 13th May** during the Coffee Morning and **Sunday 14th May** after morning worship - viewing of the Electoral Register by the congregation.
- **Monday 15th May 6pm** - Session meets to finalise the Electoral register and discuss and vote on whether to depart from the church's traditional stance on Civil Partnerships.
- **Sunday 11th June** after morning worship - Election of the Nominating Committee. Anyone who is on the Electoral Register can be elected to the Nominating Committee.

A time of Vacancy in a church is a challenging time but is also an exciting time as it gives us the chance to take a good look at where we are as a congregation and where we would like to go. We need vision to attract the right minister to lead us forward and we need to help and support one another with prayer and attendance at worship, so that we keep up to date with how things are progressing.

With God's guidance I am confident we will find our next minister and that the good folk of Abbotshall will be welcoming and supportive of whoever that person is. If you have any questions or need explanations of the Vacancy procedure, please speak to Ena Hudson or myself.

Morag Michael Session Clerk

Christian Aid Week - 2017

Sunday 14th May to Saturday 20th May

YES-It is that time of year again-CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Last year the Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee collected from Door-to-door collections a splendid total of approx... £8,500.

All the participating churches are having more and more difficulty in persuading church members to carry out the door-to-door collection and we are aware that many areas of the town are now NOT being "covered" by collectors.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing with your Summer Newsletter a Christian Aid Envelope.

Now if you regularly have a Christian Aid collector at your door, or if you will be at church on 15th and 21st May, when there will be Christian Aid envelopes available for your contribution, then you do not need to do any thing with this envelope.

But if neither of these are applicable to you, and you would like to give a donation, then can I ask you to give your completed envelope to a relative, friend or neighbour, who you know is going to church – any church – on 15th or 21st May, where it will be collected and end up as part of our Kirkcaldy total.

Failing which, get it to me at 5, Raith Drive, Kirkcaldy KY2 5NW, or I will collect it from you if you phone me on 01592 266451.

Euan Fraser – Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Treasurer

GIDEON BIBLES IN HOTELS

Will a Gideon Bible in a hotel, guest house or a B&B become a thing of the past?

It was once considered normal to find a Gideon Bible at the bedside in a hotel, guest house or a B&B. However, times have changed and many establishment owners and managers are questioning if it is appropriate to have Bibles in their rooms. This means that increasingly Gideons are being asked by owners and managers to remove Bibles from their hotels, guest houses and B&B's. Some establishments are choosing to have just a few copies at the reception desk for the use of guests who ask for one and others are declining the offer to have any Bibles at all.

Whilst we respect the concerns of those involved in the hospitality industry we are aware that it is very rarely those of other cultures and faiths who are questioning the benefit of the Bibles in hotel rooms. Most often it is those who mistakenly believe that a Bible is something that is no longer relevant in our society and could cause offence. However, in a society where customer satisfaction is paramount there are things you can do to ensure Bibles remain in rooms for those who need them most: Ask for a Bible when you book or check into a hotel. Compliment the owner or manager in person or through their customer satisfaction survey sheet when a Bible is in your room at your hotel. Place a comment on a recent stay on review sites such as "Trip Advisor" sharing your satisfaction that a Bible was available for you. Let the Gideons know if a Bible is missing or needs replacing in the room where you stayed. The Gideons International in the British Isles can be contacted at hq@gideons.org.uk or on 01455 554241

Please help to keep a Bible in every room. It could change someone's life!

Craft Group

Many thanks to those who attended our first craft group open day on

29th March. We intended only to exhibit the various articles produced by the group, however many of the guests wished to purchase some of the items. Coffee/tea and home baking was on offer, and the result was a very pleasant, sociable morning. Although fund-raising was not the intention, £170 was raised on the day. The excess cakes were left for the Fellowship Circle in the afternoon.

As crafts are usually only displayed at the Christmas Fayre, interest was expressed in further open days. So, the next open day will be held on

5th July at 10:30 in the Kennedy Hall.

Bett Duncan - Abbotshall Craft Group

Abbotshall Friendship Circle

At our meeting in February we met with Rosie to discuss our monthly meetings in the future. It was unanimously decided that the group would continue with a few alterations – the name would change from Fellowship Group to Friendship Circle and we would meet on the last Wednesday of the month in the Kennedy Hall on the

following dates – April 26th, May 31st, June 25th, August 30th, September 27th, October 25th, November 29th. Over our usual cup of tea we spoke of previous things we had done and thanked Rosie for planning all the meetings.

On a cold rainy Wednesday in March we met in the Kennedy Hall and had a very interesting afternoon. Margaret Garvie had brought along her copy of Life and Work and asked if she could share with us an article which she had found very interesting. Some of us had read the article but agreed that speaking together brought a new meaning to the story. We thanked Margaret for the impromptu discussion and for sharing with us the article written by Rev. Dr. James Simpson.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

We are looking for somebody to deliver the newsletter to members living at Craigievar Gardens, Dunbar Place, Balmoral Drive, Beaufort Crescent, Floors Place, Blair Place and Dunvegan Avenue – 13 in total. The newsletter is printed 4 times a year and we have a Christmas card delivery at Christmas. If you feel you can help here then email Morna mornascriven@btinternet.com or phone 268172.

What is Heart and Soul?

As ever, Heart and Soul 2017 promises an exciting programme for all ages; with even more live music and performances on either of our "main stages", more energy and fun in our children and youth zones, and an even greater worship experience – all with Jesus at the centre.

We hope you can join us on Sunday 21st May, and look forward to keeping you updated with news and information via this website in due course.

BEREAVEMENTS

*We were saddened at the passing of Alex Elder, Mike Thompson in February;
Roger Strugnell in April.*

Prayer Group

We meet in the Vestry on the second and last Sunday in the month at 10.20 am for about 15 minutes. A warm welcome is extended to all to join us on any of the dates below:-
14th May, 28th May, 11th June, 25th June, 13th August, 27th August, 10th September and 24th September. We will not be meeting in July.
If there is someone or something you would like the group to pray for, please put a note in the prayer boxes in the Church vestibule or the Church hall.

Anne Gardner, *Phone. 01592 265876*

A MESSAGE FROM ROSIE

Sunday 5 March was my last day at Abbotshall. It was a real mix of emotions – joy and praise as we worshipped God and shared the Lord's Supper together; thankfulness for the many blessings I have known over the last 12 years; sadness that this time has come to an end; excitement at what the future holds for both me and the congregation. It was a time for memories – memories from 33 years ago when I came to Abbotshall on my first ministry placement with Bryan Tomlinson; memories of the laughter and tears we've shared as we've journeyed together; and now memories of Sunday 5 March. Thank you to everyone who made that a very special day – to Morag and her team for their planning and plotting; to Richard for playing all the music that reminds me of Abbotshall (even Summertime...); to all those who came to the service and the lunch. Thank you for the beautiful brooch and the money that I will use to buy a painting to remind me of Abbotshall and Fife. Now a new chapter begins at Bowden and Melrose.... I look forward to welcoming Abbotshall folk to Melrose for my Service of Induction on Thursday 30th March and, anytime you're passing, don't be a stranger.

Abbotshall is in good hands. The Kirk Session has asked Rev Marc Prowe and Rev Catriona Morrison to be Locum Ministers. Mrs Ena Hudson, an elder from Kinghorn Church, will be Interim Moderator.

May you know God's richest blessing, with love,

Rosie.

ROSIE'S INDUCTION SERVICE

The Induction service and social to mark the arrival of Rev Rosemary Frew as the new minister of the Bowden & Melrose Congregation took place on Thursday 30th March 2017. The induction service was at 7.00 pm and this was followed by a social event when the parish hosted visitors from the Presbytery. A finger buffet was served and people had the opportunity to mix and chat, especially as members of Abbotshall Church, Kirkcaldy, were able to be present. It was also a time to meet with Rosemary Frew and her husband David. During the social, the introduction to Rosie was made by four of her colleagues from Kirkcaldy in the format of a dramatic and entertaining musical item.

WALKING GROUP

The first walk of 2017 was held on Saturday 18th March in Falkland Estate with 5 Holy Strollers (Anne, Jane, Jenny, Margaret and Morna) taking part. Starting from the Stables car park we went into a very muddy Maspie Den, up through the gorge of the Maspie Burn to the Yad waterfall and then down through the forest track on the other side of the gorge to Westfield. Next we went along the track between the Gilderland beech hedges and stopped at the Witches Cave to have our picnic lunch. We continued along the wide track at the foot of Black Hill and Arraty Craggs and then the forest track through Barrington Muir Plantation coming out into the open at Kilgour. A long straight tarmac road

took us to the Pillars of Hercules where we stopped for refreshments. A short walk through the woods took us to the Red Squirrel Trail emerging at the Playing Fields and back to the car park.

On 15th April the same 5 Holy Strollers walked along the Fife Coastal Path from Dysart to East Wemyss and back. We set off from Dysart Harbour car park along Pan Ha', which takes its unusual name from the salt pans which were used to dry out sea water to produce salt, and up a steep footpath which passed the site of the one-time Frances Colliery and then the back of an industrial estate. Steps took us down to the path between the shore and Chapel Wood and into West Wemyss. Walking on from the village Wemyss Castle came into view on our left and on the right across the Forth the Bass Rock, North Berwick Law and the East Lothian coast were clearly seen. We soon reached East Wemyss and stopped at the Wemyss Caves to have our picnic lunch. Our original intention had been to carry on walking the further mile to Buckhaven and then return to Dysart by bus but instead we decided that as we had only walked 4 miles we would retrace our steps and walk back to Dysart. On reaching West Wemyss we went into the churchyard to see if we could find the stone with the date of death inscribed as 31st April 1878. Whilst looking for the stone Jacqueline Thomson, Deacon at Buckhaven and Wemyss, arrived to set up for breakfast in church after the open air Easter Morning Service and invited us in and showed us round St Adrian's Church. The church is well maintained and has many impressive features including a Mural of a painting of Christ surrounded by cherubs which dominates the wall at the far end of the church. We stopped at the Suburban Pantry in West Wemyss for refreshments.

Future walks are scheduled for 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 19th August, 16th September and 21st October.

Where are they now?

Can you help us find some lost members? Listed below are the names of members of Abbotshall Kirk who have moved house/relocated and not informed the church of their new address. If you know anybody listed below and can find out their new address, please email it to Morna mornascriven@btinternet.com or phone on Kirkcaldy 268172.

Many thanks.

Maureen Bell	John and Diane Bryden
Shona Clark	William and Margo Cuthbert
Morag Dempster	Walter Dickson
Jan Fairgrieve	Jean Goodman
Patrick Graham	Andy and Diane Harrower
Jackie Henderson(not Roddy's wife)	Wallace Henderson
Jane Hurley	Ann Livingston
Archie and Leah McGlynn	Linda McGregor
Pauline McNeish	Lee McVicar
Colin and Susan Mirrey	Jessie Scott
Robina Simpson	Elizabeth Stuart
Karen Walder	Jane Watt
Lesley Wotherspoon	Robert and Katherine Yorke

Dates for the Diary

Saturday 13 May - Coffee Morning at 10 o'clock

Sunday 14 May – Messy Church in Bennochty Church at 3.30pm

Sunday 21 May – Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens from 1pm to 5pm

Thursday 25 May – Kirk Session Meeting at 7.30pm

Sunday 28 May – Young Church Prize Giving – last until September.

Wednesday 31 May – Friendship Circle at 2pm

Sunday 4 June – Communion – Common Cup at 9am

- Individual Cup at 11am

Sunday 11 June – Messy Church in Bennochty Church

Thursday 22 June – Board Meeting at 7.30pm

Wednesday 28 June – *Friendship Circle*

Wednesday 5 July – *Craft Group Open Day at 10.30am*

On the last four Sundays in July we will meet with the other town centre churches for joint services. Please visit our website to find out more.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN EDITION 2017

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 28 August 2017**. 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