

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

“Winter is coming”

You might know the above famous line from the HBO series Game of Thrones. We, as we look outside can see this to be true as the earth starts to prepare herself for the cold, dark, wet Scottish winter. I love the earth's preparation (Autumn) with the crisp air, and delightful browns, oranges and reds as the leaves change their colour. There is something poetic about the earth changing her summer clothes for autumnal coats.

This summer has been a good one at Abbotshall, especially when it comes to the involvement of young people in the life of the Kirk. Whether it be our involvement in the school's services, the celebration of our Sunday School or the four baptisms we performed. We have seen a vision of what our future could be in our midst.

For many of us we will remember with great fondness how Abbotshall's Sunday School was bursting at the seams, or how the Youth Fellowship was a source of many a relationship, or the marching of the Boys Brigade, or how the Young Woman's Group connected people with each other people. Abbotshall was for many years on the cutting edge of building good relationships with people under the age of forty.

However, society has changed, and people no longer come to Church like they used to. It's no one's fault that we lost our ministry to under forties; this has happened all across Scotland and continues to happen. However, the danger is to live in the past and reminisce about all the good that happened whilst ignoring the potential work amongst young people in front of us.

In the biblical story of the birth of Jesus, Mary takes the centre stage (along with the baby Jesus). In our veneration of Mary, the other characters in the story are often overlooked. Joseph, the Magi, Zechariah, and Elizabeth are pivotal figures and notice their unifying characteristic; they are elderly. These people helped bring Jesus into the world; their support for Mary allows her to sing a song and gives her the courage to be Jesus' mother.

I am not sure about you, but this story gives me tremendous hope for our community. Although we might see ourselves as an aging congregation, we have a gift to offer the Marys of our world. To offer them our support and create a space where they feel supported by the church. This is not just the job of the Minister, or Sunday School, or those who deal with youth but it is the job of every single person in our church! God does not let us off the hook because of our age.

The number of people who speak of how welcoming Abbotshall is as a congregation tells me that we have the ability to do this.

The Church of Scotland is in autumn and is preparing for the winter on the horizon, in fact for many congregations winter is here. Declining numbers and lack of young people are of grave concern, but I am hopeful about Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall's place within it. Reorientation is never easy; it takes hard work and it makes us feel like the new is replacing the comfortable. However, we have to embrace this new and make Abbotshall a place where young people can participate in the life of the congregation, can take ownership, can explore their faith and be supported by each one of us. This is not to be done out of tokenism but because we believe that they are helping us welcome the Christ amongst us.

So, as the year develops, I hope as a church we can be this to many young people in our community. That Abbotshall becomes not only a place of welcome but a place where all people can call home.

May God bless you all.

Justin

Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday 29th September

During the service the Young Church will be looking at the work of the Kirkcaldy Food Bank and so are having a special collection for it. Donations of food or money for the Food Bank will be accepted on any Sunday prior to the 29th September. These donations will enable the Young Church's preparation of this service.

BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL The Church is again taking part in the 2019 Shoe Box Appeal by Blytheswood Care and this will be launched at the Harvest Thanksgiving service. Please think about filling a shoebox for this project. To help with this project, ready covered shoe boxes are now available for uplift from the church. The deadline for filled boxes to be returned to the church will be Sunday 27th October.

Prayer Group

We meet in the Vestry 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 the dates below:- 8th September, 29th September, 13th October, 27th October, 10th November (meet at 9.45 am), 24th November, 8th December, 15th December, 12th January 2020, 28th January, 9th February, 23rd February, 8th March, 29th March.

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

Food for thought

In recent months there has been a lot of news about global warming, space travel and, sadly, there is always news about a war somewhere. In a relatively early period of US space exploration Carl Sagan, an influential American astronomer, persuaded NASA to temporarily turn back the cameras on a rocket early in its journey to outer space and photograph the earth. In a lecture given to an American university in 1994 he commented poetically on that photograph:

“ That’s here. That’s home. That’s us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you have ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother, father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every ‘superstar’, every ‘supreme leader’, every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there – on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.”

Submitted by David Muncy

Volunteer to help with the Church Notice Boards

We are looking for a volunteer to oversee and manage information displayed on the Church & Halls Notice Boards. If you would like to take on this role please contact Morna Scriven (Deputy Session Clerk) or Michael Baxendine (Clerk to the Board).

WALKING GROUP

On a wet Saturday on 18TH May 6 Holy Strollers did the circular walk at Lindores Loch starting and finishing at Collessie. At the start of the walk we picked up the Den Burn passing the old railway station of Collessie. We followed a narrow path right along to route B937 with good view of the Lomonds on our left. We then turned on to a private road following the signs for Goldenloch Fishery, a private loch for fishing enthusiasts. The road is by the Black Burn and passes the Black Loch sitting beneath Weddersbie Hill where we had a coffee stop. Unfortunately, the rain became heavy at this point and we did consider abandoning but, in the end, decided to walk on and reached the hamlet of Abdie. We then walked through a field to Abdie House and the remains of the Old Kirk and had our first view of the Loch.

After a brief look at Abdie and Dunbog Parish Church, built in 1827 to replace the old Kirk, we crossed the railway line and on to Lindores. Turning then again on to B937 for 100 yards we picked up a wooded track, climbed through a plantation where we managed to find a dry spot for lunch, we climbed the hill to give views of the loch. We then followed an undulating path until we picked up the track we started on and the signs for Collessie and made our way back to the cars.

On 15th June 3 Holy Strollers did the circular walk from Elie via St Monans and Kilconquhar. We started at Ruby Bay so called because the rocks contain rare crystals of garnet known locally as "Elie Rubies". The headland to the east which we soon reached bears a circular folly known as the Lady's Tower. It was built in the 1760s as a bathing-house for Lady Janet, wife of Sir John Anstruther, the local laird. Continuing along the coastal path two ruined castles, Ardross and Newark were passed before we reached St Monans. We had our morning coffee break in the churchyard. The Church of St Monans was built by David II in the 1360s and restored in the 19th century. Its interior is graced by a model full-rigged ship. We left the coastal path here by a path to reach the main road and then turned up onto a minor road leading to the pretty village of Kilconquhar. The churchyard beside the parish church built in 1821 on the site of a 12th-century church was a suitable resting place for our picnic lunch as it provided seating as well as a view of Kilconquhar Loch. We continued through the village and crossed the main road onto another minor road between trees, passed the entrance to Shell Bay Caravan Park and along a footpath under Kinraig Point to Grangehill Farm. We stopped at the Pavilion Bistro at Earlsferry Golf Course for refreshments before finally walking through Elie and back to the car park at Ruby Bay.

The Fife Pilgrim way was officially opened on 5th July and we invited members of the Town Centre Churches to join us for our inaugural walk along the 1st section between North Queensferry and Dunfermline on 15th July. Several members expressed interest but eventually only 4 came to accompany Justin, Lesley and Francis (in his stroller!) and 5 regular Holy Strollers. The route started at the pier in North Queensferry and followed the Fife Coastal Path around Carling Nose nature reserve, stopping at a seating area with a view of the Firth of Forth for morning coffee, to Inverkeithing. Our picnic lunch was in the garden of the old Friary (Hospitium of the Grey Friars) in the centre of Inverkeithing. Suitably refreshed we made our way up Hill Street and Dunfermline Wynd to take the bridge over the M90 motorway and up to Castlandhill Farm. The route then went along a path by a field edge to take us into Rosyth and after more pavement walking reaching a path which crossed through the Fleet Grounds playing fields (ex MOD) to reach the busy A985 road and more pavement walking until we crossed over the road at the junction for Pattiesmuir. We passed Douglas Bank cemetery into a very pleasant woodland area and across open fields to Wester Gellet Farm, onto Limekilns Road and finally reached the outskirts of Dunfermline. The final stage was

through the Heritage Quarter, with a stop at Andrew Carnegie's Birthplace for refreshments, to Dunfermline Abbey.

17th August saw 5 Holy Strollers tackling the next section of the Fife Pilgrim Way between Dunfermline and Kelty. Starting where we had left off at the Abbey we made a brief stop at the Carnegie Library & Museum for coffee. The route followed Marygate, Abbot Street, Canmore Street, Guildhall Street and the High Street to the busy road / roundabout beside the police station. From Leys Park Road we followed the cycle track behind the football stadium to Whitefield Road. The route now followed the pavement / cycle track alongside the road to Kingseat. Once through the village we turned into the access road for Loch Fitty House and Hawthorne Acres leading down to the shore of Loch Fitty. A stop was made at the end of Loch Fitty for our picnic lunch. A rough landrover track led us up through the site of St Ninian's Open Cast Mine, running parallel to the M90 motorway, to emerge on the main road near to Kelty. We crossed the road into Blairadam Forest and made our way up through some of the more scenic bits of the forest, then through the underpass under the motorway and into Keltybridge and final into Kelty. All are welcome to join us as we continue our pilgrimage on 21st September (Kelty to Kinglassie) and 19th October (Kinglassie to Markinch). **Morna Scriven and Jenny McLeod**

Pastoral Care

Dear Friends

I write to let you all know of improvements we are making to the pastoral care of our members.

The way we have functioned 'til now has been (in school report terms) "fairly satisfactory" – but we began to be aware of people/events/situations slipping through the net, because of the lack of a structured reporting system. To attempt to remedy this, the Kirk Session has approved the following improved model.

The pastoral care team already has "on our books" (so to speak) church members, and occasionally, relevant others that we keep in touch with, by phone calls or by visiting – housebound, chronic sick, care home residents. But when it comes to arising pastoral needs, we have often depended upon word of mouth second-hand information – occasionally sometime after pastoral care might have been put in place!

To remedy this, we would ask that members themselves, their relatives, trusted friends or Elder let our Pastoral Care Committee (Anne Steward, Morna Scriven, Justin Taylor) know of the pastoral need.

This can be done in several ways: -

- 1) By telephone: Anne Steward – 262988
Morna Scriven – 268172
Justin Taylor – 267915
- 2) By email: Anne Steward – anne.steward@btinternet.com
Morna Scriven – mornascriven@btinternet.com
Justin Taylor – jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk
- 3) By post: Revd. J Taylor, Abbotshall Manse, 83 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1TP
- 4) Through Private Message on Church's Facebook page

Another very useful method of communication will be by Pastoral Care Needs slips – these will be available in church every Sunday – to be placed in our locked Pastoral Care boxes in the vestibule and in the halls.

In each Newsletter there will be a “tear off” slip to send back to the church.

Lastly, can I emphasise that, in the interests of confidentiality and accuracy, it is the responsibility of the member or their family who seeks pastoral care to inform the Pastoral Care Committee through the channels mentioned earlier.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have pastoral care needs, or require further clarification of these changes.

Best wishes

Anne Steward

Tear off slip

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I would like a member of Pastoral Care to contact me on the number detailed below.

Name

Contact telephone number

Date:

Please place this form in the box in the Church vestibule, or email to the minister jtaylor@churchofscotland.org.uk or by post to Justin at the Manse, 83 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy KY1 1TP

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” [Matthew 11:28 NIV](#)

In accordance with GDPR guidelines, this form will be destroyed when we have dealt with the query.

Women’s Interfaith Group

Following a request to Justin to visit Abbotshall Church and learn about us, we welcomed 30 ladies from Edinburgh Women’s Interfaith Group on Saturday 27th July. The Edinburgh Women’s Interfaith Group is a safe, organic, open and informal group, welcoming women of all faiths and none. The group meets quarterly: in January, in March (for International Women’s Day), in July (for the summer outing), and in November (for Scottish Interfaith Week). They came to Abbotshall for their summer outing this year.

Justin welcomed everyone then spoke about the beginning of the church founded in 1674. Isobel then told us a bit of the history of our church and the changes made over the years. The ladies were interested to see photos of before and after 1975 and hear about our 300th and 325th anniversaries etc.

Kay then spoke as someone who has only known the church as it is today and compared the modern layout as a friendlier and welcoming appearance especially to our older members who don’t like change. The feeling of friendliness, sitting together in familiar surroundings, in a

right atmosphere listening to familiar tunes we love and the music which Richard provides are all very important to us all. Justin then played a track from Richard's latest CD which was much appreciated – I think the ladies would have liked to hear more!

Justin then brought us up-to-date with matters concerning everyone in the Church of Scotland before asking two of our visitors to tell us about their faith. The first speaker told us about her Islamic faith and the second her Hindu faith before singing us a Blessing in Hindu.

There was time to look round – the windows were of great interest – before going to the Hall where Jenny, Anne and Elspeth welcomed us with a lovely afternoon tea.

It was a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon among very friendly people.

Abbotshall Friendship Circle

At our May meeting Richard Michael introduced us to his friend John Callander whose talk was "Living with Polio". John was born in 1949 and was diagnosed with Polio when he was 5 years old and spent months in an iron lung (he showed us photographs of this machine). He was brought up in a loving family who did everything to make John's life as happy and normal as possible. He spent happy holidays with his parents and got up to all the usual schoolboy pranks and would try anything associated with sport.

He was educated at Laurencekirk Primary School and moved to Mackie Academy for his 5th year in secondary school where he met Richard and they formed a lasting friendship. John became a primary school teacher and latterly Head teacher at Fettercairn and Inverbervie Primary Schools and finally was an education officer for Aberdeenshire – he certainly has led a full life. Last year he was featured in a BBC Scotland programme "Growing up in Scotland" telling us about his experiences in the iron lung.

We all enjoyed his talk and were inspired by what he has achieved in his life.

Our last meeting before the summer break saw us going to the Carmelite Convent in Dysart. Our numbers were down due to holidays but we were pleased when Justin, Lesley and Frances joined us. We were given a warm welcome – especially Frances who loved all the attention. One of the sisters was from South Africa which made Justin feel at home. The twelve sisters present were interested in what we did each month and had lots of questions for Justin. They told us about Dysart House which was donated to the Carmelite Nuns who then established their community there in 1931. They have strong links with Dysart residents, the school and church. A very pleasant and happy afternoon was had by all and we hope to visit again.

At our meeting in August we again covered shoe boxes for Blytheswood Christmas Appeal. The boxes will be available for the congregation to pick up as they did last year. Over a cup of tea, we discussed our programme for the rest of the year.

We meet on the last Wednesday of each month in the Kennedy Hall at 2pm and you will be made very welcome if you care to join us.

BEREAVEMENTS

We were saddened at the passing of John Millar in May; Jim Lister, Margaret Petrie in July.

BAPTISMS

Karen and Amelie Farrell were baptised on 4 August 2019;
George Sheach was baptised on 11 August 2019;
Ezra James Smith was baptised on 25 August 2019.

MARRIAGE

Abbotshall minister Justin Taylor married Shona Scott to Jens Munthe in Edinburgh on 31 August 2019.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Michael and Maureen Baxendine celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in August.

Thank you

I would like to say many thanks to the Church for the beautiful flowers I received in May this year.

Diane Murray

A THANK YOU

We would like to express our thanks to you, the congregation of Abbotshall, for your support, cards, flowers and well wishes after the death of our mum, Margaret Petrie, in July. Your support etc has helped us immeasurably during what was and is for anyone, a difficult time. We also wish to express our thanks to Justin for his support.

Many Thanks

Irene and Michael Petrie

THANKS

Thanking all who helped me when I recently took ill in the church and for the beautiful flowers received. **Margaret McKay**

THANK YOU LETTER

Letter received from pancreatic cancer action thanking the congregation for the donation of £273.06 in memory of Andrew Duncan.

Abbotshall Guide Unit

Just a wee update for members about our recent and forthcoming activities.

I am delighted to report that the Guide, Brownie and Rainbow Coffee Evening in June raised a total of £645.25. We would like to thank everyone who supported us in any way- a great result and, hopefully, a good time had by all!

The Guides are planning their annual weekend camp at Balmullo for 30th August to 1st September and we are hoping the weather is better than on certain recent weekends!

All the units are trying to get to grips with a new programme which involves more work for volunteers and any extra help is always appreciated. Do please contact us if you are interested in helping.

Sunday Readers

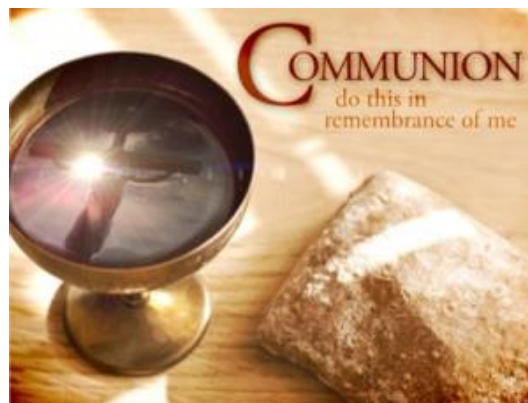
As we are now having someone from the congregation reading from the bible regularly on a Sunday morning, it was suggested that I should put a small article in the magazine about this. We are delighted that a few folk are willing to do this on a fairly frequent basis, but we would also love to attract a few more readers to our list. I put up a notice in the vestibule, at intervals, and we would invite anyone who would like to do this to sign up for a Sunday of their choice, along with their contact details, ideally an e-mail address, so that I can forward the details of the chosen lessons to the individual concerned. The quicker someone signs up, the greater the choice of available dates! People are not expected to be expert or perfect, just to share in worship in this way. I look forward to seeing lots more new names in coming weeks, or speak to me, if you would like more information before committing. Thank you all.

Elsbeth Smith - Reader coordinator

Special Extra for Coffee Morning on Saturday 12th October

As part of this coffee morning there will be a table set aside for donated decorative flower vases, flower pot holders or other similar attractive containers. These will be for sale for as little as you like but we hope you may consider £2 or a maximum of £3 is appropriate – the choice is yours. All proceeds will go to church funds. If you are hoping to find something you would wish to buy then remember to bring a bag. A few of the items are fairly delicate. Any queries to David Muncey, 25 Lakeside Road, phone 01592 262980, email david.muncey@zen.co.uk

Midweek Communion



Midweek Communion and Fellowship

Abbotshall has many members who cannot make worship on a Sunday as they struggle with timings. It was with this in mind that the Kirk Session decided to start a monthly midweek communion service on the second Wednesday of every month from **Wednesday 11th September, 2019** starting at 2pm in the Church Hall.

There will also be time for a cup of tea and chat with Justin after communion. Please spread the word, come along and bring your friends. The dates to the end of this year are:-

Wednesday 11th September

Wednesday 9th October

Wednesday 13th November

Wednesday 11th December.

Abbotshall Craft Group

The group 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.

The group are also holding an open morning again **on Wednesday**

23RD October in the Kennedy Hall from 10.30am until noon. Come along and see what we have been making and have a chat and some refreshments. There will be items on sale as well. For further information contact

Bett Duncan.



The date this year is **Saturday 7th December.**

All the usual stalls, home baking, jams, confectionery, tombola, craft, greeting cards, cosmetics, bric a brac, water or wine and raffles, all will be there. **WE HOPE YOU WILL BE TOO.**

All donations and enquires please to Bill Page on 262009.

Tickets on sale at **£3.**

Please note that the hall will be open on Friday 6th December between 2pm to 7pm to receive donations for the stalls.

Please note the next coffee morning will be on **Saturday 11th January 2020.** Tickets on sale at **£3.**

Thank You Bill Page

YOUNG CHURCH CHRISTMAS DISCO

As in previous years our Young Church are holding their popular Christmas Disco on Saturday 21st of December from 3pm to 5pm.

Children and grandchildren of members are welcome. Please inform any of the young church staff Suzanne, Diane or myself or uplift a leaflet from the vestibule in the church. This is so we are able to cater for the buffet. There is no charge for this function. We then proceed to the church for the Christingle service.

Bill Page

Young Church Snowman Drive

The Snowman Drive takes place on Wednesday 11th December at

6.30 pm. Tickets are priced at £2 for adults and £1 for children. The cost includes refreshments after the drive. Tickets will be on sale soon. See you there.

NEXT NEWSLETTER – ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION 2019

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 3rd November**. 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.