

The Abbotshall Manse Advent 2016

Dear Friends,

In the Book of the Prophet Isaiah we read,

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given...

These words speak to us of the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us. They are emotive words that fill us with joy and hope and thanksgiving; evocative words that bring back memories of Christmas past.

As we prepare to celebrate this Advent let us not get so caught up in the excitement and busy-ness that we forget that many people are walking in darkness and living in the shadow of death at this time. Just listen to the news or read the papers...

This Advent at Abbotshall we are responding to a challenge from the World Mission Council to raise £500 to build a house in Nepal, as part of a three year project in partnership with the United Mission to Nepal. It's a project that will bring some light into the darkness of a dreadful situation.

It was just before noon on Saturday 25 April, 2015, when the first earthquake struck Nepal. Lasting just 45 seconds, causing devastation, changing lives forever. 45 seconds that caused over 8000 people to lose their lives and over 6 million families to lose their homes.

There will be retiring offerings for the 'Build a House' project each Sunday of Advent, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. You can pick up a collecting 'house' from the church for saving your loose change. (Or you can download one from the Church of Scotland website - www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/get_involved) Thank you in anticipation for your support.

May you know the light and life of Christ this Christmas.

Rosie

Sunday 11 December, 3.30-5.30pm – Messy Church Christmas Celebration in Bennochty Church, Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR. Come along and join in the fun. Crafts, games, activities and food! Everyone welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Diary Dates

Saturday 26 November, 10.00am – Christmas Fayre

Sunday 27 November, 11.00am – First Sunday in Advent

Sunday 27 November, 2.30pm – Advent Service in Abbotsford Milton Road

Thursday 1 December, 2.30pm – Advent Service in Abbotsford Raith Manor

Wednesday 7 December, 6.30pm – Snowman Drive

Sunday 11 December, 11am – 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 Manor

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

Abbotshall Craft Group 2016

Throughout the year the Abbotshall Craft Group produces goods for sale and, at present, are working on articles for the Xmas Fayre. Since the beginning of the year the Group has raised £1,750 for church funds.

The June Social, celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday, was organised by the Craft Group with the assistance of the regular Coffee Morning Team. An excellent selection of sandwiches and savouries was donated by two of the Crafters while cakes and loaves were produced by the regular Coffee Morning bakers. Raith Probus Band – Willie, Ian, Andy, Gordon and Andrew kindly donated their time to provide superb entertainment. Staff from Abbotsford Homes transported a number of residents from the Dunfermline Care Home and all agreed that it was their best outing to date. It was a very enjoyable day, appreciated by all!

BD

Treasurer's Report

GENERAL FINANCE

By the end of October, we had spent £7,000 more than our income for 2016. However, this is not exactly unexpected and there is no immediate cause for alarm as Abbotshall's income and expenditure are never evenly spread over the calendar year. In the remaining two months of 2016, the rate of income is expected to increase thanks to special events such as the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Appeal. Significant expenditure, typically on fabric, may well be deferred to 2017 (or later) without detriment to our buildings. In short, with your continuing financial support, we should be able to meet all of our running costs for 2016 without using our reserves.

THANK YOU

Within our budgeted spend we have been able to allocate a total of £7,632 to various forms of Outreach including: £6,732 to KART; £775 to the pastoral care of our own congregation; £342 to the HIV programme and £184 to EMMS. During Advent there will be opportunities to donate to the support World Mission's 'Build a House' project.

BEREAVEMENT

We were saddened at the passing of James Fagan in July.

MARRIAGES – CONGRATULATIONS

On Saturday 27 August – Ross Meldrum and Lyn McDuff married in Abbotshall;

On Saturday 29 October-Kevin Pearce and Joanna Gray married in Abbotshall.



Freya Helen Bell was baptised on 30 October 2016.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS



Jim and Maureen Jamison celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary (Blue Sapphire) in October.

2016 Stewardship of Talents

This is a timely reminder that we are all being challenged to exchange talents across the generations – to share with and learn from each other. Talent exchange cards were distributed in the last newsletter and more are available in the Church. The cards are for you to record the talent or talents being shared. Please read the simple instructions on the card and return it once the challenge has been completed, ideally with a photo. The cards will be displayed so we can celebrate the sharing of a whole range of talents. You can complete as many cards as you like. There will be prizes.

The youngsters in the Young Church and from all sections in the Scout and Guide groups are taking part as well. They are keen to share if you need to find someone.

Please ask Rosie, Morag Michael or Jim Browning if you have any questions. The closing date for entries is **Sunday 27th November**.

Church services during January and February

As you all know over the past few winters we have moved the Sunday services down to the halls during January and February but it has been decided by the Kirk Session and Congregational Board to stop this, so Sunday worship will be in the church during January and February 2017. If the weather turns inclement on a particular Sunday during the winter a decision may be made on the day to move into the halls and save people from climbing the hill up to church when the paths are difficult and slippery.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team is still very committed to caring for our membership. If you know of anyone who is in need please tell your elder, the minister or Anne Steward, our co-ordinator.

Fellowship after church

Anne Steward would still like to hear from anyone who can join the rota to serve tea and coffee after church. We are a small team at present and would welcome some new volunteers.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE



With the days shortening and the nights lengthening our thoughts are with winter approaching, and of course that means that the Christmas Fayre will once again be upon us. The date this year is **Saturday 26th November**.

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 £2.50.

Please note the next coffee morning will be on Saturday 14th January 2017.

Thank You

Bill Page



Young Church Snowman Drive



The Snowman Drive takes place on Wednesday 7th December at 6 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.

YOUNG CHURCH CHRISTMAS DISCO

As in previous years our Young Church are holding their popular Christmas Disco on Saturday 17th 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



Sunday 11 December, 3.30-5.30pm – Messy Church Christmas Celebration in Bennochy Church, Elgin Street, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5HR. Come along and join in the fun. Crafts, games, activities and food! Everyone welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

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:-

The Prayer Group Dates are:-

2016 - 11th December,

2017 - 8th January, 29th January, 12th February, 26th February, 12th March, 26th March.

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

Anne Gardner

Tel (01592) 265876

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Over 400 filled shoeboxes from churches and schools were brought to Templehall Church on Thursday 3rd November for the Blythswood Shoebox dedication service which was led by Templehall's minister, the

Rev. Tony Fowler. Children from Fair Isle Primary's P.6, class along with their teachers, and people from churches in the Kirkcaldy area who attended the service saw slides depicting some of the recipients of last year's boxes, which were shown by Margaret Tooth, the area fundraiser for Blythswood Care.

After the service the boxes were put into bags and added to the number already in the van; the boxes were then taken to a sorting centre in Edinburgh where they were to be checked again before beginning the journey to Eastern Europe. This Edinburgh centre checks and sends out about 7,000 boxes each November.

Margaret Cunningham

Tempehall Church

WALKING GROUP

This year a special 175th Anniversary Bike & Hike was organised by EMMS International in conjunction with Kirkcaldy Presbytery on 17th September. Rosie and Dave cycled their way round the churches but took a longer route than the 5 Holy Strollers, Margaret, Anne, Jane, Jenny and Carol (from St Bryce). Our starting point was Thornton Church. A short walk along Main Street took us to Riverside and on to the Thornton to Kirkcaldy Public Footpath which went through woodland by the side of the River Ore, across the Ore Bridge, down Hurlburn Road, past Middle Balbeggie, by the edge of Heathery Wood, over the A92 dual carriageway by the footbridge and into Dunnikier Park. The path through the woodland went by the side of Dunnikier Golf Course, down Johnny Marshall's Loan and came out at the entrance to the Crematorium. We now had some pavement walking on Hendry Road, Cumbrae Terrace, Lismore Avenue and Fair Isle Road and into Templehall Church for a welcome stop. After a short break we continued via Dunearn Drive, Potmeal Plantation (better known as Rabbit Braes) on to Broom Road and across Bennoch Road into Longbraes Plantation. It was a very pleasant walk through the woodland and then on to Oriel Road, the footpath by the side of Abacus and Abbotshall to Abbotshall Church. The EMMS International Anniversary Photographic Exhibition "Health & Hope" was on display in the church hall. We had our lunch whilst viewing the exhibition. Feeling refreshed we set off for the final stage of the walk to Kinghorn. It was pavement walking down Abbotshall Road and Pratt Street to Seafield and the Fife Coastal Path. At Seafield Tower seals were basking on the rocks. As it was such a beautiful sunny day we stopped at a suitable vantage point to admire the views across the Forth to Edinburgh and East Lothian. We received a warm welcome and refreshments at every church which we visited and enjoyed fellowship with other bikers and hikers.

Our last walk of the year was on 15th October when four of us, Anne, Margaret, Morna and Jenny, walked from Cramond Brig to South Queensferry. We went by train to Dalmeny and then bus to the start of the walk. The first part of the walk which was on a footpath with fields on one side and woodland and the River Almond on the other side took us down to Snab Point from where we had a view of Cramond. The path then went through Long Green Wood past Dalmeny Golf Course, Dalmeny House and Barnbogle Castle. We had a brief stop for coffee at Hound Point. The path eventually reached Long Craig Gate and a classic view of the Forth Bridge. Beyond this a minor road led us into South Queensferry. The trees were displaying their glorious autumn colours. Fellowship continued in the Railbridge Bistro where we had lunch.

Thank you

We would like to thank our friends at Abbotshall for the lovely flowers and card, delivered by Anne, and also the kind words from Rosie at the church service, for our 65th wedding anniversary.

Maureen and Jim Jamieson

Thursday Fellowship Group

Our theme for the September meeting was Playlist for Life – How music helps form our memories. A very pleasant afternoon was had with everyone joining in. We heard lots of memories of childhood, teen years and onwards. We enjoyed listening to several pieces of music played and hearing of the memories behind them. Two of our members had made out their “playlists” which were very varied and included pop groups and opera!

In October Rev. Cameron McKenzie was our guest and his subject was entitled “Gentlemen of the Road”. Cameron is a retired minister and he spoke of all the “visitors” he had welcomed to the Manse over 40 years in his various churches. Over the years and even in the bible these men have been called by different names but Cameron likes to remember them as Gentlemen of the Road. He recalled many of the people who were regular visitors to the manse and he had lots of stories to share with us. Mostly the men were looking for a bed for the night and something to eat and they never left the manse without food. Occasionally they would ask for clothing or money. The stories Cameron told made us realise how lucky we are.

Newsletter

We are looking for somebody to distribute the newsletter in 2017, 5 dates per year (February, May, September, November and December) to 10 households in total. The district is Beveridge Road, Swan Road, Osborne House/East Fergus Place. If you can help please phone Morna on 268172.

RAISING FUNDS FOR ABBOTSHALL CHURCH

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be raising a free donation for Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy?

There are nearly 3,000 retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's, who will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy to say thank you for shopping with them.

It's really simple, and doesn't cost you anything.

All you have to do is:

1. **Go to** <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/abbotshallchurch>
 2. **Sign up for free**
 3. **Get shopping** - your donations will be collected by easyfundraising and automatically sent to Abbotshall Parish Church of Scotland - Kirkcaldy. It couldn't be easier!
- Using the easyfundraising website will not cost you a penny. There are no catches or hidden charges and Abbotshall Church will be really grateful for your donations. Thank you for your support.

LIFE & WORK MAGAZINE – 2017

The Life and Work Magazine is again available in 2017.

Why not place an order and read the Church's views both nationally and internationally. The magazine price is £2.50 per copy. If readers wish to subscribe for 2017 the annual cost is £30 cash, or cheque which should be made payable to "Abbotshall Church" and given to Diane Murray, Life & Work Distributor, as soon as possible.

Back copies of the magazine are available in the Church vestibule now if anyone would like to 'try before they buy'.

Diane Murray - Life & Work Distributor

Jenny Featherstone - Zambia September 2016

Chodort Training Centre, Choma
PO Box 630451
Kitwe
Zambia

Dear Church friends,

It is late September and the temperature is daily climbing to the mid to high 30's, no rain since April so everything is very dry and it is just the right time to dig down the well in the garden! Mr Hitra arrived on Wednesday with a shortened pick axe and a bucket on a rope and dug down another 2 meters until he found a good strong spring source which he assures me will now last all year round. Today we put the electric pump down to extract enough water so he can line the newly dug wall with bricks and then hey presto! – water all year round for the garden and washing. The water we drink is brought from a nearby bore hole which taps the aquifer and much less subject to bugs –even so, I still boil it. So different from home!

I thought of calling this newsletter From Mayor's Chairs to Mambas, since they have been part of a very diverse few months since I last wrote to you. I think everyone will have had Jane's wonderful letter about the play4all girl's adventure in Sweden, and how they just missed the semi-finals of the Gothia world cup. I never realised we had such amazing talent and am already thinking how we can get them out next year. A BIG BIG thank you to everyone involved. We are also very pleased to get another volunteer called David

Horch. David is 22 and recently qualified in Mechatronics (a hybrid of electrician, welder and engineer) has been seconded to us by Bread for the World in Germany. He will be here for a year and already has proved his worth mending and improving some of our ancient carpentry machines in the workshop.

Another most welcome but unexpected arrival will be Liton Mosumder, another mission partner who has been in Zambia with his wife for 11 years. I received a text about a week ago from head office and he arrives on October the 1st with his wife, who will work as a nurse at Njase, the UCZ school down the road. This is a very gracious answer to an “unprayed for prayer” if you know what I mean, as getting a qualified accountant at Chodort was way beyond anything I could hope or ask for - or afford!

Another event which has been very engaging has been the arrival of the container from Containers Ministry in Ireland run by the Methodist Missionary Society Ireland. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work and logistics that have gone into sourcing and packing the goods for this container, which is divided between Chodort and a St Joseph’s hospital (about 150 km away). The container arrived at the weekend and was emptied and moved off the lorry all in one day. The small problem was that both cranes in Choma are out of order, but Mr Kalumba, the Vice Principal saw a crane lorry passing through town, flagged it down and persuaded the driver to do the job on his way back from Livingstone that evening!

As well as lots of useful items for the workshop and a brilliant new photocopier great books for for the presbytery and UCZ college, there are loads of things which are useful in the catering skills room on the new college site. The catering course starts in January 2017. Our instructor, Mr Akafumba Akafumba is very keen and has already done one short refresher course for table service with another planned in October. He also has a regular spot on a local radio station and recently took his students along to give their views. It greatly amused me to hear him ask them “so what do you think of your instructor?” – all positive answers of course! Oh, and the mayor’s chairs and mambas? The special chair for the Mayors inauguration was made from a photo in less than a week, - well done Vincent and the carpentry team. The mambas are safely tucked away in formaldehyde in glass jars after being shot on the farm where I go riding. They were spotted by workers and Emma was asked to deal with them. Thankfully I haven’t seen any live ones on my rides.

Thank you all again for your support, your prayers and thoughts really do matter.

Items for praise

- For a peaceful inauguration of President Lungu this month, after a rather fractious election battle.
- Jane and the volunteers faithful work with the children of Kamatipa
- For our new accountant Liton Musomder
- For keeping carpentry production with plenty of orders

For the container ministry and all their good work

Items for prayer

- For the successful outfitting of the skills room ready for January's intake of students.
- That Liton and David will fit into Chodort life and enjoy their time here.
- For the computer class to update its equipment
- For the Zambian economy, still facing 20+% inflation, with all that means to the very poor.

With every good wish to you all,

Jenny

Jenny Featherstone

Emails jenny.featherstone@gmail.com or Chodort@gmail.com

Websites www.chodort.org www.play4all.org

Want

First man: "My wife doesn't know what she wants for Christmas."

Second man: "You're lucky. Mine does!"

NEXT NEWSLETTER – LENT & EASTER SPRING EDITION 2017

The close down for the next newsletter will be

Sunday 29th January 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.