

Dear Friends,

We are a Fairtrade congregation which means we are committed to using Fairtrade products at church events and to promoting Fairtrade throughout the year, particularly during Fairtrade fortnight.

Martin Luther King famously said, 'before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half the world'. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

It's a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. This is where Fairtrade comes in...When people are paid a fairer price, they can have more control over their lives when times are hard, and worry less about how they will feed their families. Whether it's the extra cash in their pockets or being able to expand their farms to grow more food to eat, Fairtrade means many farmers and workers are able to fulfil a basic human need – to put enough food on the table for the people they care about, all year round.

10th February is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, our time of preparation for Easter. This year you can prepare in a very practical, Fairtrade way.... Buy or order some Real Easter Eggs for family and friends. As well as being made from Fairtrade chocolate they have a beautifully illustrated Easter story booklet in the box. You'll be putting 'Easter' back into Easter eggs - and helping improve the lives of families in countries such as Myanmar, Kenya, Bangladesh and Tanzania.

Real Easter Eggs will be available from the middle of February in Tesco and Morrisons, but in limited quantities. They can be ordered at church – last orders on Sunday 21 February - or directly from www.realeasteregg.co.uk

Through Lent and Easter be bold to share the life of Christ, and show his love.

Rosie

Lent Groups

The ancient poems we call Psalms are over 2000 years old.

They were written in very different times from our own when humans could travel at the speed of a camel - not at the speed of sound. But these songs have stood the test of time for they address many of the problems we still face: violence, injustice, anger - and bewilderment. Why do the wicked prosper? Where is God when we suffer?

The town centre churches are coming together during Lent to look at The Psalms – Prayers for Today’s Church. For maximum flexibility there will be 3 venues to attend at 3 different times of the week – you are not tied to a time or venue – whatever suits you best that week.

Saturdays 13, 20, 27 February and 5, 12 March @ **10.00am**
in the St Bryce Kirk Centre

Sundays 14, 21, 28 February and 6, 13 March @ **7.00pm**
in Abbotshall Church Hall

Mondays 15, 22, 29 February and 7, 14 March @ **2.00pm**
in Bennoch Church Hall

We will conclude the course by all coming together on
Monday 21 March @ 7.00pm in Linktown Church.

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| Session One | <i>Know that the Lord is God</i> (Psalm 100) |
| Session Two | <i>Out of the depths have I cried</i> (Psalm 130) |
| Session Three | <i>How long, O Lord?</i> (Psalm 13) |
| Session Four | <i>You spread a table before me</i> (Psalm 23) |
| Session Five | <i>Unless the Lord builds the house ...</i> (Psalm 127) |

23 January 2016 – Ordination of James Bissett



The minister, Rosie, with Patricia and Frank Nuthall, attended James’ Ordination and Introduction at Knockbain Parish Church, Munloch, The Black Isle, on 23rd January 2016. Knockbain is linked with Killearnan which is somewhere on the road to Muir of Ord. As one enters Munloch, Knockbain is the first building on the right, nearby is the pub and a brewery. The church holds about 500 whereas Killearnan holds only about 200.

At least 200 souls attended the joint service. James’ wife, Susan Cord, who has just completed her ministry training at Dalgety Bay Church, was to be Ordained and Inducted to the charge. Rev.Dr. Robert Pickles, the recently appointed minister at Fearn Abbey, near Tain, gave a splendid sermon. (See page 40 of Life & Work, February 2016.) Most of the Presbytery of Ross attended. Fifteen came from Linktown Church along with Catriona and Marc. An unknown number came from Dalgety Bay by coach on the day and returned that night. That was a long day for

some people. The service was followed by speeches, over two hours in total - and we feel five hymns were too much.....

The buffet was held in the Village Hall. The tables were groaning with the weight of cakes and other edibles, and when we left, there seemed just as much on the tables. Every chair was taken; people had to stand if they didn't get a seat on the perimeter benches.

Treasurer's report for January 2016

THANK YOU for the robust financial support you provided for Abbotshall during 2015.

Specifically, the retiring donations at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day provided each of our two chosen charities – Bethany Christian Trust and our Missionary Partner, Jenny Featherstone - with a cheque for £123.

Bethany Christian Church responded, “The generosity from Abbotshall Parish Church will be a great help and blessing for us in our work of providing vital services for homeless and vulnerable people across Scotland. Many of Bethany's services depend either largely or entirely on voluntary donations in order to operate – including really vital frontline services like the Drop-in and Community Support Services in Fife and the Winter Care Shelter and the lunchtime and evening Care Van in Edinburgh.”

Jenny Featherstone emailed, “The money converts to around K2,000 which is about 2/3 of a year's fees for a carpentry student. Against all odds we have 3 fee paying students this year, and 4 tentative offers of sponsorship, so it may mean we can run our carpentry class again. If so, I will be very delighted! All good wishes to the folk at Abbotshall.”

Meanwhile, in general, our total income for 2015 not only matched our ordinary expenses of over £83,000 but also our extraordinary additional expense of a new Hall gas boiler at over £5,000. AND THEN there was still income left over to match the likely cost of items deferred into 2016.

As usual our 2015 Statement of Accounts will be discussed by our Trustees and passed to our Independent Examiner in the coming months before formal distribution at the Annual Stated Meeting in April. Perhaps then, with details in black and white, you may wish to form your own interpretation and opinion of our financial activity during 2015 but, for what it's worth, I would suggest that you conclude that the response from the Congregation could not have been more appropriate – a wide-based support, hitting the target right on the button!

A True Story

The five year old grandson of a church member was in pensive mood recently and asked " Mummy, what religion do people belong to who believe in The Loch Ness Monster ?" His Mum could not think of a snappy answer.....

Thursday Fellowship Group

In November our speaker was Bob Docherty whose topic was "Lassies o' pairts frae the Lang Toun". After a short history of Kirkcaldy High School from its beginnings to the present day, he spoke of pupils who had been educated there and of the way their lives had changed due to the education they received. Bob had many stories to tell us of his time as Deputy Rector and showed photographs of some "famous" ex pupils. A few names from these photos are:- actor who played Howard in Last of the Summer Wine, (Robert Fyffe); children's author of "Maisie" books, (Aileen Paterson); politician, later prime minister, (Gordon Brown); studied at Oxford, journalist and crime writer, (Val McDermid); professor of astrology, California Technical College, (Annella Cassells); aeronautical engineer, became head of Rolls Royce Aerospace Group, (Stewart Millar); studied medicine at Edinburgh and worked with Flying Doctor Service in Australia, (Michelle Adam). Quite a few former pupils returned to Kirkcaldy High School as members of staff.

Sport also played a big part in school life and many of the boys excelled in rugby, football, cricket and canoeing. Sandy Hinchelwood and Robert Howie both played rugby for Scotland and British Lions. Girls also became household names:- Meg Ritchie represented Scotland in 3 Commonwealth Games and 2 Olympics; Joyce Barclay played tennis for Scotland and also played at Wimbledon; Shona Urquhart represented Scotland in the javelin at the Commonwealth Games in 1986 and 1990.

As many of our group had been pupils at Kirkcaldy High School, Bob's stories brought back memories of teachers and pupils and some of our members also recalled their time at school. A very informative afternoon was had with lots of participation by our group.

Note: From Thursday 18th February we will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm.

Programme for this session...

Thursday 18th February - Dave Frew, Walking the Camino

Thursday 17th March - Jenny Featherstone, Missionary Partner

Thursday 21st April - A few of my favourite things (a chatty afternoon)

Thursday 19th May - Helen MacKenzie – Growing up in a manse

Thursday 16th June - Picnic in the Park (following on from last year)

A warm welcome is extended to all. If transport is required please contact Rosie.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Over 570 filled shoeboxes from churches and schools were brought to Templehall Church on Thursday 12th November 2015 for the Blythswood Shoebox dedication service which was led by the Rev. Ron Rye, the minister of Whytescauseway Baptist Church.

Children from Capshard and Valley Primaries along with their teachers, parents and grandparents, as well as people from churches in the Kirkcaldy area who attended the service saw slides depicting some of the recipients of 2014 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 Craigmillar Church 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

Templehall Church

Letter from Head of Fundraising, Blythswood Care

Thank you for all the hard work in promoting the Shoe Box Appeal, and gathering, sorting and packing all of the shoeboxes this year.

We received a grand total of 116,576 boxes; around 10% up on the 2014 number.

Whatever your involvement has been in the Shoe Box Appeal your help is appreciated.

We cannot make this work without the kindness and generosity of the UK public.

Certificates are being sent to all churches, schools and groups who participated that we are aware of but please do pass on our thanks to anyone you are in contact with who donated boxes, items and / or their time.

Kind regards
Danny Muschate

Prayer Group

The hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" encourages us throughout to "take it to the Lord in prayer." Whatever we are going through in life we are to "take it to the Lord in prayer." Members of the Prayer Group often hear that our prayers for the sick and bereaved have been appreciated which makes it very worthwhile. A warm invitation is extended to all to come along and join us as we pray for our congregation and parish. We meet in the vestry on the second and last Sunday in the month at 10.20am for about 15 minutes – 14th February, 28th February, 13th March, 27th March, 10th April, 24th April. It is very informal – a reading from the Bible, hearing about the people we are praying for and then a time of prayer. You can pray aloud or silently. For more information have a word with Rosie or me.

If there is something you would like us to pray about please put a note in the Prayer Boxes in the Church vestibule or the Church Hall.
Anne Gardner (01592 265876)

BEREAVEMENTS

We were saddened at the passing of

Jack McEwan, in November 2015;

Thomas Beveridge, Alice Elder, in January 2016.

BAPTISMS

Caitlin Elizabeth Ruth Oliver was baptised on 29 November 2015.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

Nancy and Andrew Paterson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November.

WOMENS' AID THANKS

'I am writing to thank everyone at Abbotshall Church for the many children's gifts, toiletries and gift vouchers you recently donated to our Christmas Appeal 2015. These generous gifts were much appreciated and were distributed among our service users and their families in time for Christmas Day...Thank you all so much for your commitment and support towards our work with women, children and young people who have experienced abuse.'

WALKING GROUP

The Holy Strollers have been in hibernation during the winter but will resume activity in the spring. Walks are scheduled to take place on the **3rd Saturday** of every month between March and October, i.e. **19th March; 16th April; 21st May; 18th June; 16th July; 20th August; 17th September and 15th October.** Please contact Jenny McLeod (01592 268415 / j.mcleod415@btinternet.com) or visit the Abbotshall Church web site for details of walks.

Abbotshall Craft Group

The craft group resumed on Wednesday 3rd February at 10 am in the Kennedy Hall. They 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. modeling, art, sewing, knitting etc.) please bring it along and enjoy fellowship and refreshments.

The group are looking forward to hosting a special coffee morning in June. More information on that when details have been finalised.

For further information contact Bett Duncan.

Leap Year – 29th February

2016 brings us a Leap Year. We need to add this extra day every four years in order to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. The problem is very simple: our calendar has 365 days, but it actually takes 365.242199 days (a tropical year) to circle once around the Sun. That means we are 'out' by nearly six hours a year. Four times six hours is 24 hours - hence an extra day every four years.

Adding the extra day in February goes back to Julius Caesar in 45 BC. In his Julian Calendar, February was the last month of the year, and 24th February was Leap Year Day.

Diary Dates

Sunday 7 February – Pulpit Interchange. Worship at Abbotshall will be conducted by Rev David Adams of Leslie Trinity. The minister will be at St Kenneths: Kennoway, Windygates and Balgonie.

Saturday 13 February, 10.00am – Coffee Morning.

Wednesday 24 February, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting.

Monday 29 February – Sunday 13 March – Fairtrade Fortnight

Sunday 6 March, 9.00am and 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper in the Church

Saturday 12 March, 10.00am – Coffee Morning

Sunday 20 March, 11.00am – Palm Sunday Service

Tuesday 22 March, 7.00pm – Holy Week Service in Abbotshall Church.

Wednesday 23 March, 7.00pm – Holy Week Service in Linktown Church

Thursday 24 March, 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Communion Service in Bennoch Church

Friday 25 March, 7.00pm – Good Friday Service in St Bryce Kirk.

Sunday 27 March, 8.30am – Early morning worship in the Beveridge Park (by the fountain).

Sunday 27 March, 11.00am – Easter Day Family Worship in the Church.

Thursday 31 March, 7.30pm – Trustees meeting.

Saturday 9 April, 10.00am – Coffee Morning

NEXT NEWSLETTER – SUMMER EDITION 2016

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 24 April 2016**. 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