

ROSIE'S LETTER - September 2015

Dear Friends,

September is our Stewardship Season at Abbotshall. A time to reflect on how we say thank you to God for all that he has given us. In past years we've focused on the stewardship of our talents, time and money. This year we turn our thoughts to the stewardship of creation. The Bible tells us that the earth is the Lord's – and we are stewards, caretakers, of his creation. In these words from Donald Hilton...

Not ours, O Lord, but yours;
The earth belongs to you.

We mine the copper, gold and iron,
We take the minerals from the earth,
Coal, wood and water; soil and clay.
We use these gifts from day to day
But - not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.

From orchard tree and soft brown earth,
From bush and cane, from branch and stalk,
From rivers, seas and grinding mill
We take all good things as we will
But - not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.

We marvel at the swelling seas,
We gaze into the night-time sky,
By painter's brush or poet's tongue
We think they all to us belong
But - not ours, O Lord, they're yours;
The earth belongs to you.

Take time to think about how you show your thanks to God by caring for his creation.
Yours in Christ Rosie

September is Stewardship Season

Sunday 6 September, 11.00am – Wonderful World!

Sunday 13 September, 11.00am – The Earth is the Lord's

Sunday 20 September, 11.00am – Stewards of God's Creation

Sunday 27 September, 11.00am – Harvest Thanksgiving

THE GOD QUESTION / SCIENCE VS GOD

Does **GOD** really exist?

Even some prominent atheists describe it as “the biggest question of all!”

The greatest challenge to belief is often thought to come from science.

This TV series investigates whether 21st Century science supports the case for a creator or instead removes it. In the programmes, atheists and theists battle for the truth and ultimately the viewer decides.

There are no easy answers to the question of how life and our universe came to be. Was it created by a God of beauty and infinite wisdom or did it evolve by random chance?

The central churches are organising a set of meetings to look at this series of programmes and to discuss what is presented by a lot of eminent people. This will be an innovative and uplifting time and we would ask you to come and join in the discussion. There are no right or wrong answers.

On the street there is a mixture of confusion and assumption. Out there, it is mostly assumed that with every scientific breakthrough, God is more and more redundant. Yet instinctively, the vast majority of people in the world feel “there must be something.” Well, is there? What’s the evidence? That’s the territory of The God Question series.

This 6 week course will take place in St Bryce Kirk Centre starting on 15 September. We will start with a meal at 6.30 pm and then at 7.30 pm watch the video and have time for group discussion finishing at 8.45 pm (you can opt in or out of the meal).

COME AND JOIN US: FILL IN THE ENCLOSED FORM

This course is run as a partnership among St Bryce Kirk, Bennoch Parish Church, Abbotshall Church and Linktown/Auchtertool Church.

PILGRIM’S WAY CHALLENGE

St Andrews was one of the key pilgrimage sites in Europe 500 years ago. The **Fife Pilgrim Way** is a new long distance walk (70 miles) under development through the heart of Fife, following in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims. The route follows the pilgrim journey between Culross Abbey, the quay at North Queensferry and St Andrews passing through Dunfermline, Kelty, Markinch and Ceres.

EMMS International is organising the **Pilgrim’s Way Challenge** to take place on **Saturday 19th September 2015**. Participants are free to walk or cycle at their own pace for as far or as little as they want on the section which passes through Kirkcaldy Presbytery. Churches on the route which will be open to welcome bikers and hikers include Auchterderran, Kinglassie, Leslie, Glenrothes Christ’s Kirk, Markinch, Windygates and Kennoway, a total distance of approximately 16 miles.

A group of Holy Strollers from Abbotshall intend to walk the part of the route between Kinglassie and Markinch (approximately 8.5 miles). A warm welcome is extended to all to join them.

Participants should pledge to raise funds for EMMS International's work in providing essential healthcare in Malawi, India and Nepal. Sponsorship would be greatly appreciated by the walkers.

Further information can be had from Jenny McLeod (01592 268415 / [j.mcleod415@btinternet .com](mailto:j.mcleod415@btinternet.com)).

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving at Abbotshall Church is on 27th September. We will again support Blytheswood Care Shoe Box Appeal at this service.

WALKING GROUP MAY – JULY 2015

On **16th May 4** *Holy Strollers*, Margaret, Anne, Morna and Jenny, walked round Linlithgow Loch and along a stretch of the River Avon. The walk started with a visit to St Michael's Parish Church which has a long and illustrious history. The first mention of "the great church of Linlithgow" is in a charter of 1138 in which King David I gifted it "with all its chapels, lands and other rights" to the Cathedral of St Andrews. The Church of St Michael of Linlithgow was consecrated in 1242 by the Bishop of St Andrews. We walked round the side of the ruins of Linlithgow Palace, birthplace of Mary Queen of Scots, to reach the loch side. On leaving the environs of the loch we took a path through woodland, a modern housing estate and a road which crossed over the M9 motorway. We continued on some minor roads including "Fisher's Brae to Bo'ness" to reach the River Avon. The footpath continued with the River Avon on one side and woods and farmland on the other side until it reached the outskirts of Linlithgow. On our return journey to Kirkcaldy we stopped at the New Hopetoun Garden Centre for refreshments. Finally we made a slight detour to view the progress being made with the new Queensferry Crossing.

On **20th June 5** *Holy Strollers*, Anne, Morna, Jane, Mary and Jenny, had a most enjoyable walk in the St Andrews area and were blessed with sunny weather. The walk started next to the famous R & A Clubhouse and down on to the West Sands. It was a very pleasant walk along the beach, the scene of the Oscar winning film "Chariots of Fire", to Out Head and the Eden Estuary. We continued walking along a track used by green-keeping vehicles between the Old and Eden Courses. We passed the Driving Range, Old Course Hotel, Jigger Inn and finally reached the 18th hole of the Old Course. We concluded fellowship with refreshments at Balgove Farm Shop.

On **18th July 5** *Holy Strollers*, Anne, Morna, Margaret, Jill and Jenny, walked along the section of the Fife Coastal Path from Crail to Kingsbarns. The weather was dry but there was a very strong north westerly wind. On leaving Crail we went through Sauchope Links caravan park and

Kilminning Coast Wildlife Park. The lumpy rock on the point which is the ruins of Kilminning Castle could be seen. To our left was Craighead Links Golf Course. We had a brief stop here for coffee and enjoyed good views across the Forth Estuary to May Island, Bass Rock and North Berwick Law. The path went under the coastguard station to reach Fife Ness and

passed the remains of what was once Fife Ness Harbour. Balcomie Golf Links, home of the Crail Golfing Society, was on our right. The next point of interest was Constantine's Cave where King Constantine I was reputed to have been killed in 874 after a battle with the Danes. The path then dropped down to the beach where we stopped in a sheltered spot for our picnic lunch. We continued through woodland, across the Cambo Burn and over the dunes at the edge of Kingsbarns Golf Links. We left the coastal path at this point and walked up the road and through woodland to Kingsbarns. We returned to Crail by bus and finished with refreshments in the Honey-pot Café.

Blythewood Shoe Box Appeal 2015

The last date to hand in your shoe box at Abbotshall Church is Sunday 8th November. The boxes will then be moved to Templehall Parish Church for uplift by Blytheswood Care. There will be a short service of dedication at Templehall on Thursday 12th November at 2pm. If you can assist with the transportation of the boxes to Templehall Church, please speak to Bill Page or Diane Murray.

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages of the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Tommy was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the children were due to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Tommy was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

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 28th November**.

All the usual stalls, home baking, jams, confectionery, tombola, craft, greeting cards, cosmetics, bric a brac 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 soon at £2.

Please note this will be the last one **until Saturday 9th January 2016**.

Thank You

Bill Page

Thursday Fellowship Group

At the meeting in April we enjoyed hearing from several members about their favourite holiday. The destinations were varied and we heard about a motoring tour of Europe, a holiday climbing in Skye, visits to Italy and New Zealand and many more interesting places.

Following on from a recent television programme entitled “The Lost Supper”, at the May meeting we enjoyed discussing the meals made by our mothers – and grandmothers, what we ate during the war years and school dinners. A lot of discussion took place and old recipe books were looked at (many which are still used today). The afternoon concluded with our usual cup of tea and delicious cakes made by Jenny using her mother’s recipe.

In June our thoughts turned to picnics and outings we had enjoyed over the years – family outings, Sunday School picnics, fun on the beach with sandwiches full of sand!! Photographs were shared along with favourite places we had enjoyed visiting and things we did when we were there. A lovely afternoon of memories was brought to a close by enjoying a picnic with soup, pork pies, various sandwiches, jelly, strawberries and cream and sand on the table. Along with our cup of tea we enjoyed a piece of a delicious fruit cake baked by James.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 2pm in the Hall. A warm welcome is extended if you care to join us. If you need transport please phone Rosie on 260315.

BEREAVEMENTS



We were saddened at the passing of Margaret Meekison and

John Arnold in May.

Agnes (Nan) Dryburgh, Anne Robertson, Sheila Strugnell,

Nan Miller, Evelyn Brown all in June.

Les Steward in July.

Henry Dalziel in August;

Alex MacLean, former Church Officer, also in August.



Emeli Ann Salmon was baptised on 3 May 2015;

Olivia Jeannie Lynch was baptised on 10 May 2015;

Callum Austin Sheach was baptised on 21 June 2015.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS

Harry and Florence Clarke celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in July.

Roddy and Jackie Henderson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary also in July.

Jim and Jane Gilmour celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary also in July.

USED STAMP APPEAL

Thank you all for the used stamps which you have kindly donated to the church to help raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide.

This year the Stamp Appeal will support the work of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme. For over 12 years, thanks to the generosity of church members and their fund-raising, the Church of Scotland HIV Programme has been able to offer support to partner churches overseas as they engage with the reality of HIV and AIDS in their communities; nearer to home, we also support local organisations in Scotland who are reaching out to families infected and affected by HIV.

Anne Moyes

MANY THANKS

I wish to thank all the drivers at the church who took Henry over to the Hyperbaric Unit in Leith for over 20 years and more recently from January to June the drivers who took me to the hospital in Dunfermline.

I also want to say thank you for all the lovely cards and flowers I received upon Henry's passing.

Vera Dalziel

When the sun goes edgewise – and daytime equals night

September 23 is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere) The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

Childrens' Page

BIBLE NUMBERS?

The answer to each of these questions about the Bible, is a number.

1. How many psalms are there in the Book of Psalms?
2. How many days did Jesus spend in the wilderness (Matthew, chapter 4)?
3. How many times did Peter deny Jesus (Luke, chapter 22)?
4. How many daughters-in-law did Naomi have (Ruth, chapter 1)
5. How long did Methuselah live (Genesis, chapter 5)?
6. How many days did Joshua march around the walls of Jericho (Joshua, chapter 6)?
7. How many provinces did Ahasuerus rule over (Esther, chapter 1)?
8. How many sparrows were sold for 2 pennies (Luke, chapter 12)?
9. After how many years did Paul go again to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus (Galatians, chapter 2)?
10. How many people were saved from the ship that Paul travelled on when it was shipwrecked on the island of Malta (Acts 27)?

Answers: 1.150 2.40 3.3 4.2 5.969 6.7 7.127 8.5 9.14 10.276

The newsletter will be issued on the following dates for the next year.

Sunday, 15th November 2015

Sunday, 7th February 2016

Sunday, 1st May, 2016

Sunday, 4th September 2016

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter then please ensure that you have your article to Diane Murray one whole week before the issue date. Please also remember to check the website www.abbotshallchurch.org.uk between newsletters to catch up on all church news.

Diary Dates

Saturday 12 September, 10.00am – Coffee morning

Saturday 19 September – EMMS Pilgrims' Walk

Thursday 24 September, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 24 September, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Sunday 27 September – Harvest Thanksgiving

Saturday 10 October, 10.00am – Coffee morning

Thursday 29 October, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 29 October, 7.30pm – Congregational Board meeting

Sunday 1 November, 9.00am & 11.00am – Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sunday 8 November, 10.50am – Remembrance Sunday Service

Thursday 26 November, 2.00pm – Thursday Fellowship Group

Thursday 26 November, 7.30pm – Kirk Session meeting

Saturday 28 November, 10.00am – Christmas Fayre

Sunday 29 November – First Sunday in Advent

NEXT NEWSLETTER – ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EDITION 2015

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 8TH 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.

THANK YOU – NEWSLETTER TEAM

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