

Abbotshall Church**Wednesday 25th May 2016**

which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with a reading from 1 Timothy Ch1 v12-14 a prayer focused on Grace and the Lord's prayer.

- Sederunt** Rev R Frew with I Anderson, M Baxendine, J Browning, I Clark, A Duncan, M Hope, J McLeod, M Michael, A Moyes, J Paton, M Petrie, M Scriven, A Steward, K Wilkie.
- Apologies** G Bruce, S Docherty, E Fraser, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, R Henderson, R Michael, D Murray, J Napier, B Page, E Smith, R Wright.
- Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th April 2016 were approved.
- Matters Arising** Ideas for the town centre churches combined Lent Studies and a Pentecost event for 2017 were being explored.
- Messy Church, Long Service Certificates and the Stewardship of Talents activities were on the agenda.
- Communion** Arrangements had been made for Communion on 5th June, Elders had been informed and no duties had been declined.
- Long Service Certificates** The certificates were now to hand and would be presented at the two communion services on Sunday 5th June. There would be a photograph, taken between the two services, of all the Elders receiving a certificate.
- Messy Church** Rosie had met with Louise, the Bennoch Church development officer. Louise was pleased to have the offer of additional effort from Abbotshall and, over the summer, would plan activities for the autumn. Elders were invited to visit their Messy Church event on Sunday 29th May from 3.30 -5.30 pm.
- Summer Services** The summer services at Abbotshall will focus on David's Life in June and his psalms in August. Elders should encourage members to sit downstairs.
- The July services at the town centre churches will have the theme of a Mediterranean cruise following Paul's journeys.
- Elders' Conference** Morag and Morna had attended the two day Elders' conference at Tulliallan. The main speaker, Rev. Colin Sinclair from Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh, had been inspirational particularly sharing his vision of the Church with Elders turning their dreams into reality. The Local Church Review was recommended as a good way of implementing Elders' visions for their Church.

There were several workshops but one "Seeking the Peace and

Unity of the Church” had been attended by Morag who felt that this would benefit her Presbytery role resolving conflict within another congregation. She was grateful for the lack of conflict at Abbotshall indicating that such problems tended to result from inflexible members with entrenched views.

Morna had attended a workshop on the ”Invisible Church” which addressed the gap in those claiming affiliation to the Church of Scotland at the 2011 census and the recorded membership. She also attended a workshop on “What it is to be an Elder” which she found very informative.

Stewardship The article giving details of the stewardship of talents plan had been published in the summer newsletter and Elders were encouraged to participate and to commend it to the congregation. An invitation to all the groups associated with the Guides and Scouts had been extended to the respective leaders. There had been positive responses and commitments made to explore their likely activities over the summer recess for implementation in the autumn.

Safeguarding Training was now complete but required repeating on a five year cycle.

The “Think you Know” awareness course had been attended by several Elders who had found it interesting but alarming to be made aware of the problems faced by children using internet technology. The course was highly recommended. Similar material could also be accessed through the web for the enlightenment of parents, grandparents and guardians.

Pastoral Care Anne reported that there were now twenty two members in care homes a trend which is increasing due to congregational demographics. Contact had been lost with two members and help was sought to locate them. Thirty two prayer shawls had now been gifted to elderly members.

Correspondence The KART AGM will be held in Abbotshall Church Hall on 7th June 7-8.30pm. Elders were invited to attend.

Morag had picked up A collection box on a sheet of printed card from the World Mission stall at the General Assembly. It is for use as a fund raiser to finance the rebuilding of houses in Nepal. It was suggested that this might be an Advent project.

General Assembly Report After a considerable debate on the first day of the Assembly last year’s legislation to allow a congregation to Call a minister in a single sex relationship was changed to include ministers in a same sex marriage. Congregations with a vacancy will have to decide if they wish to employ a minister in either situation before advertising. Several denominations have ceased

communion with the Church of Scotland as a consequence.

On Tuesday there was a very good Guild report which led the Minister and Session Clerk to wonder if Abbotshall might benefit from having a Guild once again. The Guild folded because of a lack of leadership. The minister was keen to explore the possibility of a less formal Guild structure. It was agreed that this would be discussed at a later date. There was an open session celebrating the introduction of female Elders in 1966 fifty years ago. It was noted that the 2011 census showed that 54% of members were female and 46% male and this is now reflected in the eldership.

On Wednesday there was an extensive discussion about the appointment of the Church's new Secretary to the Council of Assembly's wife to a senior post in the organisation which was considered by many to be a source of future difficulties. After some debate it was agreed to establish a protocol to circumnavigate anticipated problems.

Diary dates	<i>Sunday 29 May, 11.00am</i> – Young Church Service <i>Sunday 5 June, 9.00am and 11.00am</i> – Celebration of the Lord's Supper <i>Tuesday 7 June, 7.00pm</i> – KART AGM in Church Hall <i>Saturday 11 June, 10.00am</i> – The Queen's 90th Birthday Tea and Coffee Party <i>Thursday 16 June, 2.00pm</i> – Thursday Fellowship Group, Picnic in the Park <i>Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm</i> – Congregational Board meeting <i>Sunday 10 July, 11.00am</i> – United Service in Bennoch Church <i>Sunday 17 July, 11.00am</i> – United Service in St Bryce Kirk <i>Sunday 24 July, 11.00am</i> – United Service in Linktown Church <i>Sunday 31 July, 11.00am</i> – United Service in Abbotshall.
Dates of next meetings	Thursday 29 th September 7.30 pm - Kirk Session.
Closing Prayer	The meeting was closed by the Session saying " <i>The Grace</i> " together.
Action Items	The formation of a new style Guild is Rosie to be discussed at a later date.

Minute Clerk

Moderator