

# *Abbotshall Church Summer 2018 Newsletter*

## **“Sole Nominee“**



**Justin Taylor will preach as the Sole Nominee at Abbotshall Church on Sunday 27th May, 2018 at 11am for the vacant charge. The Nominating Committee extends a very warm welcome to all members and friends of the church on that day.**

## **Good news about an applicant for position of minister of Abbotshall**

The Nominating Committee has received an application for the position as minister to Abbotshall from a probationary minister who has almost finished his probationary period. He joined us for a service at Abbotshall a couple of months ago.

After carrying out due diligence which included reviewing his CV, listened to him preaching and contacted his referees, we invited him to meet the Nominating Committee last Wednesday. We showed him around the manse and church and the Nominating Committee interviewed him. We were most impressed and believe he will be a good minister. Consequently, the Nominating Committee has invited Justin Taylor to preach as the Sole Nominee at Abbotshall on Sunday 27th May and he has accepted. Currently Justin is nearing the end of his period as a probationary minister at Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh. After completing final assessment as probationary minister he was allowed to apply for vacant positions.

If you, the members of Abbotshall, vote to accept Justin he will still have to complete his probation up to 30<sup>th</sup> June after which he will be ordained and invested into Abbotshall early in July. The Ordination and Investiture will be organised by Kirkcaldy Presbytery.

**Michael Baxendine**

**Convenor or the Nominating Committee**

## **Cast your Vote!**

I am especially pleased that Justin Taylor will be preaching as Sole Nominee on May 27<sup>th</sup> as I first encountered him a few years ago when I was training to become a Church Assessor.

The job of a Church Assessor is to be on a panel to choose candidates for ministry, we work in teams of three (two Church Assessors, one of whom is a minister, and a Psychologist Assessor) and spend two days working with four applicants, watching them perform various practical, discussion and written challenges. They also have three interviews after which they depart and the assessors spend a third day discussing the outcomes and writing a report on each applicant. It is a very robust process which ensures the quality of the candidates.

The last part of my 18-month training was to be an observer at an Assessment Conference and the Director asked me to focus on one of the applicants, to follow them throughout the two days and write a report as if I were a fully trained assessor. The applicant I was asked to focus on was Justin Taylor and it gives me such pleasure to see how he has developed as a minister from our first encounter, where he showed enormous potential.

Please come and support the decision of the Nominating Committee and cast your vote on May 27<sup>th</sup>. You will not be disappointed!

**Morag Michael, Session Clerk**

### **From the Interim Moderator**

#### **Dear Friends**

First of all, let me say how delighted I am that you have a Sole Nominee.

I know that Justin is keen to come to Abbotshall and, if the vote goes in his favour, then I hope that you will support him in everything he does with you. However I am sad that my time at Abbotshall is probably coming to an end.

I have made many new friends among you all and I will miss meeting up with you, either at the monthly Coffee Mornings or on a Sunday morning.

I have been made to feel so welcome at Abbotshall from the very beginning and I very quickly learnt all the little idiosyncrasies among the Kirk Session, Congregational Board and members. Wondering why I recognise someone, appreciating the helping hands that have always been there, taking part in Communion with you, chatting over coffee, are all memories that I will take away with me to savour.

I will, no doubt, be asked to be Interim Moderator at another church sometime in the future, but I will hold Abbotshall in a special place in my heart.

Blessings

**Ena Hudson , Interim Moderator**

### **From your locum ministers**

Dear reader of this newsletter, whilst you now have a 'sole nominee' who you have a chance to vote in as your minister, both Catriona and myself (Marc) are still here as your pastors and leading most Sunday services, until Justin Taylor is inducted. This is a greatly exciting step for you as a congregation, but also such a joy for us as we have accompanied you as 'locum ministers' so far through this time of vacancy. We very much look forward to hopefully work together with a new colleague, fresh from training, full of new ideas. And this will be good for Abbotshall, and Kirkcaldy Presbytery in turn, too.

We certainly enjoyed getting to know you, the people of Abbotshall Church, better week by week, we really do! What a congregation full of gift, talent and deep commitment you are! To share with you in Lent discussion series and Holy Week services and to be part of the worshipping congregation (whilst leading worship) is a special joy. I, Marc, am particularly touched by the strength of the pastoral care team, supporting the church

family in being a life-line for many; many people today are lonely in their neighbourhood, but to have a meeting point like e.g. fellowship or walking group, meetings or Sunday worship is a cornerstone of many lives, giving friendship, encounter, inspiration, reflexion and fun. Aye, FUN. "Faith comes from fun", so I often say, or, in different words: "the joy of the **Good News**". Ultimately the laughter of God on Easter morning when Christ cleared his throat, got up and walked over death – God always has the last laugh! Nothing more to fear in this world (and beyond!) because it all is already overcome – yes, there are troubles, but they shall no longer hold ultimate power over us as Christ is risen, and when we join Jesus' friends and want to learn more and trust deeper, we join ever more in God's laughter over death, and are raised.

The Christian faith has life, and empowerment to a fuller life, for all, at it's heart; this message of love is so essential. Society, individuals, but also congregations/ the church family need constant renewal by this love that God gives freely, whatever has gone before.

And so it is such a delight to see forgiveness, mercy, hospitality, openness and inclusiveness so alive and well in Abbotshall Church and Catriona and I feel honoured to be with you for this while. We encourage you, dear reader, to take full advantage of all groups and activities offered in Abbotshall Church, and also to try volunteering here as we are sure you'll find it a rewarding experience.

The community of Abbotshall Church is **good news**; and, like any church, is alive by the power of the **Good News**.

In this time, when ministers are increasingly a rarity, we need to look into a future of sharing beyond our own steeple/church. And so we look forward to forming strategic alliances as neighbours, as Christians in the Kirkcaldy area, sharing our resources and gifts, so new hearts can be touched by the faith of the risen Christ, in new ways.

God bless, Marc (and Catriona)

**Rev. Catriona Morrison and Rev. Marc Prowe**

[catriona@linktown.org.uk](mailto:catriona@linktown.org.uk) and [mprowe@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mprowe@churchofscotland.org.uk) phone 01592-265536

## **Christian Aid Week – 2018**

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

**YES – It is that time of year again –**

### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Last year the Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Committee collected from Door-to-door collections a splendid total of approx. £7,200.

All the participating churches are having more and more difficulty in persuading church members to carry out the door-to-door collection and we are aware that many areas of the town are now NOT being "covered" by collectors.

We have taken the liberty of enclosing with your Summer Newsletter a Christian Aid Envelope.

Now if you regularly have a Christian Aid collector at your door, or if you will be at church on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May, when there will be Christian Aid envelopes available for your contribution, then you do not need to do anything with this envelope.

But if neither of these are applicable to you, and you would like to give a donation, then can I ask you to give your completed envelope to a relative, friend or neighbour, who you know is going to church – any church – on 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> May, where it will be collected and end up as part of our Kirkcaldy total.

Failing which, get it to me at 5, Raith Drive, Kirkcaldy KY2 5NW, or I will collect it from you if you phone me on 01592 266451.

**Euan Fraser – Kirkcaldy Christian Aid Treasurer**

## **WORLD MISSION STAMP APPEAL (2018)**

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 £2,194.00 was raised by The Church of Scotland in 2017 to support Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan run by our partner the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan.

This year the appeal is raising money for The Hungarian Reformed Church in Transcarpathia (Ukraine) which gives valuable support to children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. They help to run a number of day care centres which provide educational, emotional and physical support for children and young people with disabilities, allowing them to live life in all its fullness, and to enjoy participating in society and family life.

These centres provide a wonderful opportunity for young people to be a part of a community where their needs are met, where they are able to be themselves, and their families are supported. Unfortunately, the Ukrainian government is unable to provide support for people with disabilities due to economic constraints. The church is, therefore, relied upon to provide these valuable services for young people.

Thank you.

**Anne Moyes**

## **Abbotshall Friendship Circle**

At our meeting in January we welcomed Robin McAlpine from Bennochty Church who spoke to us about his visit to Chodort in Zambia at the invitation of Jenny Featherstone, our Missionary Partner. He spent time with Jenny working at Chodort where he saw the work being carried out to train students in dressmaking, woodwork, I.T., etc. Hopefully these students can then make a living for themselves. There is now a schoolroom and kitchen on site as well as living accommodation which is let, thus providing much needed cash to carry on the work. At the project, Robin's description of his visit and the pictures he showed were enjoyed by all present. One of the places Robin visited was the Victoria Falls. Unfortunately, due to recent drought in the area, there was only a trickle of water to be seen.

Like many organisations, our February meeting was cancelled due to the snow.

In March we celebrated Easter by having a Hot Cross Bun tea and goodies. During the afternoon we shared memories of Easter and how it is celebrated in other countries.

## **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 18<sup>th</sup> July** 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.

**Abbotshall & Bennochry  
Church of Scotland**

Come to a **MESSY WEDDING** and enjoy the Christian Message as a family, play games, have fun, form friendships and enjoy **free** hospitality.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2018 3-5pm, Elgin Street. Kirkcaldy KY2 5HR** . Everyone welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.



Heart & Soul - the biggest public open-air event of the Church of Scotland; you miss this at your own loss!

**Sat 19 May from 7-9pm "Heart & Soul" free youth event** in the Gardens. in collaboration with Powerpoint Scotland and Christian EDM group LZ7, playing up to 1,000 young people - a mix of live music, enthusiastic & exciting worship and fellowship.

**Sun.20th May 12:30 - 6pm: "Heart & Soul" celebration** - eighth annual celebration of the church in **Edinburgh Princes Street Gardens** - theme 'Peace be with you!' Several meandering paths into 'villages' of tents, all accessible for those with mobility issues.

**For children and families:** Family Stage - giant picnic with Fischy music, games, stories and lots of fun from 12:30 – 3pm. Theme of 'Peace be with you!' so ... 'Bring Your Piece' and join us at the picnic.

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**Fife Pilgrim Way (opening soon) events**

see <http://fifecoastandcountrysidetrust.co.uk/Events> :

Sat, May 12, 2-3.30pm- Saltires and Scallop Shells – Medieval Pilgrim Badges from Fife

Tue, May 15, 7–8.30pm The Life and Times of the Medieval Pilgrim: 'For Whatever Ales ye Along the Way'. in Lomond Centre Glenrothes

Mon, June 4, 7-8.30pm Murder Along the Fife Pilgrim Way in Ceres Memorial Hall

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**Treasurer's report - April 2018**

**URGENT APPEAL**

**Abbotshall's budget for 2018 indicates a potential deficit of over £64,000.**

Yes, at this stage in the annual cycle, recent years' predictions have been of large deficits by year end. In each of the years, income was estimated on a cautious basis and expenditure included large fabric costs. In 2016 and 2017, actual year end balances appeared to be not nearly as bad as predicted but appearances were deceptive in that significant amounts of fabric work and costs were carried forward to the following year. In 2018, we will probably not have the same flexibility.

The facts so far. In the first four months of 2018 we spent £23K on Manse fabric. In total we spent £25K more than we received in income. 107 households donated where the 2017 figure was 151 households. Specifically, at the March 2017 communion, weekly freewill offerings (WFO) brought in £2,277 whereas in 2018, due to bad weather and low attendance, the offerings were only £676. WFO totals have not yet recovered from this slump. In summary these figures suggest an alarming, underlying trend of falling income and being less able to keep up with our running costs.

The next eight months. With the good news that we are soon to have a candidate to preach as sole nominee comes the realisation that the outstanding £14K of manse fabric work has to be completed sooner rather than later. On paper, our £95K total funds to start the year should be enough to cover the estimated £64K overspend but it would be very short-sighted of us to rely on this fact. So, we need to challenge ourselves to improve our finances by a significant margin.

**URGENT APPEAL** If we were an ordinary club looking to immediately wipe out the deficit then we would be asking each and every household for a one-off donation in excess of £600! However, we are a Christian church where donations should be given freely and within the means of the individual household over the long term. This makes it impossible to even suggest a specific increase in giving but we do need significantly more and we need it soon. Perhaps the simple starting point is to aim to reverse the £1600 March slump in WFO and then move on from there.

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN EDITION 2018**

The close down for the next newsletter will be **Sunday 26 August 2018**. Please send your contributions to Diane Murray on e/mail at **[dianemurray953@btinternet.com](mailto: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**