

**Abbotshall Church****Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017**

Which place and date the Kirk Session met and was duly constituted with prayer.

<b>Sederunt</b>	Ena Hudson with I Anderson, M Baxendine, J Browning, G Bruce, A Duncan, Jane Gilmour, Jim Gilmour, M Hope, J McLeod, M Michael, D Murray, J Napier, W Page, J Paton, J Scott, M Scriven, E Smith, A Steward, R Wright.
<b>Apologies</b>	P Bell, S Docherty, B Farrell, J Farrell, E Fraser, R Henderson, R Michael, A Moyes, M Petrie, K Wilkie.
<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>	The minutes of the last meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> June were approved.
<b>Summer Services</b>	These had been well received.
<b>Friendship Group</b>	The group had not met during the summer but would meet on Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August at 2 pm to discuss the winter programme.
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Mike Baxendine had attended a refresher course on 26 <sup>th</sup> May at Torbain Church and advised that the Pastoral Care group would also have to attend a refresher course next year.
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	<p>The Pastoral Care group had meet the day before and it was reported that one member was becoming increasingly frail and should be remembered in our prayers. Two members, who had been absent from worship for some time, had been in contact with the group and were very grateful for their help.</p> <p>The prayer shawl ministry had now reached 46 recipients who were very grateful. The last shawl, which was very much appreciated, had been given to a 92 year old lady who was still fit enough to care for herself at home. Four more shawls had been requested from the craft group.</p>
<b>The Vacancy</b>	<p>The Interim Moderator advised that the Electoral Register would require revision soon. Eleven members had been lost and some of the “lost sheep” had been found since March. The membership records are kept current.</p> <p>Mike Baxendine, who chaired the Vacancy Committee meetings, reported that all possible steps had been taken as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Parish Profile was on the Church web site</li><li>• The vacancy was being advertised by the Church of Scotland’s main office</li><li>• The vacancy was being advertised by Kirkcaldy Presbytery</li><li>• A list of probationary Ministers had been</li></ul>

reviewed.

**Vacancy  
Process**

Elsbeth Smith indicated that the vacancy process seemed to be difficult and complex with the potential to be divisive and wondered how others viewed the process. The resulting comments were as follows:-

Morag Michael advised that the process had been developed by the central Church's legal department and approved by the General Assembly.

Anne Steward considered that the subject matter would always be divisive and consequently the process was helpful to avoid difficulties with congregations.

Jim Gilmour had found the second vote to be "a bit odd" but realised that it might be necessary for legal reasons. He had found the start of the process poor as nothing could be done until the Minister had departed.

Morag Michael considered that a period of reflection was helpful and that the delay allowed the Minister to move on with as little stress as possible.

Mike Baxendine had found the process so far unnecessarily protracted and very different from normal business practices. He did acknowledge, however, that the total recruitment process might take as long although the initial stages were very convoluted.

Enid Hudson reminded the session that the ultimate appointment decision would be made by the congregation.

Glen Bruce had found the time between the two votes helpful as it allowed her time to consult with the members in her district whose views informed her second vote.

**Messy Church**

There had been a small group trying to establish Messy Church at Abotshall. Elsbeth Smith had attended a planning meeting and indicated that financial help and more volunteers were required. It was noted that the Kinghorn and Burntisland churches took turns to provide messy church and that a similar arrangement might be made with Bennoch Church.

There followed a general discussion which concluded that:-

- The need for funds should be referred to the Congregational Board
- More publicity is required
- More helpers are required.

**Correspondence**

An information leaflet from Blythswood Care was available about Wills and how to make one leaving something to the

charity.

The Rev. James Petticrew of EMMS International had written thanking the church for its support and offering to preach during the vacancy.

There was a notice from the Church of Scotland seeking people to attend a training day on 13<sup>th</sup> September to enable them to help assess potential ministerial recruits.

The Rev. Robin McAlpine had suggested various fund raising activities to support Jenny Featherstone. It was agreed that the proceeds of the coffee morning on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October would be sent to her.

There was a notice of an “Understanding our Faith” training day in Perth on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, cost £20.

The following had also been received:-

- A notice about “Build a House in Nepal”
- A newsletter from Jenny Featherstone
- The KART summer newsletter.

**AOCB**

Shoe Boxes. An moving account was given of a witness statement from a recipient of a shoe box who was greatly comforted by the gift. A discussion of the organisation of this year’s appeal followed. Shoe boxes should be ready before Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

**Diary Dates**

*Kirk Session*---Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30 pm  
*Congregational Board*---Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30 pm  
*Shoe Boxes ready*----Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November  
*Christmas Fayre*----Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November  
*Kirk Session*---Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.

**Close**

The meeting was closed by all saying *The Grace*.

Minute Clerk

Interim Moderator