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873238

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Monday to Friday : 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday service

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MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH - REGISTER

July/August 2007

Baptisms - Becky Dunphy

Weddings - Gillian Hodson & Mark Hodson

Funerals - Robina Swankie, Carol Spink

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**NOVEMBER EDITION**

Please note that **DEADLINE** dates **must** mean exactly that, with all articles and pictures submitted beforehand, or on those dates.

Friday 19th October (Un-typed)

Tuesday 23rd October (Word Processed)

QUEST Goes World-Wide!

Quest is now available on-line from our web-site, so relatives or friends can see it

from virtually anywhere in the world. It is in a format that can be seen on any computer which has the FREE Adobe Reader software (obtained from www.adobe.com).

Romania Evening

One of our members, Greta Knox, and her husband, Tommy, had the privilege of being part of a mission team working in Romania earlier this year. They enjoyed a wonderful experience and saw for themselves the wonderful work being done in the

name of Jesus.

Tommy and Greta have agreed to share pictures and stories from their trip so that more of us can hear for ourselves. An evening gathering will take place on -

Sunday 14th October, at 7pm.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**SUNDAY**

10.30 am – Gathering for prayer in crèche room.

10.30 am – Choir practice in new hall.

11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee after.

Creche – up to age 3

Infants – ages 3 to 5

Juniors – ages 8 and 9

Seniors – ages 10 and 11

Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238)

Teen Scene – S1 to S2

6.30 to 8.00 pm – Sunday evening ICE-BREAKERS – up to age 16

8.00 pm – Sunday evening Youth Group – age 16 plus

MONDAY

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Jean Tasker (874664)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – R Spink (874690)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

5.45 pm – Brownies – Morag Scorgie (01674 820721)

7.30 pm – Wednesday@Seven30

7.15 pm – Guides

7.30 pm – Women's Group – first Wednesdays – Elaine Fair (873238)

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – Joan Archer (876522)

2.00 pm – Friend's Club : first Thursdays – L Smith – B Gerrard, secretary (434821)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – J Tasker (874664)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning, main hall

11.00 am – Havilah – Drop-in Centre – Church Office (431135)

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact Alison Davie at the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Printing, tickets, syllabi, etc – W Marshall (873376).

Please call 878594 in the event of corrections or omissions, and an updated sheet will be produced.

Martin Fair



Letter From The Manse

October 2007

Dear friends,

One of the interesting things about being a minister is that almost everyone has an opinion about how you should be doing your job!! That's okay – and one should always be open to advice and suggestions. The minute you think that you know it all or that you no longer need to learn – that's when you're in trouble! Even so, you need to develop a strong sense of who you are and what you're about; otherwise, you'd be blown from here to there on every changing wind of opinion. In the end, you need to try to be faithful to what you feel God is leading you to. That's not the same as trying to keep other people happy by doing what they would want you to be doing.

As I work my way through my sixteenth year here at St. Andrew's, here's what I can say to you: you might not always like, or agree, with what I'm doing, but I'll always be doing my best to be faithful to God's calling and I'll always work as hard as I possibly can. **I can look at myself in the mirror and know that I'm doing my best and working my hardest.**

Of course not everyone will see that and there are plenty of people who want you to be doing more of this and more of that. If you went at it twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, you still wouldn't satisfy such people! I've had days when I've been out of the house by six in the morning to catch a train to Edinburgh, got back in time for tea, left again after forty minutes to make an evening meeting...and then still had people letting me know that I should have been seeing someone or taking care of something else! To try to work to that pattern, and to keep it up over a long period of time, is what reduces ministers – and many in other walks of life – to worn-out shells of the people they used to be. I've no intention of going down that road. I'll give everything I've got for God's work in this place but I'll be no good to anyone as one more piece of burned-out wreckage.

Thankfully, I'm not alone and in our Ministry Team here at St. Andrew's, we have a wonderful set of committed Christian men and women who share the workload and who, through the years, have done so much to expand the ministry and mission that we're able to offer. Please take some time to focus on the article in this edition of QUEST in which we highlight some of what our Team is doing at this time. And, in all things, let's rejoice that **God calls us all** to exercise ministry and that it's not down to just one person.

God bless,
Martin, Elaine, Callum, Andrew, Fraser and Flossie!

MartinFair@aol.com

Leadership Group

As part of its re-shaping of inherited structures, the Kirk Session is even now in the process of developing a new way of offering leadership to the congregation. Much remains to be done but the first significant move has been the forming of a Leadership Group. This group, given responsibility and authority by the Session, has been assigned the task of providing overall leadership. Their job will be to set direction and make strategic decisions concerning our immediate and long-term future. The group is made up of minister and Session Clerk together with nine others, seven elders and two from the wider congregation. These men and women have

been selected for this task (with a number of them being elected by the Kirk Session) in the belief that they will bring the necessary gifts to it and that they can be trusted to take us forward in the right way. It is hoped that this much smaller body will find itself more able to engage in the kind of effective decision-making that larger, more cumbersome bodies often find difficult.

The Leadership Group is made up of the following people: Martin Fair (Minister), Jane Miller (Session Clerk), Elaine Anderson, Lawrence Davie, Ian Drever, Wilma Ewart, Ken Lownie, Linda McDonald, Pat Mill, Ken Miller, Liz Smith. We trust that you will give the Leadership Group your full support as they seek to lead us under God's guidance.

Christianity Explored

CE stands for *Christianity Explored* and you're going to be hearing a lot more about it in time to come! It is a ten-week course in Christian foundations – an exploration of Christian basics. Therefore, it's ideal for those considering the faith for the first time, those who are just starting out on their journey...and all the rest of us who have been walking for years and need to be reminded of what it

is all about!

It will begin on **Wednesday 17th October** and will run for the ten-week period between then and Christmas time. Each evening will involve a short film, group discussion during which anyone can ask anything(!), a short summary talk and supper. All the best evenings involve food, don't they!

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

St. Andrew's in the World

At its meeting on 25th September, the Leadership Group arrived at a decision as to how we should manage our commitment to the wider world in the coming years. As you know, our focus has been on Cambodia and we intend to maintain an involvement there through the many individuals and groups who sponsor children. **That level of support amounts to over £4,000 per year** and we are inspired in the knowledge that such a good number of you have been, and are, so wonderfully generous. We hope that you will continue your commitment in as much as you remain able to do so. Over a 4-5 year period, we raised a great amount of money for the work in Cambodia and much was achieved; doubtless, we will always have a soft spot for **Cambodia** and its people.

Beyond this, a decision was reached to switch our main support to the work in **Malawi** – the work that our youngsters were involved in this summer. Part of that will be the ongoing support of the two buildings that are being erected in our name; the **St. Andrew's Day Care Centre** and the

Residential unit. As you know, this work is largely among orphaned children. **Aquaid**, the organisation we will be partnering with, has built up a quite remarkable record in working among these children - keeping them alive, for starters, and giving them opportunities in life that would otherwise be denied them.

In some ways, this work is not different to the work that we supported in Cambodia. However, the Leadership Group is strongly of the opinion that working with Aquaid in Malawi will prove to be much more fruitful in terms of the relationships that can be developed. Their belief is that this work in the wider world is as much about us being changed as it is about us making changes and that the Malawi option is the better one in these terms. On top of that, this support for the work in Malawi is one way of us all saying how much we value what our young people started - and that they have our total support.

So, we go on, trying always to be obedient to God's leading, reaching out into a suffering world to do what Jesus would have done.

Let's do it together.

Havilah

Havilah has now been open for just over a year and things are really starting to take off. Originally we opened on a Monday morning for 2 hours serving tea, toast, offering a listening ear and, most importantly, the love of our Lord Jesus. This quickly moved onto 3 days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, for 3 hours over lunch time allowing us to add a soup lunch to what was already on offer.

Things had progressed slowly in the number of people who visited us but the work that we have been able to do has at times been quite outstanding. This is due to the volunteers being fully committed to their ministry in Havilah, which God has placed in their hearts, and the love of Jesus that pours from each and every one of them. Over the last couple of months there has been a steady stream of visitors to Havilah, at least 10 a day, and there is a tremendously positive atmosphere which is definitely charged by the Holy Spirit.

Through Jesus' love pouring from Havilah's dedicated workforce a young girl was enabled to trust us enough to allow her to open up about her abusive relationship which in turn enabled us to support her to be strong enough to move from this relationship and return to her mother. Another young man turned to Havilah immediately when he found himself homeless and was told he would be imprisoned if he had no address. We were then able to support him to find temporary accommodation and keeping him from incarceration. There have also been a few occasions when young men have made Havilah their first stop on release from prison. This is because they know that Havilah is a place full of love where they are always welcome no matter the circumstances. On Sunday there were 3 of Havilah's visitors who attended our guest service and 2 of these and another man came along to hear Gary Brother-

ston in the evening. These are just a small section of the stories we have of how, through Havilah, Jesus is reaching out to touch the hearts of people who feel that they are unloved because they see themselves as unlovable.

This sad picture of God's children feeling that they are unloved and unworthy is the reason for Havilah. **We are taking the love of Jesus and the knowledge of His love to those who might only know Him as a swear word.** This is what as Christians we are compelled to do. Did Jesus Himself not give up everything to come to earth for those who felt unlovable and lost? Therefore it is easy to see that we must go to the people who are unloved, lost, scared, trapped in addiction etc. to show them the ultimate power and love of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, enabling them to break free and live life in all its fullness, dying in their sins and being risen to new life through the power of His cross.

If anyone feels they are being called in this direction, have prayerfully considered the implications of this work to those we are ministering to, and know they will be fully committed to this powerful ministry, please contact Tracey or Jim McLeod on 877723. Thank you.

Our CD Services

Are you virtually housebound and therefore unable to attend Sunday Services? Then Sunday Service can come to you! We record our services and then make a CD that can be delivered to your home on a fortnightly basis. If you would like more information about this, then contact Ken Miller on 875235.

For able members, please note that we do not make CDs for folks who miss a week or two when on holiday, or for other reasons, as that would be a never ending job and a half! Our 'digging deeper' sheets are available in print in the church vestibule, or online at our website along with the recording of the weekly sermon.

Census 2007

We count attendance at worship throughout September in the hope that we will be able to track changing patterns and address issues that are raised. Of course there is more to the health of a congregation than how many people turn up! That said, year-on-year decline would raise serious questions and would cause its leaders to think carefully about what they were doing. As you will see, we are pleased to see that we have enjoyed steady growth through the years. It is not everything but it cannot be a bad thing! Let us consider these points:

We are growing at a time when, across the western world, decline has come to be seen as almost inevitable.

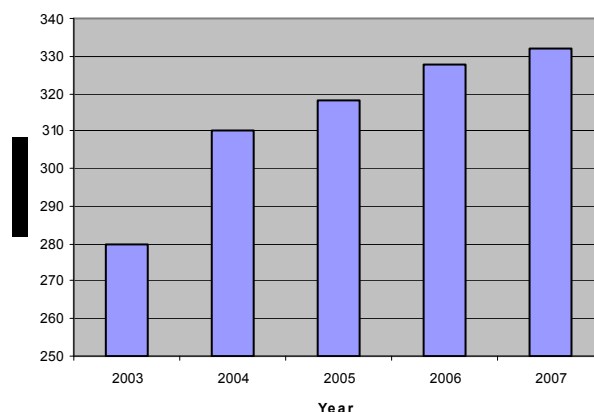
You have to add lots of new people just to stand still! Our Sunday attendance is 3% up on last year. There are more new people coming than that would suggest - but as new people come, others are lost. Some are lost in death, others leave the area, and others decide that St. Andrew's is not for them. Thankfully, that number is small.

With many churches having few, if any, children and young people, we've got to be delighted that over 20% of our Sunday morning congregation is under 18 years of age.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, the attendance was

360 - a very large congregation by today's standards. Among them, were 25 Sea Cadets. We have deducted that number from the census findings. Even so, that means 335 of a congregation - 10% above normal - which shows what can be done when we get intentional about inviting friends!

**Total Attendance - 5 year trend
(Total of different worshippers
throughout a week)**



DVD

By now, many of you will have had a chance to view our new DVD film release. It is a 15 minute *through the keyhole* look into the life of St. Andrew's Church. We are delighted with the way it looks and feel sure that it will help us in drawing others towards the family of the church and, who knows, into live Christian faith. We have plenty of cop-

ies, available through the Church Office, and if you know of someone who is not connected to a church and who you reckon might be interested, please collect one and give it to that person as a gift. If you would like one for your own (as a souvenir!) we will be taking orders soon. These copies will be charged at £2 each which will help us to offset the many more we hope to give away free.

By Popular Request!

A mulled fruit cup was served as an option at the Caring For Life Prayer Supporters evening at St Andrew's Church halls on Saturday 22nd September, and a number of supporters requested the recipe. So, here it is!

SYRUP BASE FOR MULLED FRUIT CUP
(which can also be used for mulled wine or winter fruit salad - mix of fresh and dried fruits)

One orange, halved, and stuck over with ten cloves - or thinly peeled orange and lemon peel and the ten cloves. 250 ml orange juice, 200g sugar, one cinnamon stick, one star anise (or 4/5 crushed cardamom pods) juniper berries. (Do not use ground spices as the syrup will become cloudy.) Heat gently, and simmer, covered, for around forty minutes. Cool and put into the fridge overnight to allow the flavours to develop. Strain syrup into fresh container and keep in fridge until required. The syrup will keep up to a week.

For the fruit cup, make up one part (or carton) cranberry juice to two parts (or cartons) orange juice or apple juice. Heat gently, adding slices of oranges and lemons and limes, but *do not* allow to boil as this will dissipate all the fresh flavours. The same applies if using for mulled wine. Enjoy! - Pat Clegg

Boys Brigade

A new session has got off to a great start. All sections are doing well. Anchors have 15 boys, Juniors have 8 and Company have 12. We have a great programme of events lined up in the Autumn and after our 2 week break for the Tattie Holidays we will be getting to work on our achievements. Our new

Company Officers will be undertaking Youth Training and will be up to date in their knowledge of Company work. A Family Service is to be held on Sunday 28th of October which is also our service of Harvest Festival when the boys will be enrolled in the Company for the year.

Captain E.J. Matthew M.B.E.

Graham Kendrick

A 30-strong party from the Church went to the Caird Hall on Friday evening, 21st September, for a concert and worship time by Graham Kendrick and his band. With almost 1,000 people in the hall, it was quite an occasion. The music was excellent, though loud for some tastes, and there

was a real spirit of worship.

Graham Kendrick is perhaps the most significant of the worship leaders / song-writers who helped give birth to a new wave of contemporary Christian worship music in the early 1980s. Songs like *The Servant King* and *Shine, Jesus, Shine* are sung the world over and helped a new genera-

tion of Christians to give voice to their growing faith. Others, like *God is Good* and *Jesus Put This Song Into Our Hearts* are firm favourites at St Andrew's. New worship leaders are coming to the fore all the time but all of them owe a debt to Graham Kendrick as do all those who were in the Caird Hall that night!

Ministry Team Updates

You all know that we operate with a Ministry Team at St. Andrew's but maybe you are not familiar with the kind of work that the members of the team are doing. It would take more than a whole edition of QUEST to outline every detail but here is a flavour of what is going on.

Children & Families – Audrey and Elaine have been hard at work planning new programmes and we will begin to see these opening up after the October holidays. They will be starting an after-school zone for p3-p7 children – every Tuesday, opening from 3.30pm and running till 5pm. Related to this, there will be lunchtime zones at Wardykes and Hayshead primary schools – reaching out into the wider community. And, as if that was not enough, there will be the brand-new *Messy Church*, taking place from 4-6pm on the last Sunday of every month. *Messy Church* is for the whole family and will, we hope, prove to be an exciting new venture – church, but like you have never known it before!

Youth – Sheila, together with her team of volunteers, has witnessed the most amazing start to the new session with more teenagers involved than ever before. To have a list of over fifty names is, in this day and age, quite remarkable. Those youngsters are mad keen! They are loving being together and are more than eager to engage with the matters of faith presented to them. Sheila is doing a wonderful job and what we are seeing now represents the pay-back from years of hard work and investment, started by our first youth worker, Elaine Hamilton, and continued ever since.

Community Outreach – Chris is working hard on a number of levels. He took up

from where Linda left off and has been involved in the steering group for Angus Credit Union, which is due to be launched very soon (more details to follow.) But in the main, Chris has been working on a number of Acts of Random Kindness. There was the great Coke Giveaway at Seafest and the 'Hedges and Edges' gardening in the community programme. Then at the end of September, there was the appreciation blitz through which we reached out to dozens of people in our community – teachers, police officers, health service workers etc. – to say 'thank you.'

Assistant Minister – David is primarily involved in pastoral care, visiting in hospitals and homes as required. Many of you have come to welcome and appreciate his visits and the care and support that he offers but his work reaches beyond the limits of the congregation, making sure that our pastoral care reaches to wherever it is needed. On top of his pastoral duties, David covers for Martin in holiday periods and leads courses and training options in areas such as evangelism and pastoral care.

Administration – What can be said about Alison that has not been said – she is a joy! As well as being brilliantly organised and capable, she provides a wonderful welcome to the church to the many who come calling. As we all know, she has a lovely, quiet manner that makes her perfect for the role. Most of you will be aware that Lawrence, her husband, is looking for a new career opportunity at this time. Please pray for Lawrence and Alison that the right opening will present itself sooner rather than later.

So, there is a snapshot of some of what our Team is involved in. They are a wonderful bunch. Appreciate them!

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Sunday 7
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 14
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 21
11 am - Service of Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 28
11 am - Worship Service, inc. Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration - with the Uniformed Organisations in attendance
4 pm - Messy Church!
Brand new, all-age option

NOVEMBER

Sunday 4
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 11
(N.B. earlier time)
10.50 am - Worship Service beginning with Act of Remembrance

Sunday 18
11 am - Worship Service followed by short Communion

Sunday 25
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - Messy Church!
Brand new, all-age option

As well as our main Sunday morning services and OFF the W.O.L. outlined above, remember that, in addition, we have -

A 40 Min service every Wednesday at 10.30 am

Clerk's Corner

Dear Fellow Elders,

I am delighted to let you know that there was an almost 100% return of the information sheet, the details from which will ease administration matters. By the time you have read this month's Quest, those of you on email will have already received an electronic copy of the minutes of the last Session Meeting while others will have received their hard copy.

Joan Hainsworth now has an extensive list of elders who are able to serve at the short communions and many of you have offered to read the lesson. At the service on 30th September, several elders led aspects of worship and I am grateful for the willingness shown to take part.

The next session meeting will be on Tuesday 11 December at 7.30pm.
Jane Miller

New members

Soon we will be welcoming new friends into the membership of our congregation. Some of them will be making a commitment of faith for the first time; others will be giving their allegiance to St. Andrew's, having made their profession of faith in another place at an earlier stage. Either way, it will be yet another occasion for rejoicing! Watch out for full details of the welcome service which is scheduled for November.

David Searle



Big Brother or Loving Father?

During September, the British Association Festival of Science held its annual conference in York. One of the speakers was Professor Roger Burrows, an eminent sociologist, who is Director for the Centre of Housing Policy in the city's university. In his address to a distinguished audience, he said the science of postcode profiling has become so 'frighteningly accurate' that as soon as any of us gives our postcode, we reveal just about everything about ourselves there is to know.

Burrows' claim was that when I give my postcode—DD11 3DY—to a mail order company, or a bank, or HM Inspector of Taxes, or whoever, in seconds I am also giving my annual income, marital status, the newspaper I read, where I go on holiday, and my taste in food and drink.

He went on to say that computer software is now so sophisticated that call centres use it to dictate the order in which customer enquiries are taken. Take the game of Monopoly as an example of different addresses. If my postcode flashes up that I live in east end Old Kent Road, I'll go straight to the back of the queue and have to listen to piped music for about twenty minutes, interjected by a soft female voice telling me she is sorry to keep me waiting, but my call is very important to her; then when someone does finally answer my call, it is at once clear it has been redirected to India. On the other hand, if my postcode flashes up that I live in the wealthy area of Mayfair, I am immediately placed right at the front of the queue and the person who answers is obvi-

ously English and speaking from London.

As well as postcode computer software there are the CCTV cameras. We are reliably told that the average British citizen's movements are recorded on camera 300 times a day. So if I am shopping in Aberdeen, Dundee or Edinburgh, an unseen eye follows me wherever I go. (However, I can't believe anyone in humble wee Arbroath wastes tax-payer's money recording my visits to Morrisons, WHSmiths or the Hill Place Health Centre.) More, Home Office Minister Tom McNulty recently commented that he is 'broadly sympathetic' to the idea of the DNA of every single person in the United Kingdom being recorded on a state database.

Adding this up, you would be forgiven for concluding that we appear to be only a hair's breadth away from Big Brother (I am not, of course, referring to the obscene TV series of that name) watching over us.

I have to admit that none of this particularly bothers me. Maybe I am wrong to be so complacent about being spied on, but I take the view that because I have nothing to hide, it doesn't bother me who trains a camera on me or stores up information about me. I suppose if I lived in a military dictatorship such as Burma, it would be a different matter altogether.

When I was a child, I was often told that God saw and heard everything I did and said. Hagar's words would be quoted, 'You are the God who sees me.' The idea of God knowing my every move and eavesdropping whenever I spoke was extremely intimidating; indeed, the way this was

communicated to me, I suspect it was intended to be! It was only when I read for myself the story of Hagar, the runaway slave, and discovered that she had immediately gone on to say, 'Truly, here I have seen the one *who looks after me*' (Gen. 16:13), that I found God's all-seeing eye and ever-hearing ear meant that he loved me and was caring for me. He wasn't Big Brother; he was my Loving Father!

However, having said that, undoubtedly some do not want a state database with a record of their DNA, or CCTVs tracking their movements, because they are up to no good. (Did the 'hoodie' fashion originate with the intention of concealing from the cameras a person's identity?)

There is nothing new under the sun. The apostle John, speaking of Jesus, wrote, 'This is the judgment: Light has come into the world, but some loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.' John then goes on to say, 'But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen his deeds have been done through God' (John 3:19ff.).

Nowadays, one of my greatest consolations and encouragements in life is that I have a Loving Father whose knowledge of me far exceeds in detail and accuracy any computer software or state database. Absolutely just and righteous in all he does, he loves and accepts me for the sake of his Son, whose life was given to wipe my guilty record clean and bring me into the tender embrace of God.

Friends Club

Liz Smith, President, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new session. After the opening service she introduced George and Nan Wishart and

Crawford Taylor. Nan played the piano and told humorous stories, George played the accordion and Crawford sang and played the guitar. We enjoyed a selection of Scottish and popular songs and finished with some Irish tunes to

which members sang along. Sheila Davidson gave the vote of thanks and refreshments were served. We are looking forward to our November meeting on Thursday 4th from 2-4pm. New members always welcome.

Becky's Baptism Continued!

Why I decided to get baptised in the sea.

"While in Malawi I felt that my faith was tested but also grew. I saw what was important in life. Not material possessions but faith in God. Since coming home I have felt that since I had come to that conclusion that I should publicly declare my faith in Jesus my Lord. Being an outdoors sort-of-a-girl I had always liked the idea of an open-air baptism. I had always visualised my baptism being in a river, loch or sea. Also, I couldn't miss the point that open air meant truly public. I certainly wouldn't be hiding my light! This could have given more people a chance to think about God and Christianity and that had to be a good thing. If Jesus really is the Son of God and no one can get to the Father except through him then we should

do everything we can to help our non-Christian friends discover the truth and gain their everlasting life. I felt that open air would be less run-of-the-mill and would encourage my non-Christian friends to think more about their own faith. I also felt that more people might come to an open-air baptism where they wouldn't have come to a church."

By Becky Dunphy (mermaid)



Martin's P.S. -

Perhaps some of you have been wondering about the Church's position on baptism. Here are a few points to consider:

The Church of Scotland is entirely open to infant and adult baptism. Of course, for as long as any of us can remember, the norm has been infant baptism but the Church has always been entirely positive about baptising adults.

The Church of Scotland is entirely open to the mode of baptism – that is, it is open to the sprinkling of water or to full immersion. Again, we are used to sprinkling water but there was no problem in meeting Becky's request for immersion.

The other main point – and the other reason why there was no problem in baptising Becky – is that the Church of Scotland does not conduct so-called *second* baptisms. Becky had not been baptised as an infant. Next month's QUEST will contain an article explaining why this is the case.

Acts Of Random Kindness Seafest 2007

Imagine: a hot summer's day in Arbroath, lots of thirsty people, and some friendly, yet slightly crazy Christians giving away cold cans of Coke with a St Andrew's 'business' card under the ringpull! Everyone at St Andrew's collected Coke cans throughout the summer, and when August 25th arrived we had 2100 cans of Coke & Diet Coke for this Kindness Evangelism event.

We set up the gazebo for our Free face painting and Free hairbraiding stall and then inflated our paddling pool - no we weren't planning on having a quick paddle - this is what we used to keep our Cokes cold! We filled the pool with Cokes and Diet Cokes and then covered them up with ice which was donated by Alex Spink.

The Coke Giveaway was a great success, with all the volunteers really enjoying taking part, and everyone who received a drink seemed very thankful, especially as it was one of the hottest days of the year in Arbroath.

We had Gaynor, Rachel, Louise & Elaine helping out with the free facepainting stall, and Rosalie was giving free hairbraids. These were really popular, and we did 109 facepaints and 43 hairbraids! This was a really good way to spend time with each child and their parents and to show them a little love and a free gift. Quite often as people were waiting around we gave them a free Coke too.

Thanks so much to everyone who donated Coke cans over the summer, and to all who helped in various ways on the day (thanks especially to Ian, Ruth & Rachel!) - it was exciting to see each one playing their part to make the event a success!

Watch out for other opportunities to be involved in Acts of Random Kindness. **The church has left the building!**

Gospel Weekend

International gospel singer, Janice Harrington, was our guest at St. Andrew's Church over the second weekend in September. In an event organised by Alfie Dickson and his *Smokie Blues* team, a choir of some forty keen singers formed for a weekend of learning and performing. Choir members travelled from all over Scotland to take the chance of learning the gospel style from such a renowned performer as Janice, and her associate, Rick. The weekend finished with a concert in the church, the proceeds of which went to support the work of the development agency, Habitat for Humanity.



Golf Competition

Well done to Angus Ogg and his partner, Dougie Greenhill, who won the annual St. Andrew's Golf Competition with a superb score of 61, thus retaining the trophy they had won the previous year! This year, the players took on The Glens course at Letham Grange which proved to be fun and challenging in equal measure. The golf was followed by a lovely meal and a prize-giving ceremony. Thanks, and well-done to Blair Fletcher who organised the event.

