**April 2008** 

## New Life In Old Buildings!

# **Easter Celebration**

Attendances throughout the month of March have been notably high, with **new** people seeming to appear almost every week. Of course, some of those are only visiting while others no doubt find that St. Andrew's is not their cup of tea. That is okay – it is not our aim to please all of the people all of the time! After all, we are not in the popularity business.

Even so, we can be much encouraged that so many are making St. Andrew's worship part of their week – in an age when church is, for most Scots, hardly even a faint memory.

With Easter falling so early this year, March 23<sup>rd</sup> was the date for our Easter Day celebrations. The Church was especially busy, giving rise to the thought that maybe one day, before too long, we will be in the position of having to bring in extra chairs from the hall!

And what a wonderful time of worship was enjoyed, with hymns old and new, offerings from the Choir and *Godsong*, and a vivid, catchy presentation of the Easter message that captured the attention of young and old alike. The service culminated with a celebration of Communion, again, with young and old participating.

All in all, there was no doubt that Jesus was and is – very much alive!



# **Building A People Of Power**

If it has been said once, it has been said a hundred times...that the church is the people, not the building. And it is true!

Even so, reality dictates that a people need **buildings** from which to operate – a place for coming together and a *feeding station* from which to go out. Even from Old Testament times, God's people sensed their need for special places –

places set apart for the Holy One.

It was with such considerations in mind that the Kirk Session embarked upon a feasibility study for the re-enlivening of our buildings. The rest, as they say, is history. The Kirk Session and the congregation,

gave their whole-hearted support to the plan that will breathe new life into our sanctuary and halls – all with the hope that better facilities, fit for purpose, might aid us as we move towards, and beyond, the landmark of fifty years of St. Andrew's Church in 2009.

Shortly, each of you will be receiving a brochure through which we will outline the work to be carried out and the financial implications thereof. The brochure will make clear that all of us are going to be called upon to consider and to pray and, thereafter, to give sacrificially to ensure that these visions can become realities. The hour is upon us!





### **CONTACTS**

### **MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD 873238

### **ASSISTANT PASTOR**

Rev David Searle: 872794

### **SESSION CLERK**

Jane Miller: 875235

### CLERK TO BOARD

Alison Davie: 431135

### **TREASURER**

Derek Scott: 878305

### FREEWILL ENVELOPES

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Janis Clark: 878594

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#### **COMMUNITY WORKER**

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### YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy: 873218

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### ORGANIST

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### **SUNDAY CLUB**

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### **FLOWER CONVENOR**

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### **MAGAZINE ORGANISER**

Mary Scott: 873874

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Judy Spink : 872395 Lesley Bailey : 436751

### **SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Norma Beattie: 873442

### **CHURCH OFFICE: 431135**

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

## ADMINISTRATOR and BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Alison Davie: 431135

### MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller: 875235

#### ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

### **REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

### March 2008

Baptisms - None

Weddings - Craig Ramsay and Shona Walters; Jane Asher and Steven Keir

Funerals - Ed Smith, Daveen Clark

### **DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**

### MAY EDITION

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

Friday 18th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th April (Word-Processed file)

### Thank You

I would like to thank my Church friends for their kind thoughts and the lovely cards they sent me. The beautiful flowers from the Church were also much appreciated by my sons, daughters-in law and myself.

Betty Smith.

### Thank You

George and Aileen would like to say a big thank you to our church family for the many messages of condolence, cards and prayers which they and daughter Alison received following the death of her husband. Thanks also for the lovely flowers from the church. God bless you all.

### 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 – Joyce Lownie (430053)

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)

7.15 pm - Guides

7.30 pm – Wednesday@Seven30

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 875235 in the event of corrections or omissions, and an updated sheet will be produced.

# Martin



# Fair

Letter From The Manse

April 2008

Dear friends,

Last Thursday (at time of writing) I had one of those busy days. Actually, they are all busy to a greater or lesser extent, but last Thursday was exceptionally so. I was at my desk at 7.15 in the morning and was still on the go well after the 10 O'clock evening news had come and gone. It goes with the territory.

But part of that day were two instances of purely voluntary use of time and energy. Every Thursday morning, I spend time in Ladyloan school, as a parent helper, working with children who are struggling with simple numeracy skills. Then, after school, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I act as coach for the two school football teams. (If the truth be told, taking the football teams is me getting close to my true calling in life!!!)

Some people might say, 'Well, if you're so busy, why don't you drop those things that you don't have to do?'

Actually, I am convinced that it is essential for me – and for all Christian people – to ensure that they don't spend all of their time in churches! How quickly one would lose any sense of the outside world. For me, these voluntary services are about getting time out from the world of Church. Equally so, it is essential that we, as Christians, find ways of serving in the wider community. Our faith should inspire and equip us to get out and get going.

Well, maybe the school football team wouldn't be your thing. But be assured that there is something for you to do, some way in which you can put something back. Maybe you can opt in to one of our Bite-Sized Opportunities for Service or maybe you'll find an opportunity for yourself. In the end, there's nothing wrong with being busy as long as we make sure that we're being busy in the right ways.

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

### YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group has continued this term with the usual day trips added in.

Great fun was had by all who went ice skating at the beginning of March. Some ended up going home wetter than others but none seemed to do any lasting damage. No one was left out and how encouraging to see the older ones who could skate making time to help those who could not, or at first were too scared to try. In the end everyone had a go and all agreed it was a great night.

Easter Sunday saw those who were free gathering at Victoria Park to roll their decorated eggs. The winner in the Best Decorated Egg was Carla Ingram with the runner up being Rachel Stewart. Afterwards, and having been joined by a few others, a group of 33 of us went up to join in the Resurrection Day Celebration taking place in the Caird Hall. It was a good night of worship and teaching.

This year we will be welcoming P7s to join the youth group after Easter, so if you know of any P7s or even any Secondary School aged young people then please encourage them to join us on a Sunday evening, starting on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April, from 6.30 - 8pm. The cost is £1.



## Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

## GOOD AFTERNOON, UCB PRAYERLINE...

Anyone wandering around the back of St. Andrew's premises on a Monday afternoon or early evening would be surprised to hear a hum of voices from the MacLeod Room. What is going on? Surely Monday is the minister's day off? The answer is that three people are talking to callers on the UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) Prayerline.

The beginnings: In April 2006 Lesley and Simon Bailey came to Arbroath from Stoke-on-Trent where the operations centre of UCB is located. They had been involved for some time with this prayer ministry and were guided by God to launch this outreach in Arbroath. After gaining the approval of Martin and the Kirk Session, a representative of UCB was invited to come north and train a group of volunteers to "man" the Prayerline (there is actually one male member of the team!).

Setting the Scene: The next step was the installation of 3 telephone lines in the MacLeod Room and the organisation of time slots for the 9 volunteers. The team would take 1½ hour stints in groups of 3 starting from 2.30 p.m. and finishing at 7.30 p.m. Lesley would be on hand to supervise the 2 afternoon sessions and Simon would do the evening. The scene was set and those taking part understood that they should exemplify the love of Christ in the manner in which they handled the calls. UCB sets out a 6 stage model for answering a Prayerline call love, listen, learn, encourage, pray and conclude. In general, because they know about the Prayerline's existence, most callers would be familiar with biblical texts (there are occasionally exceptions to this) and using one as a basis for prayer brings God into the picture right away.

On the job: Each session begins and ends with prayer for guidance, wisdom, compassion and protection for each volunteer and for God's Name to be glorified. What happens then when the phone rings? At this point the volunteer sends a heavenward SOS that they will be completely focused on the needs of the caller. After lifting the phone the volunteer will identify the organisation and themselves. "Good afternoon/evening UCB Prayerline; you are speaking to ... how may I pray with you?" Then may follow a tearful slow sentence, an onslaught of words spilling out about a situation or people, or an orderly request for prayer concerning the caller's friends or family. The washing machine may be running or a child crying in the background. Accents differ according to the area of the country or nationality of the caller and the volunteer will need all his/her

concentration to pick out the reason for the call. This could come into different categories i.e. depression, finance, marital problems, health, or other areas of life. On rare occasions bigger and more important issues may arise e.g. a caller who wants to become a Christian, another who is self-harming or contemplating suicide. In each case the caller is assured that the volunteer is listening and wants to pray for him or her. It may be necessary to get professional help for these latter situations but the outcome is not the volunteer's responsibility.

Time and records: A more usual call should ideally not last any longer than between 5 or 10 minutes as this blocks one line and means that less time is available for other callers. It is helpful for the volunteer to know the caller's name (some prefer to remain anonymous), decide the specific point for prayer and then use a biblical quotation as a basis for that prayer. On occasions the caller will want to share their happiness at answered prayer, then caller and volunteer can rejoice together. The caller will normally thank the volunteer or perhaps ask if they can pray too. The call should finish with the feeling that the caller has in some way been helped and the volunteer blessed by sharing in someone else's joys or trials. It is not difficult to say "Thank you for calling .... May God bless you and please feel free to call again and let us know how God has answered our prayers."

The volunteer will write brief details of the call's content on one prepared sheet and then if requested by the caller for prayer over a longer period, write more details on another form.

**Back up team:** This leads on to the second important aspect of the UCB Prayerline team; the prayers of those volunteers "unheralded and unsung" who pray at home. After receiving the details on the back-up sheet passed to Simon or Lesley, these team members will pray over the requests made by the callers for longer periods of prayer about their particular situation.

Positive effects of this ministry: Just to round things off, let us share the effect of this ministry on the volunteers. It makes them aware of their dependence on the Holy Spirit for inspiration, it sharpens their mental processes, it deepens their understanding of other peoples circumstances and encourages the learning of relevant biblical verses besides challenging them to exercise their faith to see the answer to other people's needs.

All the Prayerline team appreciate being able in some small way to obey Paul's exhortation "to carry each other's burdens and thus fulfil the law of Christ."

Sue Pritchard for UCB Prayerline, Arbroath.

### Drug Proof Your Kids

We are about to see the launch of a new initiative which is aimed at tackling a problem...before it becomes a problem!

'How To Drug Proof Your Kids,' is children being sucked into the drugs

a six-week course produced by the organisation *Care For The Family*.

Designed for parents, its aim is to offer support and to allow parents to confront the issues head on, all with the aim of lessening the likelihood of children being sucked into the drugs

world. DPYK is a widely accepted course and is used by churches, local authorities, police forces and others. Several of our members have trained and are now accredited course leaders, so watch this space and get yourself a place on the course when it launches!

## Malawi Update

John and Priscilla Searle have just returned from Malawi and tell us that the building work at Thyolo is almost complete. They were full of excitement about how great the work is – seemingly the building work there will be the bench mark for future Day Care Centres and Residences. Continue to pray that Aquaid will soon hear from the Authorities that they have been given the paperwork needed to run Residentials – this is new legislation that the authorities brought in last year. At present they are able to run existing residentials but cannot open any new ones meantime, such as those at Thyolo and Kambilonjo - but the opening of the Day Care Centre at Thyolo will go ahead.

For those who did not know, last October we were given the opportunity to send some boxes out to Namisu in

a container that Aberdeen Presbytery was sending out to Malawi. We were given so many things before going out to Malawi last summer that we did not have room to take everything so we sent it out in the container. It finally arrived just after Priscilla arrived out there and so she was really excited to open the boxes. They were full of much needed school books, jotters, chalk, pencils etc. that some of the local schools had given us as well as sports equipment, wool and some clothes. So much of it was an answer to the prayers of the people out there and could not have arrived at a better time. Thanks to all those who donated blankets, wool and clothes for the latest container that has now started its long journey out. There will be another container going out in October this year so start gathering clothes, sports equipment and any school equipment that anyone can pass on.

Finally, well done to Becky and Naomi who raised over £2,000 by getting their hair cut. (See back page.)



A young man helping to unload the parcels. A Medical Officer thanks us for these drugs.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Arbroath B.B.

All sections of the Company are doing well and taking part in a great number of activities. Last year we had a very successful fancy dress evening in the halls and the boys entered into the occasion with great spirit. Winners were as follows:

### ANCHOR SECTION

1<sup>ST</sup> DEAD PIRATE - JACK ROBERTSON

2<sup>ND</sup> WRESTLER- FRASER FAIR

 $3^{RD}$  PETER PAN - CALLUM MCINTOSH

### **JUNIORS**

1<sup>ST</sup> NURSE- JAKE CHRISTIESON

 $2^{\text{ND}}$  VAMPIRE- GRAHAM HAMILTON

3<sup>RD</sup> DRACULA- KIERAN GOGGERTY

The whole company went to the Panto at the Abbey Theatre and had a great time. We booked it out for the whole theatre and we were able to sell all the seats for company and friends. The Panto was written by Alan Christieson, the father of one of our boys . A great night was had by all.

This year has seen us entertain the Special Friends Club at Ladyloan School. The boys were all keen to entertain with poems, guitars, piano, keyboards and drama.

We have a break for spring then only a few weeks and it will be the end of another busy session.

### **CAPTAIN E.J. MATTHEW M.B.E.**

### Clerk's Corner

### Skills/Service Audit

Thank you very much to all those of you have returned your forms as this will greatly help the work of the Core Groups. If you have not yet returned yours, then there is still time!

### **Core Groups**

The work of the Core groups is progressing very well. The Fabric group

have a huge task ahead of them in preparing the building for Refurbishment and they are already tackling this job with enthusiasm. The Finance and Administration group have now held two meetings, and they are also greatly involved in the financial aspects of the Refurbishment.

### **Booking of Rooms**

We have a problem! However, it is a wonderful problem in that we have so

many groups seeking rooms for events that there have been a number of occasions when there have been difficulties. If we all remember that all requests for bookings must be made through Alison (and are therefore being recorded) then we will be able to meet most of the demands. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

Jane Miller

## Holy Land and Oberammergau

We are pleased to announce the news that trips to the Holy Land, in 2009, and to Oberammergau (for the Passion Play) in 2010 are, due to interest shown to date, almost certainly going to happen.

Brochures giving full details are now available from the Church Office or, if you

want, the minister can be contacted to talk through some of the detail. Those who are interested – even loosely – but who have not yet made their interest known should speak to the minister as soon as possible, with first deadlines for initial deposits etc. coming up in the not too distant future.

## Continuing Professional Development

Our minister has always been proactive in engaging in learning opportunities and in making the most of every opportunity to become better at what he has been called to do. That is why he devoted four years to gaining his Doctor of Ministry Degree.

And it is with that in mind that he is soon to head of to Louisville, Kentucky, for a course entitled, *A New Vision For Long Ministry*.

He will be joining with ministers from all over, all of whom have been in their present charges for some considerable time and who are committed to taking these same congregations forward. The fact of the matter is, that the skills needed for the first fifteen years of a ministry are not the same ones as are needed for the next stages of development. And, further, even the most enthusiastic of individuals need to return to the well from time to time to be replenished and reinvigorated. Without that, things can become stale; without fresh vision, the status quo can become all too appealing.

Following the formal course, the minister will be spending a few days in the library at Princeton and then will return to the UK to assimilate the learning. The end of the process will be the submitting of a full report to the Leadership Group of the congregation, to the Presbytery of Angus and to the Ministries Council of the Church of Scotland.

### **Bereft On His Birthday!**

During the week of Martin's birthday (24th), Elaine's duties as a teacher took her to Glenshee on a special school trip for primary 7 pupils. Martin was looking after Andrew and Fraser. On his birthday evening, he had a Leadership Group meeting! We surprised him with a birthday cake and this song:

## Oh, Dear Martin (Tune of Clementine)

Oh, dear Martin, where is Elaine, she has gone this special day, To the mountains, snow-capped mountains, to have fun on your birthday.

Oh, dear Martin, don't you dare pray that the snow-gates may be shut, Or she's trapped with screaming P7s, in a freezing Glenshee hut.

Oh, dear Martin, you are left here, you must dust and wash and dry, She has snow fun, you have LG group, it's enough to make you cry!

Oh, dear Martin, we do wish you a very happy time today, And for Elaine to return home without undue delay.

## (Last verse to be sung with a very forced smile at the end of each line)

Oh, dear Martin, if she's happy you will smile and say "I'm glad", When she asks you "how was your week?" you will say "Oh, not too bad"!

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

In addition to those detailed below, we have -

A 40 Min service every Wednesday at 10.30 am

Sunday of every month, for all the family, with games, craft, worship, & all-together meal

### **APRIL**

Sunday 6 11 am - Worship Service 6 pm Joining with the Malawi Team at Letham Church.

> Sunday 13 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 20 11 am - Worship Service Main service is followed by short communion

Sunday 27
11 am - Worship Service
4pm - Messy Church!

### MAY

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

Sunday 11 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 18 11 am - Service of Holy Communion 6.30pm - Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 25 11 am - Worship Service 4pm – MSSY Church!

### **Friends Club**

Liz Smith, President, welcomed everyone to the February meeting and introduced Miss Annie Thomson of Carnoustie who brought along some dressed dolls and gave a very interesting history of fashion through the ages. She told of working in Edinburgh and becoming a member of a drama group but soon was turning towards the costume making for plays and pantomimes. She spoke of the fashions from around 1300 right through to modern times and of the variety of materials used in the making of them. We were also given some interesting facts about how fashion first came to Scotland from France through Mary Queen of Scots and when gingham arrived from the USA, Robert Burns gave

his wife a dress made from it. History also affected fashion and dresses had whalebone hoops, ruffles and decorations, but when Oliver Cromwell reigned the fashion changed to black dresses and white caps. Jocelyn Slater gave the vote of thanks and then refreshments were served.

At the March meeting we heard that our Coffee Morning raised £420.85 and everyone was thanked for their contribution. We welcomed our entertainer, Mike McEwan and his wife, Helen. Mike played a selection of music on his accordion including 'Heilan Hame', 'Your bonnie lies over the ocean', 'I love you because' and some country and western tunes. He then gave us a musical quiz relating to places, colours and hit songs. The vote of thanks was given by Earl Matthew and then refreshments were served.

## David



## Searle

## Whatever has happened to Holy Communion?

F orty years ago, my first congregation, Newhills Parish Church, was a country kirk, among farms in a rural setting. No one stood on ceremony—except for 'The Sacrament', as my farmer-elders called Communion. Then they all turned out in dark jackets, striped trousers, white shirts and black ties. An air of solemnity brooded over the entire service. Paraphrase 35 was sung slowly and mournfully.

Thirty years ago, my second congregation, Larbert Old, was even more impressive in its dignified solemnity. All 50 male elders wore morning coats and white bow-ties. A small selection of eight suitable hymns were printed on the congregation's own Communion Hymns sheet, and ministers concerned not to offend the huge biannual gathering would never deviate from the approved repertoire.

In St Andrew's Church, we have just celebrated our fifth Family Communion. So I leave you to work out for yourselves what congregations a few decades ago would have thought of that.

The very first Lord's Supper was the deliberate fulfilment of the Jewish Passover Feast. Normally, it was a family gathering in which the youngest child took an active part. Because the Jewish nation was strong in family bonds, it is hardly surprising that the early church also was a family church. Believers' families were microcosms of the macrocosm of the Body of Christ, the great family of believers.

When the Reformation of the church took place 450 years ago, first in Geneva and then in Scotland under John Knox, the reformers continued

the early church's practice of children taking part in communion. However they emphasized the importance of boys and girls understanding something of the meaning of the bread and wine.

So how did Christian churches move so far away from family participation in the Lord's Supper, so that for more than 250 years children became excluded? It happened through a wrong interpretation of Paul's words about 'eating and drinking unworthily' (1 Cor. 11:27). In the fledgling church in Corinth, there had begun a shocking abuse of the 'Love Feast' (1 Cor. 11:20-22). Some were drinking so much wine that they were getting drunk! Paul severely rebuked the church for such misuse of so sacred an event, accusing them of unworthy behaviour.

However, from the 17th century onwards, 'eating and drinking worthily' became the focus of the church's attention. Those attending Communion tried their best to be especially good for the week prior to the Sacrament, so that they would be good enough to partake of the bread and wine. But that was not at all what Paul (or Jesus) ever meant. To this very day, there are areas in Scotland where people will not come to Communion until they are at least 75 years old, and past the age of 'carnal sinning'. Many die, never having ever come to the Lord's Table.

What then is the qualification for participating in Communion? It is expressed in the lines of an old hymn:

All the fitness he requires, Is you feel your need of him.

If we are ill, we go to a doctor, if we have toothache, to a dentist, if the car breaks down, to a mechanic. By the same token, if we are sinners, we come to the Saviour.

One of the most powerful preachers of the 18th century was an American called Jonathan Edwards. His ministry was mightily blessed and countless people were converted to Christ. But after years of fruitful preaching, he was obliged to leave his church because the majority of his elders disagreed with him over Communion. Edwards believed the Lord's Supper could be 'a converting ordinance'; that is, men and women could come to living faith through the Communion Service. The elders believed that the Sacrament was exclusively for those already converted (and who were therefore 'worthy'!) and that Communion was 'a confirming ordinance' only for believers. So they sacked Edwards!

Over the past two or three years, the St Andrew's Kirk Session has returned to the New Testament and Reformation practice of the Lord's Supper being a family occasion. Moreover, led by our minister, we have also adopted the view that Communion can be a great Gospel Event, 'a converting ordinance', when sinners (that means all of us) are invited to 'Come away to Jesus, the sinners' Friend'.

I wouldn't dream of saying we had got everything absolutely right. (I do not think Martin would say that either.) But for me, nothing of that past dignity of morning coats and white bow ties has been lost. Quite the contrary: 'The Sacrament' has had its dignity restored as we remember Christ's dying love and - something an earlier generation forgot about - also celebrate his presence among us and his victory over death!

## Messy Church



**Tim and Lucy Mineard** 

In this day and age, how many times do we find that something put on by the church ends up with 'sold out' signs being put up? Not very often, is the sad truth.

And yet that is exactly what has happened with Messy Church. Since its launch last autumn, it has quickly established itself as a key aspect of our ministry among children and families. Under Audrey and Elaine's leadership (our Children & Families Workers) the lively, creative mix of worship, craft and table fellowship has proved to be a big hit. The once-a-month formula appeals to adults and children alike and brings them together when, so often, we divide ourselves along generational lines. Already, we have been welcoming families from beyond the present limits of the congregation and our intention is, as Messy Church continues to develop, that we will see more and more new families coming to share in the experience.

Following its beginnings in Portsmouth, versions of Messy Church are popping up all over the U.K., although if the website is to be believed, we are, as yet, the only one in Scotland. Given this growth, a series of Messy *Fiestas* has been planned. Some members of our team are travelling to Newcastle in May to be part of that coming together. It will, we hope, prove to be a great time of sharing and encouraging and that our folks will come back energised and full of further vigour to take Messy Church to the next level.

## **Caring for God's World**

Most of you will know that, with our Old & Abbey partners, we share in caring for a section of the beach out by the West Links. Once every few months on a Sunday afternoon, armed with gloves, plastic bags and scoopers, we clear the beach of litter and debris. At the same time, careful notes are taken of the amounts of rubbish and the content of it, and all of this information is passed on to the national organising body.

This is just one small way in which we show what it means to be stewards of creation. The fact of is that the whole 'green agenda' rightly has its roots in the Book of Genesis!



Blair and Jessica Fletcher

### **All-action Anchor Boys**

Our Anchor Boys entered two teams for the recent Team Games competition, which featured teams from Dundee and Angus. Although neither team won the overall prize, all the boys had a great fun afternoon and entered into all the events with enthusiasm and energy.

Danny, Becky, Naomi and John after the 'big cut' - do we detect slightly nervous "Oh dear, what have we gone and done" smiles?



## **Hair-raising Funds!**

Well done to Becky and Naomi who have raised over £2,000 by getting their hair cut. All who managed along to watch the event had a great afternoon. Thankfully they are both pleased with the finished result. Thanks to all who have so generously sponsored them. Thanks too to all those who supported our Soup Lunch whether in coming along or making soup and baking. We raised £481 by this effort.