

October 2008

Proud Of Our Young Folks

We sometimes bemoan the state of our world and tend to forget that while there are young men and women (and oldies) like these around, we should have every hope for the future.

St. Andrew's Praise Band On Tour

Saturday 13th September saw a van and two car loads of enthusiastic singers and musicians heading off to Banff to lead an evening of praise and worship in the local Methodist Church. Theirs is a relatively small congregation but with plenty of publicity having been done, the Church was almost full for the start of the event at 7.30pm. With those attending having bought tickets to be there, the band was concerned that a good evening be had by all. They need not have worried! Indeed, it proved to be a super evening in every sense with many of the local people thoroughly appreciating the band's efforts.

Though far from home, it was another of those occasions when there was every reason for *us* to be appreciative of how richly we have been blessed in this department. With band members ranging from fifteen to fifty year olds,

and with between them quite an array of gifts and talents, it is obvious that we have much to be grateful for. Not only that, but that they were all willing to give up their time (leaving Arbroath at 11am and not returning till after midnight) to aid another church speaks volumes of their commitment.

Folks in churches like the one visited in Banff are often heard to say that they would love to have such resources available to them. Let us make sure that we enjoy and appreciate what we have!!



Michael Marr, Martin Fair, Jonny Milne, Adele Ramsay, Derek McDonald-Lee, Carol-Ann Thain, Scott Anderson, Jennie Marr and (not in picture) David Tarrant

Youth Group

Fundraising: This month sees some of the young people doing a sponsored bike run. If you are interested in taking part in this or would like to sponsor one of them, then please speak to Fraser, Sheila or Charis.



Top marks to Sheila Dunphy for coping with these Youth Group ruffians - what is the world coming to these days!
Nige Grant,
John Woodcock,
Michael Marr

The skills catalogue is now freely available and can be picked up outside the church office. Some of you have already taken up the offer of help and we thank you for your contribution to the Malawi fund. For any bookings please contact Sheila or Charis.

Please remember that we are still collecting old mobile phones and ink cartridges for recycling. When the church closes please drop these off at the Dunphys or the alternative Church Office.

Next month will see the launch of the Alternative Christmas Gift Catalogue. Many of you used this last year to buy alternative Christmas presents for friends and family and the children in Malawi benefited greatly from your generosity. Thanks again for all those who supported the work in Malawi through this initiative and I can assure you that the gifts that you requested were all bought on your behalf.

CONTACTS**MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD
873238

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Ruth Bell : 07939 543467

SESSION CLERK

Jane Miller : 875235

CLERK TO BOARD

Alison Davie : 431135

TREASURER

Derek Scott : 878305

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

Ian Robertson : 877519

CHURCH OFFICER

Janis Clark : 878594

PASTORAL CARE

Kim Marr : 430505

COMMUNITY WORKER

Chris Barton : 439488

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

CHILDREN & FAMILIES WORKERS

Audrey Brown : 439723

Elaine Fair : 873238

ORGANIST

Jane Miller : 875235

FABRIC CONVENOR

Ray Reaney : 07803 235418

SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

FLOWER CONVENOR

Ruth Spink : 874690

MAGAZINE ORGANISER

Mary Scott : 873874

PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS

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**

September 2008

Baptisms - None

Weddings - Louise Tilley & Mark Cargill

Funerals - George Ramsay, Kath Nutting

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 17th October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 21st October (Word-Processed file)

As Decanting Approaches!

The venues for organisations listed below will be/are as follows:

Youth Group – Sea Cadet Hall (at the moment still in Church)

Havilah – Café Project

Dorothy Dobson – West Kirk

Guild – OBs

Flower Club – OBs (in Church at the moment)

Midweek Meeting – Old & Abbey Church

Wednesday monthly gathering – Windmill Chris-

tian Centre

Parent & Toddlers – Old & Abbey Church

Friends Club – Green Street Hall

BB – Sea Cadet Hall

Coffee Morning – Old & Abbey Church

Guides - New Life Centre

Brownies - United Free Church

Rainbows - Guide Hall

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**SUNDAY**

10.15 am – Gathering for prayer in the McLeod 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 – 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 – S Jamieson (431942)

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)

During the refurbishment please contact the church office for information on alternative venues. 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



October 2008

Dear Friends,

It's been a pleasure for me to welcome Ruth Bell into our fellowship, and, more specifically, into the Ministry Team as our new Assistant Minister. As previously explained, Ruth will be with us for a period of some fifteen months at the end of which she will be free to seek a congregation of her own. The only proviso to that is that she must do well enough in her time at St. Andrew's to have this placement sustained – given what we've seen and heard of Ruth so far, there's absolutely no danger of that not happening!!!!

After one particularly busy day, Ruth and I were commenting on the variety of what we had been involved in that day; from school assemblies to funerals to meetings to pastoral visits and everything else in between! But of course we shouldn't be surprised at this. Mature Christian faith recognises that God is active and involved in every aspect of life – not just the hour or so on Sunday mornings when his people generally gather. And so it should be with the Church that there is involvement in the material, the emotional *and* the spiritual aspects of life.

It's worth mentioning a couple of other things that have struck Ruth since her arrival at the beginning of September.

- ♦ She's been struck by the amount of praying that goes on at St. Andrew's, outwith worship services. That is: prayer in home groups, prayer at Ministry Team meetings, prayer early in the morning, prayer for persecuted Christians etc. etc. We need to be a *do-ing* Church, of course, but we'd be lost if it wasn't for sincere and heartfelt prayer at the very centre.
- ♦ As she mentioned in her sermon on Sunday 21st September, she's been wowed by the focus on fellowship; that is the very many ways in which people have opportunity to meet and share together. As we've said before, fellowship is the glue that holds a congregation together. Take away fellowship and everything comes unstuck. Of course, fellowship isn't just groups and meetings. Beyond that, it's to do with the way we live with and support one another in the everyday routines of life. One young man recently spent part of his day off taking members of the church back and forward to Ninewells. That's fellowship every bit as much as coffee after the service.

So, a new person coming into the Church, like Ruth, can help us to see ourselves afresh. We can be glad when there are aspects of our common life that are commendable. So too, we can be open to see that there are other areas in which we need to continue to grow and develop.

Be a part of the Church so that you can play your part in our ongoing journey into becoming the people God means us to be.

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

Getting To Know You

I can't quite believe that by the time you folks read this I'll have been in Arbroath for over a month...how time flies when you are enjoying yourself! Sure, it's been a bit of a change as I've found myself living alone for the first time in a new town, a new job and among new people, but what a bunch you are! The welcome has been truly great, and the hospitality shown to me, amazing. If you aren't inviting me for coffee or lunch, it's dinner, and it's great to get the occasional wave as I try to find my way around Arbroath. In fact, after 4 weeks I'm even managing to get from A to B without the help of my Sat Nav. Now, that truly is amazing!

Of course it's not all eating and drinking, I do work a bit too! I've already experienced a lot through the privilege of pastoral visiting, attending meetings and home groups, pre-

paring and leading worship, and going along to some of the organisations in the Church, to name but a few. Mind you, there is so much happening at St Andrew's that it would be impossible to do all that in a month! So,

I look forward to the coming weeks, when I hope to meet some more new faces as I visit you in your homes, at Church, and in your various groups that you all belong to... and I'll keep working on remembering all your names! For now though, blessings in the name of the One who is in the business of making all things new,

Ruth



Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

Malawi Project Update

Projects in Thyolo and Kambilonjo are still waiting the paperwork from the Malawian Government to allow them to care for orphans. John Searle will be in Malawi the first 2 weeks in October so pray that he will be able to push this application forward.

Remember too Becky as she seeks to apply for a visa to allow her to stay for the next 10 months. When she went out she was told it was straightforward and that all she had to do was fill out some forms at the end of her first month and submit them with a letter that she had been given by the Malawian Embassy in London before she left. Last month they decided it would cost her £100, and now they want £200 and various documents. Pray that she can get this resolved. She continues to have a great time and to save taking up too much space in the Quest we hope to print off her monthly update and hand them out at the end of the service.



Clerk's Corner

In past issues of Quest you have seen detail of our seven Core Groups. Now that they are all functioning, you will be interested to hear of specific aspects of their remits. One of the advantages of the kind of restructuring that has been undertaken in the last year is that as each Core Group has a very specific remit, time can be taken to discuss and explore individual items on the agenda in a great deal of depth. The Kirk Session is a much larger body so discussion on major items sometimes needs to be spread over more than one meeting and the decision-making process may be slower. Both systems, however, are used to full advantage.

The Evangelism Core Group is looking at ways of using our relocation to Arbroath Academy as a means of outreach to the people in the surrounding district and a postcard has been produced with an invitation to come and join us. **The Fellowship Core Group** was very active in the catering for and welcoming to events during Golden Week. **The Nurture Core Group** has been researching aspects of Child Protection legislation to ensure that correct procedures are in place for each organisation involving children.

At its first full meeting, **the Service Core Group** discussed the work which will be required for ensuring that transport will be available to Arbroath Academy, while the **Worship Core Group** has been making arrangements for the smooth-running of our services in the new venue.

The Finance/Administration Core Group was responsible for the arrangements for our Gift days to raise money for the Refurbishment Appeal and the **Fabric Core Group**, along with extra helpers, is currently undertaking the huge job of preparing the building prior to our vacating it and arranging the storage of the many items. Indeed, if you stand still for too long, you are liable to be covered in bubble-wrap and transported to the storage premises!

The groups are kept in touch with what is happening by the sharing of summarised versions of their meetings and I would like to thank all those who write the minutes for being so prompt in submitting them.

From all of the above you will see that there is a band of very committed people working very hard on our behalf and contributing so much to the efficiency of our new structures. Thank you all!

The Guild Newsletter

The Guild began its new session with a Dedication and Communion followed by a light supper.

Our venue will be The Oyster Bar for the duration of the building works on the church. We have been made to feel most welcome by the staff there and have a varied programme to look forward to over the winter months.

We are to have a Quiz Night, Scottish Evening, and speakers from Sanpando Flowers, Insight, Fairtrade and the

Driving Standards Agency, all of which everyone is most welcome to attend.

As part of Guildweek we are to have a Memories of Guild Past evening, so we are gathering together photos and other mementos of The Guild or some of you may remember when it was known as The Women's Guild. If you have anything suitable could you either give it to Mary Spink or come along on the evening of the 17th November. Also The Guild are to take part in a Chain of Peace where a candle and a card with a message of peace are to be taken to any church that a guild member is visiting and gifted as part of the service.

Ministry Team Retreat

By the time you read this, the members of the Ministry team will have been away on a day retreat, using Aberlemno Church as a base.

You do not have to go far but, from time to time, it makes sense for all of us to step back from the day to day routine that we might listen and reflect more deeply. If Jesus sensed that he and his disciples needed to take retreat time then, in all likelihood, we need it to!!

There are lots of lovely Christian

retreat centres around the country – some of them within easy reach of Arbroath. You could do worse than consider a day, or a weekend, away by yourself, or with a group of friends. Everything can look different when you look at things differently. And you can do that by stopping what you're doing for long enough to give God time to get your attention.

In today's secular society, the word missionary conjures images of zealous Victorians imposing alien values on fragile native cultures. Yet in church services in the tropical splendour of Nigeria's Calabar and below the great massif of Mount Mulanje in Malawi, after being introduced as a visitor from Scotland, I stood up and spoke of Mary Slessor and David Livingstone, and from the congregation there was a visceral, emotional response, overwhelming in its love and admiration for the individuals concerned. I am not from a religious background, but I have never been as proud to be Scottish. I realized then that our image of the missionary needed reassessment.

The first Scottish impetus was provided by the Glasgow and Edinburgh Missionary Societies founded in the late 1790s. But an early venture to Sierra Leone got off to an inauspicious start when one of the Glasgow missionaries turned slave trader and another became a lecturer in the cause of atheism. But even in the debacle of Sierra Leone there can be seen the beginnings of a Scottish tradition where book learning and the Bible went hand in hand to the benefit of all.

Henry Brunton of the Edinburgh Missionary Society was one of the first Europeans to create a grammar of an African language- Susu. His work would be repeated all over Africa and Asia, for the Scots were often the first to systematize written forms of indigenous languages, a priceless contribution which is still of great value today. What distinguished the Scottish missionary tradition from that of other European countries was the primacy placed on higher education.

In The Footsteps of Livingstone

The Scottish mission in Malawi came in the inspirational wake of David

Livingstone, whose prime motivation was the destruction of the slave trade and the creation of an alternative economy. The reverence still felt for the explorer in the land by Lake Nyasa that he opened up for the missionaries of the Free Church and the Church of Scotland is still evident in the place names in Malawi and Zambia associated with him that remain unchanged despite the desire to remove traces of the colonial past following independence.

The missions are revered in the country as a force for good; indeed, politically they are regarded as the cradle of the African intellectual elite which eventually won independence for Malawi and influenced neighbouring lands such as Zambia. When you think that Kenneth Kaunda's father was educated at Livingstonia and that Nelson Mandela came under the wing of a Scottish Mission school in South Africa, the influence of the Scottish missionaries in Southern Africa is huge.

The creation of the Scotland-Malawi project and the visit by the then First Minister Jack McConnell to Malawi in 2005 should ensure that Malawi remains in Scottish consciousness and the Scottish conscience in the future. As for the special relationship that has developed between the two countries' churches over the last 130 years: there is an intriguing suggestion that the relationship might turn full circle, with members of the vibrant Presbyterian church in Malawi (CCAP-Church of Central African Presbyterian) possibly travelling to Scotland to evangelise here and give vigour to our Kirk in the 21st century.

May Smith

Support your pastor!

'Hold them in highest regard...'

1 Thessalonians 5: 13 (NIV)

Phil Hines tells a humorous imaginary story about Jesus walking along the road one day and seeing a man crying. When he asked what was wrong, the man replied, 'I am blind,' so Jesus healed him. Further along he met another man in tears and asked him the same question. He replied 'I am lame,' so Jesus healed him. Then he encountered a third man weeping. In response to Jesus' question he replied, 'I am a pastor.' So Jesus sat down and wept

right along with him! Pastoring can be a thankless job; that is why the Bible says, 'Hold them in highest regard.'

Somebody has described the 'Perfect Pastor' as one who preaches 20 minutes and sits down, condemns sin without offending anybody, works 16-hour days doing everything from preaching to sweeping, makes £400 a week and gives £200 back to the church, wears nice clothes, has a model family, supports good causes and helps beggars who stop by the church. He is 36 and he has been preaching for 40 years. He has a burning desire to work with young people and spends all of his time with senior citizens. He smiles all

the time while keeping a straight face, because he has a keen sense of humour that finds him seriously dedicated. He makes 20 visits a day, spends every waking moment evangelising and is always in his office in case he is needed. The bad news is, he burned out and died at 37!

Paul writes, 'Appreciate...pastoral leaders who gave you the Word' (Hebrews 13: 7). 'Honour those...who work so hard for you, who have...the responsibility of...guiding you...Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!' (1 Thessalonians 5: 12-13). In other words, support your pastor!

Commitment With A Capital 'C'

Around the middle of September, there was scheduled an important meeting of the Leadership Group.

Lawrence Davie was working in Birmingham that day and yet flew and drove up for the evening meeting, having then to fly back down to be at his desk for the start of work the next day. Linda McDonald was in a hospital bed in Ninewells having just come through surgery three days earlier. Though in the end Linda wasn't able to attend, she had spent that day pestering her medical team to allow her to travel up to Arbroath for the meeting...promising that she would return right afterwards! When it became clear that she wasn't going to be

allowed to come, she sent a text message assuring the other members of the Leadership Group that she would be praying for them throughout the evening.

With people like that in our congregation – and, particularly, on our Leadership Group – we can be assured that lack of commitment certainly is not going to be an issue!!

(We rejoice with Lawrence and Alison that Lawrence has secured a great new job based in Dundee, meaning that he will be able to put an end to life being split between Birmingham and Arbroath. And, we assure Linda of our ongoing support as she recovers from her operation and faces up to her recent bereavement.)

SPREAD THE WORD

Do you have friends who would like to see Quest every month or listen to Martin's sermon each week? Then tell them about our website where they can download Quest and the sermon in a matter of a few seconds at -

www.arbroathstandrews.org.uk.

Are you virtually housebound and therefore unable to attend Sunday Services? We re-

cord 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 other members who miss a week or two when on holiday, or for other reasons, 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.

The Story of Mrs Grainger

On Sunday evening 14th September, our minister was the guest preacher in Kineff Church, near Inverbervie. This building is no longer used as a church but is maintained by a group of trustees, with this one service a year being held to commemorate what happened there.

Perhaps many of you have no idea as to the history of Kinneff Church – certainly the minister did not, prior to his visit!

In the 17th Century, with Cromwell's forces having deposed the monarchy, the crown jewels had been melted down and disposed of. Attention was then turned to the crown jewels of Scotland and, with safety in mind, these were removed to Dunnotar Castle. However, this having been discovered, a large force of men was sent north to seize hold of the crown etc. The small garrison stationed there was vastly outnumbered and the situation looked bleak.

Into this predicament, stepped Mrs

Grainger, the minister's wife from Kinneff. While on a supposed errand, she managed to smuggle the crown jewels out of the castle, concealing them about her person, and from there to take them to Kinneff Church where she and the Rev Grainger buried them under the floor of the Church. And there they remained for ten years until the restoration of the monarchy! Every few weeks, in the dead of night, the Graingers went to the church and dug the jewels up to make sure that they were in good order. And though almost everyone in the surrounding villages and countryside knew of their whereabouts, not a word was said to the authorities – despite the £10,000 reward on offer for information leading to their recovery!

What a fabulous story of courage and determination. Here was a people ready to do what they could to safeguard that which they held dear. Isn't it inspiring that ordinary people can play their part in the writing of history.

Okay, maybe none of us is ever going to be burying the crown jewels but what might you do with your life?

LOOKING AHEAD

The following are, of course, the correct dates for our upcoming worships services. Full notice will be given (local press etc.) as and when the venue changes.

N.B. As well as our main Sunday morning services outlined above, remember that in addition there are the following:

- ♦ A 40mins. service every Wednesday morning at 10.30am.
- ♦ Messy Church, from 4-6pm, on the last Sunday of every month – 2 hours for all the family, with games, craft and worship and an all-together meal
- ♦ A full-on contemporary worship service, OFF the W.O.L., on the first Sunday of every month at

OCTOBER

Sunday 5
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 12
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 19
11 am - Worship Service
including celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 26
11 am - Worship Service
4 - 6pm - **Messy Church!**

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 9
10.50 am - Worship Service
including
Act of Remembrance

Sunday 16
11 am - Worship Service
including celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 23
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 30
11 am - Worship Service
4 - 6pm - **Messy Church!**

Life Is Precious - Handle With Care!

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone and the fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror. The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand.

Bob? Bob from Church? Jack sank farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket - a cop catching a guy from his own church, a guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office, a guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached the man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform.

"Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this."

"Hello, Jack." No smile.

"Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. Good.

"I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit - just this once."

Jack toed at a pebble on the pave-

ment. "Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct." Ouch. This was not going in the right direction - time to change tactics.

"What did you clock me at?"

"Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?"

"Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65." The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket.

"Please, Jack, in the car."

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window.

The minutes ticked by. Bob scribbled away on the pad.

Why hadn't he asked for a driver's licence?

Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again. A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand. Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip.

"Thanks." Jack could not quite keep

the sneer out of his voice.

Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror and then unfolded the sheet of paper.

How much was this one going to cost?

Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke?

Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack, Once upon a time I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it - a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters, all three of them. I only had one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again.

A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again, and again. Even now, pray for me. And be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left. Bob."

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.

Life is precious. Handle with care.

KIDS IN CHURCH

Three-year-old Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,

"That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys."

One particular four-year-old prayed,

"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said,

"Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A Relic Of Golden Week?

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.

She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

This is a tribute to all the Grandmas who
have been fearless and learned to use the
Computer.... They are the greatest!!!

We do not stop playing because we
grow old;
We grow old because we stop playing.

What a Wonderful Week

I have had a very enjoyable holiday.

No booking tickets, waiting extra hours at
airports, trying to fit in train connections -
or trying to navigate maps, and no worries
about my luggage.

'Golden Week' was exceptional. A huge
thanks to David and Lorna for all their
hard work and organisational skills.
Thanks to all their helpers, to the members
who made sure we had plenty to eat and
served us so well.

Thanks must also go to all the people who
provided the lovely food. (By midweek
we were wearing garments with elasti-
cated waistbands!)

The company was bright and cheerful,
because we were all having such a super
time, with entertainment A1. "By, wisn't
that awfy guid" sums it up.
Sincere thanks and God bless you all.

Alice Dewar



Praise Band At Banff

Carol-Ann Thain
listening to the
rehearsal and
screaming - "It's
enough to make
your hair curl!"

Sunnybrae and Teen Challenge

On a fine Saturday at the end of August, a large group from the Church – Havilah volunteers and others – made their way north to be at the Sunnybrae Teen Challenge open day. Teen Challenge is the rehabilitation centre where several of the young men who have come to Havilah are resident.

And what a great day they all had! There were bouncy castles and fun and games for the children, lots of time to talk for the adults, and a spread of lovely food to satisfy every appetite. The climax of the day was the worship service, during which all of the young men sang and several of them spoke, and achievement certificates were presented.

Anyone who visits Sunnybrae very quickly sees the difference that can be made in the lives of these young men. It really is a place where the journey from darkness to light, from death to life is played out for real.



The happy gathering at Sunnybrae with Michael Rennie proudly displaying his certificate of achievement