



“A Wonderful Example”



Becky with children from Namisu

Dear Fraser, Sheila, and all friends of Africa at St Andrews Church, Arbroath,

I have just returned from a 3 week trip to Malawi during which I assessed the progress, (or otherwise!) of the various projects being undertaken by Aquaid Lifeline.

One of the highlights of my tour was time spent observing **Becky Dunphy** and assessing the effect of her contribution to the life of Namisu Orphan Village where she is based.

I have to report that in all my experience, I have never met anyone who is so committed to living with such unselfish dedication. Becky simply lives for others, and is a wonderful example to all the staff and children at Namisu. Even when suffering from nausea and weakness from the effects of an unspeakably sickening experience involving the growth of a large maggot in her hip, and its subsequent serious infection after removal, Becky never stopped ministering to others in ways which filled me with awestruck admiration. She simply refused to rest or to curtail the busy schedule of teaching, visiting and encouraging others, and even spent a morning in what was, for me, unbearable heat, hoeing the ground of a destitute old widow in preparation for the rainy season maize planting.

John Searle

Successful Transfer !

Sunday 16th November saw our congregation worshipping in Arbroath Academy for the first time - and what a great occasion it proved to be!

Prophets of doom had wondered whether folks would come to the Academy or not. In the event, we had a huge congregation – with extra seats having to be found and even then some folks sitting on table tops!

So, we got off to a great start. In so doing, we proved the point that the Church is the people more than the building! We sang, prayed, listened and reflected just as we do when we are in our own building.

That it all went so smoothly was thanks to those who made sure that everything was taken care of – the worship team, the hospitality team and many others ensuring that everything happened according to plan. An especial thanks to Jean Tasker and her Fellowship Core Group who provided bacon rolls and fruit juice to worshippers as they arrived – no mean feat considering that they had no access to the kitchen. Also, a big *thank you* to Mike, the school janitor who has made us so welcome and has gone out of his way to accommodate our particular needs.



Sunday 30th November was a whole family service with us all sharing in the celebration of Communion

So, we are on track and there is no reason why this will not prove to be a good year for us, as we await the completion of the refurbishment programme. It is a time for us all to rally together, to enjoy this new experience and to keep on being the Church God intends us to be.

As mentioned elsewhere in this edition of QUEST, please note that we have no access to the Academy during the school holiday period. Therefore, we will be worshipping in Knox's Church at 11.30am on Sundays 21st and 28th December and in Old and Abbey Church at 11am on Sunday 4th January 2009. Also, special services for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be shared services with the congregation of Old and Abbey.

Didn't someone say that variety is the spice of life?!

CONTACTS**CHURCH OFFICE : 431135**

Monday to Friday :
9 am to noon

MINISTER

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD
873238

ASSISTANT MINISTER

Ruth Bell : 07939 543467

MINISTER EMERITUS

David Searle

SESSION CLERK

Jane Miller : 875235

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

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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

**ADMINISTRATOR and
BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

November 2008

Baptisms - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Robertson Young

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**FEBRUARY EDITION**

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

Friday 16th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th January (Word-Processed file)

Church Renovation

The Fabric Core Group was faced with the daunting task of finding accommodation to store all the movables from the church, to clear the way for the builders. This task is now completed. Group members and a host of volunteers worked their socks off to this end. **Our grateful thanks for their worthy efforts.** We were fortunate (Divine plan) to

rent the former "Alan Irons shop" which, as well as a store, is also the church office. We also organised the sale and removal of the side pews. The centre pews are required by the architect to utilise the wood within the renovation - some of our history being retained. I personally can't wait to see the outcome.

Bob Craig, Fabric Core Group Convenor

(See back page for pictures - Ed.)

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**New Venues are shown below****SUNDAY**

10.15 am – Gathering for prayer.

10.30 am – Choir practice.

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 (Guild Hall, Ogilvy Place)

MONDAY

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

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class (West Kirk)

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379) (Guide Hall)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Joyce Lownie (430053) (OBs)

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

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) (United Free Church)

7.15 pm – Guides (New Life Centre)

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

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – Joan Archer (876522) (Old & Abbey Church)

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

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114) (Sea Cadet Hall)

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758) (Sea Cadet Hall)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning (Old and Abbey Church)

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



December 2008

Dear Friends,

Some of you might well have noticed an article in recent newspapers suggesting that going to church can seriously improve your health! To be precise, the finding of this particular piece of research was that *attending church every week cuts by 20% your chance of dying early*. Further, the researchers pointed out that their findings cannot be explained by, for example, churchgoers living healthier than average lifestyles or having much-increased social support available to them. In his conclusions, Dr. Eliezer Schnall, the study leader, wrote: *There is something going on here that we don't quite understand!*

Several things strike me about this study.

- ◆ It's not surprising! Spiritual health will have an impact on physical health. When someone is at peace with God, with others and with theirself that's going to help their overall well-being and longevity, all other things being equal.
- ◆ It's not full-proof! We've all known fantastic Christian people – faithfully in church every week – who have died very prematurely. Which leads to the third point...
- ◆ For the Christian, the length of our earthly life is not all there is to it! Of course, that's easy to say when you're fit and well and everything is hunky dory! But it's a truth that we must cling to. Of course it was Paul, in his letter to the Romans, who put it best of all when he wrote that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God, nothing in life or in death.

We all say that we'd be quite happy to live to a grand old age, if we're able to stay on our feet and retain all of our faculties. But even then, even if we make it to one hundred years old, we're still only in the opening chapters of our life with God!

The researchers reckoned that going to church will mean that you'll live longer and, on average, they're right. But even more important is that living at peace with God, through faith in Jesus, assures us of living eternally...and that's more than the 20% extension talked about in the research! Maybe we should conclude with what Jesus had to say concerning this particular subject:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die; and all those who live and believe in me will never die."

John 11:25-26

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

Clerk's Corner

Pastoral Care

Having gained the approval of the Kirk Session, the Leadership Group is now in the process of designing a new system of caring for the congregation.

As with almost everything we do, there is a danger of something becoming less and less effective if we continue with it without regularly checking how well it is working. To this end we have looked at the current system of visitation by elders at specific times of year and, while its strengths are recognised, the time has come to make significant changes.

Principally, we envisage that every household would be contacted once a month and, should a need be identified, the information would be passed to Kim Marr who is our Pastoral Care Worker. This will enable us to provide a system of pastoral responsibility where the best possible care is given to those who need it most.

Making such changes requires much planning and hard work, and attention to detail, if a smooth transition is to be achieved. This work is already underway. When our new pastoral care system is ready to run we will make sure that the whole congregation knows exactly what will happen.

Pastoral care is about how the church family cares for and loves one another. We look to the day when, all the more, others will look at St. Andrew's and say to themselves: *see how these Christians love one another!*

Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

Can You Help?

When I talk to people about volunteering at Havilah quite often I am met with them under-estimating their qualities and over-estimating what would be expected of them. "I wouldn't know where to start," "I know nothing about drugs" and "I wouldn't be able to do that," are but a few of the barriers that folks perceive. So what are the qualities and expectations we have of our volunteers?

- Most importantly, having a sincere Christian faith
- Genuinely caring for others
- Being a good listener
- Being able to see the person God sees – i.e. being able to look below the surface

- Treating everyone with respect and dignity
- Ability to show compassion and love without judgement

Havilah is not only for those with addiction problems; all are welcome and we have visitors who are just looking for a friendly face to have a chat with over a cuppy.

If we had a few more volunteers we would be able to open 5 days a week which is sorely needed. All of our visitors would love this, as at the moment the 3 days we are open has given new purpose to their lives.

So to anyone who has felt God place Havilah on their hearts but felt it was not their calling please let us know. We can arrange for you to visit the project and get a feel for what we do. After this, if things feel right both within yourself and to us, you can start volunteering.

Jim McLeod

Youth For Christ KICK Team

Elise Bowie

We were all delighted when Elise Bowie became the first-ever female to be accepted on to a *Youth for Christ KICK Team* which uses football, and sport in general, to further the mission of the church around the U.K. The great news is that Elise is doing extremely well, presently based in Inverness. She has written the following for QUEST:

Hi, can't believe I've been away for nearly four months already. I am teamed up with Caitlin who is from Seattle. She is 18 so I have to be the older one for once and try to be more responsible.....phffff like that will happen!!!

I did two and a half weeks of YFC training and I met loads of nice people. We were in Halesowen for three days and then we moved to Nottingham University...I know what your thinking, Elise in Uni WOW!! The sports team travelled to Kent to do some team building and pretty much played as much sport as possible!

Caitlin and I are now working in Inverness High School which is really good but it is freezing. I help out in two R.E. classes each week and the rest of the time in P.E. which is good. There is a 3rd and 4th year base where the young people can drop in and out during lunch time. They have a pool table where I can keep playing and get better for the pool competition in OBs with the youth group!! We have been on two coaching courses in Elgin and oh my word it didn't half rain there. We were told at the beginning of the coaching course that we didn't have to play our best football as they weren't looking for talent, but Caitlin and I were asked to play for Inverness Ladies after only doing a few drills. We are still trying to work out if we can make training and games with having a very busy timetable!

The school has been eventful over the last month. We have had a fire in the assembly hall and were also broken into. There was loads of damage done to the school. Apart from all that, working at the High school is really good and I'm getting to know loads of pupils and staff. We have started a girls' football club and we have 10 girls coming along. We are part of Revolution Church which is kind of like our youth group and for young people who don't fit into the whole church set up. We are also going to get involved with Kings Church which is really good.

Commissioning was in October in Coventry which was a fair trek down from Inverness! It was great fun seeing everyone from training....oh yeah and Mum, Dad and Charis! (Poor Leonie had to work). It was a very quick two hours and then I ditched the family for the friends and headed off to Preston for the night. The Bowies did get reunited on the train from Preston to Carlisle. We then went onto Newcastle before coming to Arbroath for a few days, so I didn't ditch them completely!

On our way back up to Inverness, we had a week helping to run a soccer school in Aberdeen which was through Ambassadors in Sport. We had a great host home, it was a mansion! No exaggeration, they had a swimming pool, gym, snooker room and lots and lots of bedrooms and games rooms. The week of football was excellent. The bible study time went quite well. I had to ask and answer questions on the topic for that day....was a little scared at first but it was really good. My team was called the Portuguese Panthers. You had to play each of the teams in your division and at the end of the week my team won overall even though Caitlin's team won everyday. (Obviously, my coaching was amazing so they won when it mattered!!)

We are now living in the city after being in the countryside for two months. It was a lovely location but we had to rely on people getting us to and from places. Now we can make our own way to school.....walking!!

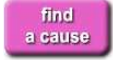
That's all my news for now. Will try and write again soon.

With Love,

Elise



Do you shop online?
Do you want to help Malawi at the same time?
Go to : www.easyfundraising.org.uk

1. Click on  2. Find St Andrews Church (Arbroath) Malawi Fund
3. Register as a member 4. Pick your favourite retailer and SHOP!!

Please note by shopping through this site, no extra cost will be incurred to you. The donation is made by the retailer. Thank you and remember to log on each time you shop online.

National Toilet Day!

On the third week of each month, the home groups come together for a *gathering*. Given that we're out of our buildings now, the November gathering was held in the function room of the Windmill Christian Centre. As part of that evening, the minister informed those present that: '*Today, is National Toilet day!!*' The harsh reality is that 40% of the world's population has no access to a toilet; this in itself is the beginnings of the road to illness and disease. To address this problem, the organisation *Water Aid* has set up National Toilet Day!!

So that was the background that led the minister to challenge those at the November Gathering to put something in a dish at the tea / coffee table. From that, we've been able to buy a toilet and a latrine cover slab for a family in the developing world. It was easy as that, only requiring something like £1 from each person – but it will make a difference. Well done to all concerned!

A Harvest 'Rapping' Prayer (by Ruth Bell)

Blue and yellow,
 red and purple, orange, lime and green,
 are the colours that speak of Your harvest dream.

Seeds of ampleness,
 Fields of plenty,
 Reaps stacks of abundance,
 And yields the fruit of integrity.

But Harvester of love,
 Oh, Harvester of truth,
 You know our daily living is the real proof.

You know our sloppy living,
 You see our forgetful ways,
 In our wasteful use of resources,
 In this amazing creation that we survey.

In our inefficient recycling and unfair buying,
 You hear the cries and sighs of a creation relying,
 Upon a people who seem to be defying:

Your call for justice,
 Your call for love,
 Your call for restoration,
 Coming from heaven above.

The St. Andrew's Daycare Centre

As with almost all initiatives in Malawi, this project has not been without its problems! The City Assembly reneged on its promise when it came to ratifying our tenure of the land. In fact we lost about half of the designated area due to complaints by local folk who had been farming the land for several years. However, the building is now finished, along with showers and flushing toilets. It looks very splendid and all that remains is the landscaping of the surrounding area which will provide a playground for the children. Although the centre was opened in May of this year, when I visited in July I discovered that there were no washing or toilet facilities and the attitude of the staff was totally unacceptable. I made the decision to close the centre and finish the building work properly, and start again with trained staff who would be committed to the welfare of the orphans. Becky visited the centre with me, and was, I think, duly impressed. No doubt she has sent photos. We are now in the process of choosing staff and would value your prayers, because you will know that the success of any project depends on reliable and committed oversight. **J Searle.**



So, Harvester of justice,
 Oh, Harvester of faith,
 Nudge our negativity,
 And prod our easy ways.

Jolt our neglectful living,
 And make us not forget:
 That you're a God of wholeness,
 A God of peace,
 Who's formed this creation so that all might live,
 Without the need of wanting,
 Without the want of need,
 Enough for everybody, stamping out all evil greed.

So move among your people,
 And recreate in imaginations your dream,
 Of a garden filled with plenty,
 In a kingdom where love reigns supreme.

Refresh our souls for journeying,
 Restore us from our stray,
 So that we might with renewed commitment,
 Return and live Your way.

Holy, Holy, Holy God, May we obey,
 Without delay,
 Today.

Amen.

Friends Club

Vice President, Jackie Carnegie welcomed everyone to our meeting including Drew Broadley who stepped in at the last minute as his wife was ill at the time. After our opening business Mr Broadley gave an interesting talk and showed pictures of the building of houses in Sri Lanka after the tsunami disaster. He told of how whole families were wiped out and others lost most of their family. Through the Baptist Church, Drew and his son went out for a year and they were also joined by Drew's father for several months. When houses are being rebuilt, the foundations are laid with expert help and the families then complete

the work themselves and, as each stage is completed, they are given more funding to complete the building.

When Drew came home he raised £5000 before returning to Sri Lanka to help build a bridge for an area that had been cut off. This building work had to be completed manually and the only machinery available was a cement mixer.

After Drew's talk Beatrice gave the vote of thanks before refreshments were served. The next meeting will be the Christmas Party.

Edith would like to thank all who have helped and supported her over the last few years. She is now settled into her new home.

The Guild Newsletter

As part of Guildweek The Guild had a 'Memories of Guild Past' evening. A few former members joined us and recalled some of the funnier moments they remembered whilst they held office. Photographs were sent in and these were set out for us to look over at suppertime. As a younger member I was asked to say what I thought of things gone by. I said that I thought there was a great heritage being passed down to me and others like me, of faith,

friendship and caring. Also as part of Guildweek we have given candles to other Guilds as part of The Chain of Peace and visited other Guildweek events in the area.

In December we are to have Sanpado Florists of Distinction and our Christmas Party.

In the New Year we are to have a Scots Night and various speakers. These will be noted in the bulletin, so look out for them and come along if any are of interest to you.

Secretary: Joyce Lownie.

7TH ARBROATH B.B. NEWS

The boys have all been enjoying their time in the various sections of the company. All sections have been working towards their badges and we hope to have a presentation before we break off for the Christmas holidays. We had a very successful Halloween Party and our guest judge for the evening was Ruth Bell our assistant minister. The prize winners were as follows -

ANCHOR BOYS

1st Dylan Roberts—A Zombie

2nd Conner Townsend—Skeleton

3rd Fraser Fair—American Footballer

JUNIOR SECTION

1st Calum Ferguson—Storm Trooper

2nd Kein Speed—Pirate

3rd Kieran Gogerty—Vampire

We got chips from the Round "O" Chip

shop across the road - very handy.

We have also had a trip to the local Abbey Theatre where we were indebted to Alan Christieson for giving of his time to show us round back stage and see things we don't always see when going to the theatre. This has whetted our appetite for our visit to the Panto in a few weeks time. If you are interested in coming please let any officer know and we will keep a ticket for you. Cost is £5. Date 11th December. Time 7.30pm.

We asked Alan to present leading boy badges to Anchor Boys Fraser Fair and Jack Webster, and Junior Section boys Andrew Fair and Graeme Hamilton.

All section start back after the Christmas break on Thursday 8th January, 2009.

We hope you all have a happy and blessed Christmas time.

CAPTAIN E. J. MATTHEW M.B.E.

Smooth Move

The Friday Coffee Morning has moved smoothly to its temporary home courtesy of the Old & Abbey Church.

We have been made welcome and our customers are coming along as usual. We would also like to thank our faithful team

of bakers who have kept providing delicious items for sale.

Our last meeting will be Friday 19th December, when we will serve mince pies. The Gang wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.

The restart date will be 9th January 2009 - hope to see you all then.

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

Sunday 7

11 am - Worship Service in Arbroath Academy
(Second Sunday in Advent)
8 pm OFF the W.O.L. in the Windmill Christian Centre

Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service in Arbroath Academy
(Third Sunday in Advent)

Sunday 21

11.30 am - Worship Service in Knox's Church
(Fourth Sunday in Advent)
2.00pm - Service of Quiet and Reflection in Old and Abbey

Wednesday 24

6.30pm - Christmas Eve service for all the family in Old and Abbey Church
11.15pm - Watchnight Service in Old and Abbey Church

Thursday 25

10am - Christmas Day Service in Old and Abbey Church

Sunday 28

11.30 am - Worship Service in Knox's Church

JANUARY

Sunday 4

11 am - Worship Service for the New Year, a shared service with our brothers and sisters in Old and Abbey Church

Sunday 11

11 am - Worship Service in Arbroath Academy

Sunday 18

11 am - Worship Service; main service followed by short celebration of Communion in Arbroath Academy

Sunday 25

11 am - Worship Service in Arbroath Academy

N.B. As well as the services above there are the following:

- ♦ A 40mins. service every Wednesday morning at 10.30am in Old and Abbey
- ♦ Messy Church, from 4-6pm, on the last Sunday of every month - 2 hours for all the family, with games, craft, worship and an all-together meal - in Old and Abbey
- ♦ A full-on contemporary worship service, OFF the W.O.L., on the first Sunday of every month at 8pm (venues advertised)

The Girl With An Apple

Part 2

**This is a true story.
You can find out more by Googling
Herman Rosenblat.
He was Bar Mitzvahed at age 75.**

Second World War Buchenwald, Germany

In part 1 Herman recounted that because he was quite tall for just an 11 year old, he had avoided the gas chambers by saying that he was 16 years old. He was put to work in the camp's crematorium, loading the dead into a hand-cranked elevator. Then a little girl on the other side of the fence befriended him and brought him an apple and other food daily "We didn't dare speak or linger. To be caught would mean death for us both. I didn't know anything about her, just a kind farm girl, except that she understood Polish."

Nearly seven months later, my brothers and I were crammed into a coal car and shipped to Theresienstadt camp in Czechoslovakia. 'Don't return,' I told the girl that day. 'We're leaving.' I turned toward the barracks and didn't look back, didn't even say good-bye to the little girl whose name I'd never learned, the girl with an apple.

We were in Theresienstadt for three months. The war was winding down and Allied forces were closing in, yet my fate seemed sealed. On May 10, 1945, I was scheduled to die in the gas chamber at 10:00 am. In the quiet of dawn, I tried to prepare myself. So many times death seemed ready to claim me, but somehow I'd survived. Now, it was over. I thought of my parents. At least, I thought, we will be reunited.

But at 8am there was a commotion. I heard shouts, and saw people running every which way through camp. I caught up with my brothers. Russian troops had liberated the

camp! The gates swung open. Everyone was running, so I did too. Amazingly, all of my brothers had survived; I'm not sure how. But I knew that the girl with the apples had been the key to my survival. In a place where evil seemed triumphant, one person's goodness had saved my life, had given me hope in a place where there was none. My mother had promised to send me an angel, and the angel had come.

Eventually I made my way to England where I was sponsored by a Jewish charity, put up in a hostel with other boys who had survived the Holocaust and trained in electronics. Then I came to America, where my brother Sam had already moved. I served in the U. S. Army during the Korean War, and returned to New York City after two years. By August 1957 I'd opened my own electronics repair shop. I was starting to settle in.

One day, my friend Sid who I knew from England called me. 'I've got a date. She's got a Polish friend. Let's double date.' A blind date? Nah, that wasn't for me. But Sid kept pestering me, and a few days later we headed up to the Bronx to pick up his date and her friend Roma. I had to admit, for a blind date this wasn't so bad. Roma was a nurse at a Bronx hospital. She was kind and smart. Beautiful, too, with swirling brown curls and green, almond-shaped eyes that sparkled with life.

The four of us drove out to Coney Island. Roma was easy to talk to, easy to be with. Turned out she was wary of blind dates too! We were both just doing our friends a favour. We took a stroll on the boardwalk, enjoying the salty Atlantic breeze, and then had dinner by the shore. I couldn't remember having a better time. We piled back into Sid's car, Roma and I sharing the backseat. As European Jews who had survived the war, we were aware that much had been left unsaid between us. She broached the subject, 'Where were

you,' she asked softly, 'during the war?' 'The camps,' I said. The terrible memories still vivid, the irreparable loss. I had tried to forget. But you can never forget. She nodded. 'My family was hiding on a farm in Germany, not far from Berlin,' she told me. 'My father knew a priest, and he got us Aryan papers.'

I imagined how she must have suffered too, fear, a constant companion. And yet here we were both survivors, in a new world. 'There was a camp next to the farm,' Roma continued. 'I saw a boy there and I would throw him apples every day.' What an amazing coincidence that she had helped some other boy. 'What did he look like? I asked. 'He was tall, skinny, and hungry. I must have seen him every day for six months.' My heart was racing. I couldn't believe it. This couldn't be. 'Did he tell you one day not to come back because he was leaving Schlieben?' Roma looked at me in amazement. 'Yes!' 'That was me!'

I was ready to burst with joy and awe, flooded with emotions. I couldn't believe it! My angel. 'I'm not letting you go.' I said to Roma. And in the back of the car on that blind date, I proposed to her. I didn't want to wait. 'You're crazy!' she said. But she invited me to meet her parents for Shabbat dinner the following week.

There was so much I looked forward to learning about Roma, but the most important things I always knew: her steadfastness, her goodness. For many months, in the worst of circumstances, she had come to the fence and given me hope. Now that I'd found her again, I could never let her go. That day, she said yes. And I kept my word. After nearly 50 years of marriage, two children and three grandchildren, I have never let her go.

Herman Rosenblat of Miami Beach, Florida. This story is being made into a movie called 'The Fence'.

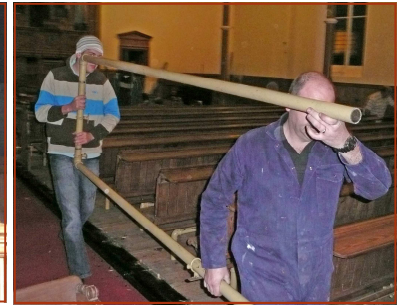
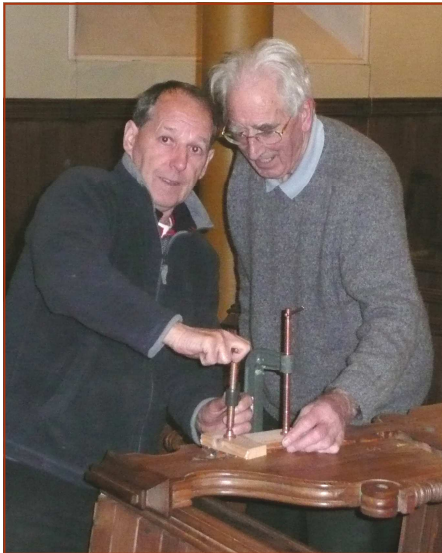
The Many Parts

Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott. Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother

told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen. On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to

her, eyes shining with pride and excitement. "Guess what, Mum" he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me ... "I've been chosen to clap and cheer."

DANGER - MEN AND WOMEN AT WORK!



Clockwise -

Craftsmen at work - Tom Cargill and Bill Mill / Janis Clark and Roberta Brand take a break 10ft above contradiction / Pipes and who's who? / Well, they are also lifting a pew - it's Ray Reaney and 'Big Nige' Neil Grant / The end result / Having a tea break - Alan Brand, Ray Reaney, Tom Cargill, Bob Whyte, Angus Milne, Michael McGurk / Facia organ pipes are removed and the organ slides under the pulpit for protection - perhaps we should put it on rollers so that Jane can make a grand 'Blackpool Tower' entry each Sunday!



Alan Christieson presented badges to Graeme Hamilton and Andrew Fair Jack Webster and Fraser Fair



Youth Group Trip to Teen Ranch

Yes it was that time of year again! The first weekend in November saw a group of 46 young people and leaders from both Youth Groups head off to Teen Ranch, near Inchtute for the weekend. Once again the weather was great all weekend which only added to the brilliant time everyone had. This time we were the only group there so we didn't have the same need to be competitive - we were actually

beaten in one game on Saturday night by the Teen Ranch staff. You can tell that neither Becky or Elise were with us as that would never have happened if they had been! Hope they can forgive us!!

The weekend was full of activities - horse riding, canoeing, zip line, shooting, archery, mountain biking and many games of football and basketball. Saturday night saw us take part in some games and the essential bush dance. The food was as usual plentiful and really good, and sleep did take place in all dorms. Time Out this year was led by a former missionary to Chad who now lives in Dundee as Bob was on a visit back to Australia.

The thing that made this weekend different from all previous youth weekends is that we managed to come back without any casualties. Even Naomi came home unscathed!

A big thanks to all those from the church who drove the young people there and back. Hopefully it wasn't too noisy in your cars!! And yes... we have booked again next year!

