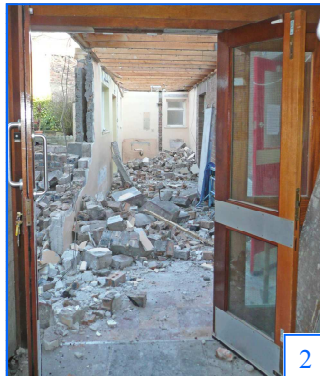
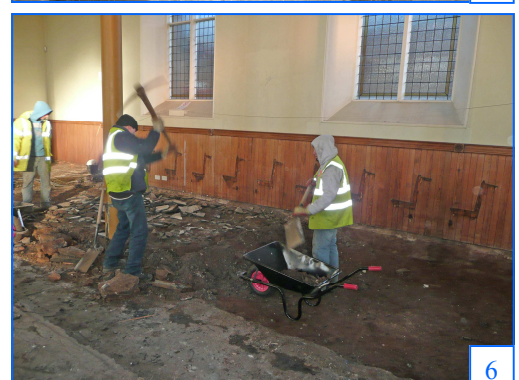
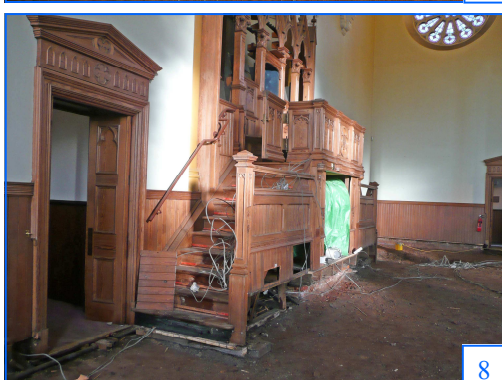


On The Move And Having A Smashing Time!



- Clockwise**
- 1 Our banner with the 'good Shepherd' in background!
 - 2 The 'New Halls' corridor being demolished.
 - 3 All gone - corridor, gents and disabled toilet, store room and passageways. New welcome area (gallery) to be in the foreground of picture.
 - 4 Looking out of the 'New Halls' across to the Old Hall door. This will be a large welcome area with servery to the right of Martin's head and new toilets and new kitchen further to the right again.
 - 5 Pews and flooring gone.
 - 6 Digging deeper (and not the yellow sheets!)
 - 7 Ready for concrete base?
 - 8 Platform has gone.
 - 9 Band has gone!
 - 10 The spacious feeling is amazing - sad but exciting!



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

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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

**ADMINISTRATOR and
BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

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

December 2008 / January 2009

Baptisms - None

Weddings - Lindsay Mackay & Magdalene Stewart

Funerals - Doreen Ruxton, Joanna Anderson

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**MARCH EDITION**

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

Friday 13th February (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 17th February (Word-Processed file)

Church Renovation

Important notice:

The church is at this time an official building site and is entirely out of bounds. Much as you might like to wander in to see what's going on – you can't! This must be observed strictly to avoid potential accidents and to make sure that the contractors can get on with the job without interruption. Thank you.

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



February 2009

Dear Friends,

I have to say that I've been absolutely delighted that everyone I've spoken to has said that they're thoroughly enjoying the 'Academy experience!' For my part, I was always hopeful that it would be that way. I actually believe that church is about people, not buildings, and so the prospect of worshipping in a school assembly hall held no fear for me. I think we've all learned more about that over these recent months as we've been in the school and in various other venues for worship and congregational activity.

Perhaps the most valuable spin-off had been that we've all found ourselves meeting new people. As creatures of habit, we tend to gravitate to the same pew week by week but when there are no pews and when everything is more fluid, naturally we find ourselves in different places and beside different people. Who knows, maybe we'll retain some of that when eventually we get back into our buildings!

As you'll see from this month's front cover, work is now well underway. Doubtless, some of you will sense a twinge of sadness and will find yourselves thinking: *look what they've done to my Kirk!!* That's only natural, especially for those of you with years of your family history wrapped up in that building. But I remain entirely confident that when we all get to see the finished article, you'll be saying: *look what they've done to the Kirk!!* in an entirely positive way! And, similarly, I remain entirely confident that what we're doing now is about investment in the future and that generations coming after us will say to themselves: *I'm glad that lot did what they did to the Kirk!*

Giving towards the project has been tremendous so far and the monies raised by the congregation (still coming in), together with what we had saved and the grants that we've received to date, mean that we're well on the way financially. That said, there's still a way to go and we will need to remain committed to this project even when we're back in the building. But we have no fears in this direction; the Kirk Session would not have entered into anything without there being confidence about our ability to finish what we started.

I read with great interest an article in a recent copy of *The Church Times* which was based on research that had been done among Christians regarding their attitude to giving in the light of the economic downturn. 95% of those interviewed said that they would maintain or increase the level of their givings to their churches and favourite charities!

Wow! Isn't that faith speaking? We believe in a God who remains constant no matter what changes and fluctuations are taking place. We believe in a God who is the same in good times as in bad and whose purposes are eternal and not dependent on any particular political or economic climate.

We have much to look forward to. In the meantime, a big *thank you* from me for the way in which you have gone about being the church in this time of transition. If only pride wasn't one of the seven deadly sins I'd be very proud of you!!

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

Palm Sunday and Psalm Sunday

We're all familiar with Palm Sunday as being the week before Easter Day but what about Psalm Sunday? This year, on Sunday 15th February, our praise will be made up entirely of the singing of Psalms!

We'll use some of the old classics together with some of the contemporary re-workings. All together, it should

allow for a wonderful morning of worship. We Scots have always had a special fondness of Psalms and there's every reason to celebrate that and to continue into the days that lie ahead.

So, put the date in your diary now and bring your singing voice with you on the day!!

Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

Dunphy Family Re-union

Well here we are, all back safe and sound from our amazing Christmas trip to Malawi. It was a totally different Christmas than anything we have ever had! No turkey for us this year but nsima, rice and a little bit of chicken. Once again it was a privilege to have been allowed to go and to share with our friends out in Malawi. Here are a few highlights:

- **Becky's face on our arrival** - It was a huge surprise for her. For the Dunphys it was great to be back together again. But for us all it was good to see Becky looking so well and so happy there. The Malawians love her and say she is a Malawian now.
- **The children's' faces at our Christingle service on Christmas Eve** - No expectation of presents from them just a joy that it was Jesus' birthday.
- **Our trip to Kambilonjo on Christmas Day** - It is a long journey made more so that we had to make a detour to Zomba to deliver money to buy coffins for people who had died at the other Aquaid school at Namarita. It was well worth it in the end to see all those lovely people. A lot of the people had hung on at the church for over an hour just to see us. The people there are so poor but so full of joy. We sang with the children at the daycare and handed out little gifts – the noise of the whistles was amazing!! We were shown the Residence that we have paid to be built and will support. It is awaiting permission from the government for completion but looks amazing and will now care for 32 orphans rather than 24 as we first expected.
- **Our visit to the St Andrew's Daycare & Residence for Orphans at Thyolo** - It is complete and looks amazing! It has electricity and running water. – Naomi tried out the toilet just to make sure! The residence which will care for 24 orphans is awaiting permission to open but the day-care opened on Monday 5th January under the care of Kiere who is lovely. The gardens are all planted and the harvest looks good and this week they had a meeting with government officials to negotiate cheap maize for feeding the orphans.
- **Our ceilidh on Hogmany** - They just loved our dances. More of that when we go back in the summer.
- **The beautifully painted orphan houses that mainly the Bowies were involved in painting** - All their hard work in the intense heat paid off.
- **Visiting the old widow and her grandson and granddaughter whom Becky has been helping look after their garden** - We went one morning to help weed and discovered after a while that it wasn't only maize that had been planted so we had actually been pulling out millet and groundnuts as well as weeds - it's OK - we did replant

them. Although so far the rains have been good and their crops are growing well they will not harvest till April/May and in the meantime a lot of the country has run out of last year's harvest and people are beginning to starve. When we visited the old widow we realised they had NO FOOD. We went back with supplies and Becky will ensure that they are regularly given some food over the next few months.

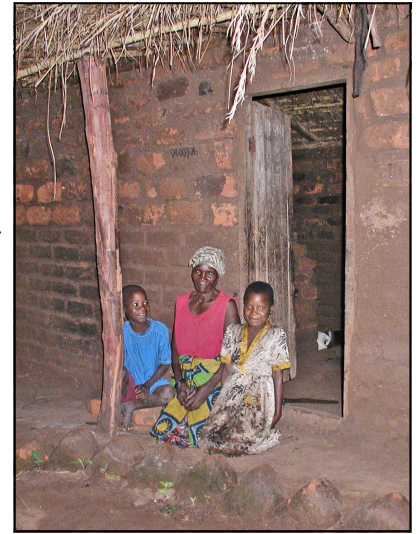
We are also having built for them a wash area and hole in the ground for a toilet. (At present they have to wait till dark to go down to the river to wash).

- **Helping a baby with Malaria** - One of our friends, who works in the store at Namisu, is Offman. He and his wife had a 4th little baby girl in August whom Becky named Esther. While we were there she was bitten by a mosquito and developed malaria. Unfortunately because it is so hot out there just now the wound also got infected and she had a huge lump on her head. The family had no money to take her to the hospital and so we were privileged to take her in our truck and pay for the treatment that she received over the following week. (It came to about £10!) I don't think I can fully describe the experience of holding a 5 month baby down on a table as a doctor cut into the lump with a scalpel and no anaesthetic. Ada, her mother who didn't understand what was going on was distraught and begged me that her baby would not die. I am glad to say she is fit and healthy again. Fraser and I could have wept the day before we left as Offman emotionally thanked us all for caring for little Esther. We felt we had done so little but are thankful that we were there at the right time.

I could fill pages with stories of our 2 weeks there but suffice to say that the money that you so generously have been giving is being put to good use and IS making a difference to the children looked after by Aquaid. Please continue to pray for the work of Aquaid and remember that, even given the present state of the economy here, we are so well off and continue to give sacrificially to this needy work.

Sheila Dunphy.

Next Month - The Bowies experience and more pictures.



The Old Widow and Family

Malawi Fundraising

Our next Malawi fundraiser is a **Soup Lunch** to be held after church on **Sunday 15th February at OBs**. The price of the lunch will be £2.50 which will include Homemade soup and bread plus tea/coffee and biscuits. There will also

be home baking for sale and a tombola. Why not wander down after the morning service and get a chance to blather at length to other folks from the church. If anyone needs transport we will happy arrange this.

Another Malawi Fundraiser on **21st February 2009**
Murder Mystery Evening - A Medieval Murder

Tickets available 1st February 2009 from group members

£10 per head - 3 course banquet included!

Sit, eat and solve the murder as play unwinds!

Venue to be confirmed.

Starter Packs

They have needs for a few specific items which can be left at the church office or in the Starter Packs box at the church service on Sundays.

They currently need: Bath towels, pots and pans, cutlery and curtains. They always need general household items, so everything is welcome.

Santa Quiz Answers

A - George Dickson; B - Bill Marshall; C - Mary Nicol; D - Ruth Bell; E - Alan Marr; F - Jane Miller; G - Jim McLeod; H - Lena Whyte; I - Simon Bailey; J - Audrey Brown; K - Carole Ann Thain; L - Fat Cat; M - Maureen Denniston; N - Lorna Searle; O - David Searle; P - Irene Sim; Q - Andrew Fair; R - Neil McLean; S - Sandy Bowie;

T - Elliott Beattie; U - Neil Grant; V - Sheila Dunphy; W - Rita O'Neil; X - Joan Hainsworth.

Thanks to all who agreed to take part – hope you enjoyed it! Thanks to Ken Miller for all his work in editing and producing the quiz sheets. And finally thanks to all who bought a quiz sheet. – The winner was Becky Dunphy who got the top score of 21 out of 24. We haven't actually told her yet!

Angus Credit Union



Recently, as the news tells us about the latest company to lose some workers, or the next high street chain to close its doors it has felt a bit unsettling. The economy in Scotland and around the world has been shaken, and we can feel a bit shaken too. Whether you are a saver or a borrower you would have noticed some changes in the past few months. The first "bank run" at Northern Rock back in November 2007 seems quite recent, when £20 billion of UK savers' money seemed at risk, and queues of customers lined up right down the streets waiting to take their money out of the bank. Many were worried; not sure where was safe to deposit their nest eggs, savings, holiday money or wages.

Savings accounts have been getting far less interest since the Bank of England reduced the lending rate of interest, reducing the saving rate in the process. Desperate businesses and families struggle to survive, not able to borrow money from the banks, which is a big change from a short while ago when credit card and loan offers were littering the floor after the postman had been. Unfortunately, it is times like these when the door step lenders are often seen, and are quite happy to offer a "helping hand" and a loan. The interest rates which these lenders offer start at 189%!! So the helping hand might soon have a very tight grip on you and your finances. The example on one website read as follows: Loan amount: £300, 57 weekly repayments of £9, Total amount payable £513. Typical 189.2% APR (Provident Personal Credit). It is awful that the very people who need assistance the most are the people who feel forced to take these crippling loans.

It is in this difficult financial climate that the Angus Credit Union has emerged. Often labelled "a community bank" because the money is all from local people with a common connection of living or working in Angus, the Credit Union encourages the traditional value of saving money, which seems to have been lost in the "must have it now" consumer society we live in. The members of Angus Credit Union might have a variety of reasons for saving – holidays, Christmas, children's future, a new washing ma-

chine or something completely different. The idea of saving up to buy something instead of "stick it on my credit card" flies in the face of popular opinions and spending habits. Members of the credit union deposit their money at any Access office or by standing order from an existing bank account, so it's a really simple way to save.

As well as offering saving accounts Angus Credit Union offers low interest loans to its members at 12.68% APR. This offers an welcome alternative to the rates of the door step lenders, which are often over 200% APR. This is one reason why supporting your local credit union can help your community. Instead of lining the pockets of the big banks, your savings can be lent out to local people, and can help those in our community to get a leg up, and get back on their financial feet. By the way, the savings which you deposit into Angus Credit Union are secured and regulated by the Financial Services Authority just like the big banks, and you are insured up to £50,000 per person.

Here in St. Andrew's church we are actively supporting Angus Credit Union, who recently recorded their 131st member. A number of people in the congregation have already joined as members, and we have two members of the Board of Directors, Linda MacDonald and Chris Barton (myself). Why not join in? You can become a member and start saving! Or perhaps you know a group or club who would like to have Ewen Allardyce come and share with the members about Angus Credit Union. Your money will be helping to make a positive difference in the community. If you are in need of a loan why not call Ewen Allardyce, the development manager of Angus Credit Union, on 01307 463388 to arrange a no pressure chat to see if ACU can help.

Lastly, I want to give you some "hot off the press" information about a great new course which St. Andrew's church will be offering soon. The Money Secret is a course put together by Care for the Family, and is perfect for everyone who is interested in looking after their family finances, and could be great preventative medicine for the nasty bite of the credit crunch. We hope to start this course very soon, so call the church office to reserve your place, or to request more information.

Chris Barton

News from Kampong Tralach

Those of you who have been following the developments with our Churches in Partnership (ChiP) friends in Cambodia will remember that the original Area Development Programme (ADP) in Kampong Tralach covered 10 communes (districts) and 85 of the 103 villages in Kampong Tralach. As a result of the success of the project to date, World Vision felt it was time to reassess the focus of their activity to ensure that their efforts continued to improve the well-being of the community, especially for children, and focus on the villages whose needs were still considerable. As a result, World Vision's work is now with 7 communes covering 33 villages across Kampong Tralach.

The refocusing of activity means that the Kampong Tralach ADP has now moved into a transitional stage where they expect to achieve all the goals of the project by 2011. The main goal, of course, is to leave a legacy of self-sustaining communities managed by local Village Development Committees.

The area has also experienced years of spiritual poverty when much of the pre-existing church was wiped out during the Khmer Rouge years. As a result, the Churches in Partnership programme has played a key role in strengthening the area's local house churches and helping them support the introduction of the gospel in a culturally sensitive manner. There is incredible unity amongst the different denominations, and all churches are passionate about demonstrating God's love in Kampong Tralach.

Sokmeng's Story

"We had heard about the Wattanak (development) group from Ms. Yoeurn who was World Vision's Community Development Worker," said Sokmeng. "The group first let us borrow 50 kilograms of rice to plant on our half hectare of land." Starting with the returns on the harvest of the rice, he has been able to build up enough savings to buy cows and slowly change their occupation from selling banana dumplings to growing rice and raising farm animals. The family was then able to buy some cows. As they borrowed from the group, life slowly improved. Through this initial start with the Wattanak group, the family has been able to raise pigs, cows and buy their own land for rice farming. Just recently this year, the family decided to borrow money from Vision Fund, a micro finance company of World Vision, to buy a water pump so that they could increase their crop production. Instead of having just one season of planting, Sokmeng is now able to grow rice in both the wet and dry season. He is now able to produce between two to seven tons of rice per year on his small plot of land from the two harvests. Sokmeng said, "We used to be hungry for 6 months of the year. Now we are doing all right."

A major development in Sokmeng's Wattanak group has been generating enough money to buy a biogas unit. With 40kg of manure a day from the cows and 40 litres of water, enough gas is produced to power a small gas stove and 2 lamps which means no more long walks to collect firewood for cooking, and the children now have light to help them study in the evening for school. It may not seem much to us, but for a family with no access to electricity this is a major development – and of course the cows and other animals are a constant supply of fuel!



Sokha, Sokmeng's wife, demonstrates how the gas stove works

Child sponsorship has also helped ensure Sokmeng's children are able to attend school.

Trust does not come easily in a country ravaged by war for the last 30 years. Building up the community and encouraging them to mobilise themselves takes time to establish. However, it is clear that the work of World Vision in Cambodia, and Kampong Tralach in particular, continues to bear fruit.

Thank you for your support, which has been helping to bring financial support, faith and prayer to the Kampong Tralach community in their journey out of poverty.

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1
11 am - Worship Service in Arbroath Academy
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L. in Windmill Christian Centre

Sunday 8
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 15
11 am - Worship Service;
Main service followed by short celebration of Communion

Wednesday 22
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - *Messy Church*

MARCH

Sunday 1
11 am - Worship Service
(1st Sunday in Lent)
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L. in Windmill Christian Centre

Sunday 8
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 15
11 am - Worship Service;
Main service followed by short celebration of Communion

Sunday 22
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 29
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - *Messy Church*

N.B. As well as the services above there is 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)

Scott Anderson

Ninewells Cancer Campaign

Dear Ms Davie,

19th January 2009

treatments for patients with cancer.

I am writing to thank you for the magnificent cheque for £722.00 which you sent to me for the Ninewells Cancer Campaign following the Christmas service offering. It is very kind of the Kirk Session to agree to support the campaign in this way and I do assure you that their generosity and that of the congregation is greatly appreciated. As you know, all those associated with the Ninewells Cancer Campaign give their time and services on a voluntary basis and claim no expenses which means of course, that every penny donated to the campaign is used to help fund world leading research into cancer and the development of new and better

The Campaign will be raising £1.5 million in support of this major advance, so you can be sure that not only is St Andrew's donation greatly appreciated but it will also be used very wisely.

Thank you once again for your kindness,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jacqui Wood, MBE
Chairman

(Extracts from the letter.)

7TH ARBROATH B.B. NEWS

We hope you all had a great festive season. The boys all enjoyed the last few weeks of the year when we finished off the session at the local Panto at the Abbey Theatre. Anchor Boys received a certificate for all the achievements they had done up until the break. Junior Section 1st year boys who received their Target Awards are as follows, Kein Speed, Calum Ferguson, Sean Reid, Dale Kidd,

Callum McIntosh, Dylan Hudson and Kieran Young.

We are getting on well at the Sea Cadet Hall and the 12 Company boys are doing well for all their badges. We have two boys currently working on their Queens Badge.

As this is the 125th Anniversary of the B.B. movement we are raising money for the Children Hospices in the country and we will let you know in due course what our company will be doing in the way of fund raising for that.

The Things Children Say!

These are usually passed on from other sources and, judging by the names, are often of American origin. So here is a home-grown one which happened on the way home from nursery. Out of the blue -

"Grandpa - God made the world."

"Yes, He did, and He put lovely colours into it - look at that lovely blue sky today."

"How did God make the sky blue?"

(Not a time for cosmic ray spectrum discussion so) "I don't know sweetheart - you see He is so much more clever than us."

"No Grandpa - He painted it!"

(A short silence and then)

"Grandpa - God made the world, and then he made builders, and the builders built my house, and then they built your house too!"

Eilidh - aged 4.

The Things Children (We All) Can Think!

(The background to this story is that Martin decided for the New Year he would cook the meal every Friday - in fact he has apparently been doing even more than that!)

Martin thought that he had accidentally burst the cable on his computer mouse. As I was calling round at the

manse with a couple of spares in a Morrisons' bag, Elaine arrived in the car with Fraser. Passing the bag to Fraser through the open window I said "That's a couple of mice for Martin to try."

We later heard that Fraser was very relieved when he looked inside the bag. For a moment, he had thought it was something to do with his Dad's new found culinary skills!

We'll all tease him about that one.

Fraser - aged 6 and man enough to let us print this.

**Do you have any real-life funnies you would like to contribute?
(Don't forget to seek permission first!)**

And After Christmas ?

I was in a 4th Year Academy class just before the Christmas holidays, when the member of staff gave the pupils a little exercise before going on to the main topic of the period. He split the class up into two groups and gave each group a large piece of card, then getting each group to write CHRISTMAS in the middle of their card. Then they were instructed to think of and write down all that Christmas means to them around the outside of CHRISTMAS. Many things came out, including presents, turkey, parties, Santa, family etc but I was amazed and pleased to see Jesus appear on both sets of cards.

What came next was even more amazing. The tutor asked the groups to imagine that they were homeless,

crossing off each item that they would not have, had they nowhere to live. One by one turkey, family, tree, decorations were scribbled out until both groups were left solely with Jesus still on the card.

I write this just before Christmas and although I don't "squidge", I'm guessing there are a pair of socks ('cause all dads get socks), and, hopefully, a box of Ferrero Rocher chocolates in my (small) pile of pressies.

By the time you read this, the tree and decorations in our house will be down, the chocolates eaten and the process of wearing out the socks started.

But after all that, I'll still have Jesus.

Simon Bailey

And Christmas Past



Hallelujah X Factor Prayer (By Ruth Bell)

The candles are burning brightly,
There are no more purple ones to be lit,
Christmas is quickly coming,
And then we will shout out the title of that X Factor hit...

But for now, God, we are patiently waiting,
Waiting, for a wee while more,
For the coming of your Son, the Lord Jesus,
Whom we simply cannot ignore.
And so we hold our breaths and whisper softly,
HALLE...HALLELUJAH!

For today, we come to remember,
The promise, the stable, that star,
The baby born in a manger,
Who is Jesus, the best gift to us by far.
And so we hold our breaths and whisper softly,
HALLE...HALLELUJAH!

And as we recall the journey,
Of Mary and Joseph,
The shepherds,
The wise men,
May we be filled with a sense of wonder,
And be touched by the power of your Spirit again.

And as we wait and watch the story unfolding,
May we stop,
And ponder and see,
That you are already with us,
You are God who is making the darkness flee.

For, the candles are burning brightly,
There are no more purple ones to be lit,
Christmas is quickly coming,
And then we will shout out the title of that X Factor hit...
But, for now, we hold our breaths and whisper softly:
HALLE...HALLELUJAH!

Amen.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Sunday 14th December saw a group of 48 – comprising of young people and leaders- gathering at the Windmill Christian Centre for our annual Christmas Party. The evening started off with a delicious 2-course meal cooked and served by some of the ‘mums’. Our thanks to Doris Bowie, Kim Marr, Jane Stewart, Elaine Fair, Louise Smith, Ruth Martin and Jane Skea for the great food and for serving and washing up afterwards.

A showing of the Teen Ranch trip video was next which caused much laughter – thanks to Michael who put it together so well!



It was then on to our ceilidh. This year, music was supplied by Euan and Kerr Barrack and Shannon Jamieson who were excellent and added to the success of the evening. There was no one who didn't get up at some time to dance and most danced the whole evening. Jack Newth and Carla Ingram also provided entertainment on pipes and drums. Well done to them both as they played so well.

During the evening folks were videoed sending a Christmas message to Becky and she really enjoyed watching that out in Malawi as well as the Teen Ranch video.

It was a great evening and a great round off to the session.