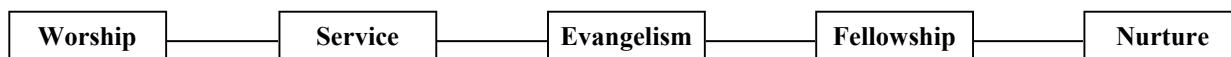




September 2009

# Year of Evangelism

Over a long number of years now, St. Andrew's has organised its life and mission around five key principles –



When all five of these are in play, you have a healthy church.

The Kirk Session, through the guiding hand of the Leadership Group, has agreed that we will continue to work on these principles but with a special emphasis for this coming year on *evangelism*. Why?

- It is difficult to do everything at once – the danger being that in trying to do so, the end result is nothing being done particularly well. Therefore, in each of the coming years we are going to focus on one area
- We have chosen evangelism not because it is the most important of the five but because, *at this time*, it is the area most in need of attention. With Scotland being largely post-Christian now, it is imperative that churches become more evangelistically adept. Jesus told a parable of ninety-nine sheep being in the fold and one being lost. We are living in a situation where the reverse is true – ninety-nine sheep have got lost! In these years, it is not going to be good enough to do what Little Bo Beep did – *leave them alone and they'll come home wagging their tails behind them!*

So, 2009-10 is going to be a Year of Evangelism. At the end of it, we hope that we will be a more confident congregation – made up of men and women, boys and girls able, ready and willing to share their faith and experiences with others.

## Seafest Outreach

For the third year running St Andrew's Church had a stall at Seafest. The main reason we have done this is to show God's love to the people of Arbroath. In the past years we have given away almost 2000 cans of Coke, 1000 ice poles, and have offered free face painting and hair braiding. We have wanted to provide a free stall to bless the families in our community, because Seafest can be an expensive day out.

This year we tried something similar, offering free temporary tattoos, free crafts for children, and a free soft drink and a place to sit. Over the weekend we had hundreds of children, teenagers and adults come to the stall, and we had volunteers from the church who came to help in various ways. Everyone who volunteered found their place in the team, either serving soft drinks, helping with the crafts, or applying the temporary tattoos! Thanks to all the volunteers who came to support the event.

On Saturday afternoon we also brought Prayer on the Streets to Seafest, offering prayers of blessing, healing or support to anyone who wanted it. It was exciting to see people open to receiving prayer, and experiencing God's presence outwith the walls of the church.



It was encouraging to find that we had accomplished what we set out to do when we heard some of the comments of people who stopped at our stall. People were impressed that we weren't asking for donations and everything really was for free. One woman, who sat for a few minutes and had a drink while her children were doing crafts and painting the banner, expressed a real appreciation for the stall we provided. She said, "It was so nice to just sit for a few minutes and rest without the children begging for anything".

## 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

#### 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

July / August 2009

**Baptisms** - None

**Weddings** - Lynsey Dall & Craig Halliday

**Funerals** - Jean Tasker, Sheila Campbell

## DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES

### OCTOBER EDITION

Please note that **DEADLINE** dates must mean exactly that. Information that needs to be **Word Processed** should be handed in to the **office** by the **first** date and **not** to the Editor.

Friday 18th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd September (Word-Processed file)

## Thanks All Round For The Back Door Sale

I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Lena, Iona, Jane, Gordon, Bill, Val and Ian for all the hard work up front, and to Scott, Gordon, and Maureen for storage – without them there would be no sale.

Thanks also to all who donated and helped on the day. The sum raised was

£4,200 and £974 of this came from the sponsored walk by Lena and Wilma.

Mary Nicol

**But, of course, without Mary there would be no back door sale - so very many thanks to you, Mary.**

## 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

September 2009

Dear Friends,

There's nothing like a summer break...and there's nothing like getting ready for a new session in the life of our congregation! As I said recently on Sunday morning, I remain entirely committed to **serving as a minister**, to serving as **the minister of Arbroath: St. Andrew's** and to doing that with as much **enthusiasm and passion** as I felt when starting out in ministry!

But since the last edition of QUEST, it's hardly been all quiet! Our Malawi team completed their 2009 trip with great things having been achieved. Amy and Jack returned from their trips to South Africa and Romania respectively. And Ruth, our now much-loved Assistant Minister got the great news that her probationary period has been sustained and that she is now free to be a minister in her own right!!

Well with all of that taking place in the summer *break* just think what we can look forward to in the session ahead! The exciting thing is that we never get to stand still. God is always leading his people onwards. With a Leadership Group and Kirk Session determined to discern God's leading – and be obedient to it – we can be sure that there will be no grass growing under our feet.

But at the same time, we will need to ensure that there is plenty of time and space in the year for all of us to smell the roses! In other words, there is a fine balance to be drawn between acting and being – serving and receiving. Most of us are familiar with the New Testament story of Martha and Mary. The point is not for us to decide whether Martha or Mary was doing the right thing. Rather, we need to be Martha *and* Mary – sometimes starting, sometimes stopping – sometimes getting the job done, other times listening for the still, small voice.

Finally, it's possible that you've fallen away from active participation in the life of the congregation during recent times. Don't panic – these things happen. But there was never a better time to get back involved! Just as we get ready to start in our newly refurbished buildings, why not grab the opportunity to make a new start for yourself. There really is no time like the present.

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

## The End Is Nigh !

With the end of our Refurbishment Programme now in sight, we are preparing for getting back into the church – and celebrating!

Very shortly, we should have an entry date, after which it will take us around three weeks to ready the buildings for use.

**“Our official opening celebrations will take place over the last weekend in November”**

Although we will be back in **somewhat earlier**, our *official opening celebrations* will take place over the last weekend in November. At that time, we will be giving thanks for fifty years of St. Andrew's Church,

rejoicing in our re-fashioned buildings

**“We will be giving thanks for fifty years of St. Andrew's Church”**

and, most importantly, committing ourselves all the more to the mission that is ours – into our community and to the ends of the earth with the truth

**“.... committing ourselves all the more to the mission that is ours – into our community and to the ends of the earth with the truth of God's love made known in Jesus”**

of God's love made known in Jesus.

This really is going to be quite the most exciting time in the life of our congregation!

### Can You Help?

When we gain access again we will have many small(ish!) jobs needing to be done. Are you a handyman/lady, sewer, decorator, joiner, plumber, electrician, bricklayer, carpet layer, or built like

**'The Hulk' .....**

or just plain willing and able to assist in any way? If so, then we need you!

Please offer your help to Bobby Craig on 876112.

## Home and Away - OUTREACH - Home and Away

### Insight Into Insight

Serving the Angus area, Insight Counselling offers professional Christian counsellors in all areas of individual and group therapy sessions. They have over 30 trained counsellors on their books, and the location on the High Street will take referrals from local doctors and hospitals as well as self-referrals. The renovations are now complete and they are getting ready to receive their first clients in this new location.



**Maria McMillan and Margaret Leiper**

At the time of writing, Insight is still waiting on Disclosures coming through for the counsellors to work in this new centre, but this should happen in the next week or so, and the great looking building will be filling up and buzzing with people.

One of the projects being run out of the local offices is a new service for people bereaved by suicide. For people bereaved by suicide the sense of shock and social isolation are often greater than for those bereaved by other causes of death. The search for an explanation; a reason why our loved one made this decision. The questions “why”? and “why didn’t I see the signs”? can sometimes weigh the bereaved person down with feelings of guilt, abandonment and rejection.

Insight Counselling are partnering with the Samaritans to offer a listening service from the Samaritans, a counselling service offered by the Insight Counselling centre, and self-help groups held throughout Tayside to enable people bereaved by suicide to talk to each other and support each other. For information on any aspect of this service please contact Maria McMillan at Insight Counselling on 01241 871140 or contact the Samaritans on 01382 832555.

There are all kinds of reasons people call on Insight Counselling for support and counselling, and we’re looking forward to supporting their work with some volunteer receptionists. This doesn’t need to be a regular commitment, but they are looking for a number of volunteers to be on a supply list to fill a morning or afternoon here or there. If this is something of interest please call Margaret Leiper on 01241 871140.

Lastly, there will be an open house to have a look around the Insight Counselling offices on September 10th, from 3-6pm. Everyone is welcome to drop in and have a tour around the building. The address is 125 High Street, Arbroath. We’re really glad Insight Counselling has chosen Arbroath as its new centre for Angus, and we give the staff all our best wishes as they begin this important service in our community.

### Contact Team All Systems Go!

After some considerable time of planning and preparation, we are ready now to launch our new pastoral care plan. In all of this, our aim has been to make our congregational caring as effective as is possible. Until now, some of our members have experienced quite wonderful care and support through times of need. We want to ensure that all members get the same deal!

And so, as from September, the Contact Team will come into force. Each member of that Team has responsibility for a small group of households – seven or eight on average. The team member will make contact once a month; that to involve a knock at the door, delivery of QUEST magazine and any other church literature and a quick check that all is well. There’s no intention that the visitors will spend any more than few minutes at the doorstep. After completing

their contacts, they will submit a report to Kim Marr, our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator. On most occasions they’ll be able to report that all is well. But where that is not the case, Kim will be alerted to the problem and will thereafter (in liaison with the minister) decide on what support and care can be offered – that to be given by the Pastoral Care Team. This should ensure that our resources are targeted to where the need is greatest and that situations of need are met with a speedy response.

We simply ask that you will be welcoming to your Contact Team member when you find them on your doorstep and that you let them know of any ongoing situations in which your church might be able to support you or your family. If we don’t know, we can’t do anything about it!

In the meantime, we are grateful to have a congregation full of so many willing and gifted people. Between the Contact Team and the Pastoral Care Team, we have almost one hundred people involved in making sure that our caring is of the highest order. That’s a great starting point. After all, the most valuable resource that a church has is its people.



## 26<sup>th</sup> July

The Worship Core Group had recommended that our service on 26<sup>th</sup> July be held outdoors – at the Victoria Park! The Leadership Group had accepted the proposal and so with all of the planning having been done, it was with much anticipation that we looked forward to singing our praises out-of-doors on a glorious summer day. Oooooops. It rained!

But good can come out of every situation and so it was that many of us went to other churches in the town and mixed with our friends from these neighbouring congregations. The fact of the matter is that in Arbroath, the various churches don't have too much to do with each other. Undoubtedly that will have to change. Perhaps God was prompting us in that direction on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July!!

## Seafront Spectacular

The Perth based outreach bus from Perth Christian Centre came to town for the Seafront Spectacular event down at Victoria Park. Some of our congregation helped out at the bus speaking to people and sharing about the love of God, and served as the local church contacts for the outreach.

The bus had a high quality multimedia presentation of the Gospel, as well as a fun puppet show which gathered a large crowd of onlookers.

### Wilma Nicholson

Some seven years ago, Wilma Nicholson moved to Arbroath and quickly made herself a part of our congregation. She involved herself in most aspects of congregational life but it was in relation to concern for persecuted Christians that Wilma made her most important contribution. Through her inspiration and leading, a group was formed that met monthly to inform itself and pray for the church worldwide – where Christians are being persecuted on account of their faith. Of course there is a Biblical injunction that Christians do this very thing but the truth is that it's a subject much neglected. We're grateful to Wilma for making sure that St. Andrew's never forgets our suffering brothers and sisters. As Wilma moves to pastures new up north, we're delighted that Sue Pritchard has been willing to take over leadership of the group.

The group met for coffee and cake at OBs shortly before Wilma's departure to show their appreciation of her leadership.



Ruth Bell, Anne Whyte and Judy Spink with Wilma

## A note of personal thanks

I know that Joanna has written to all the Caring For Life Prayer Supporters who are part of St Andrew's Church family for their amazing and generous support of CFL's 'Jam and Jelly Project'. The new equipment has not only made life easier and safer, it has also increased output by a significant margin. Over two hundred pots of preserves in the short space of three afternoons a few weeks ago - and a lot of the content had an Arbroath connection too, thanks to the blackcurrant donors, Ian and Ruth, and pickers, Roberta and Alan.

Income (and new ministry) through the Granary Cafe and shop has exceeded all expectations since opening on a very wet day at the end of June, 2008, and this additional funding is of critical support in the day to day running of Caring For Life.

For those of you into jam-making and who would like to know more about the product, the new jelly stands and strainer bags are manufactured by 'Kitchen Craft.'

Thank you all - and bless you!

Pat Clegg



## Presbyterian Administration of Communion

While we have been temporally homeless and worshipping in Arbroath Academy, on several occasions the Lord's Supper has been served as members have come forward to the front of the hall and received the bread and wine row by row. 'Has this been a serious departure from our cherished Presbyterian practice?' some have asked. There are three points of interest, which can be made in answer to that question.

### Kneeling at the altar

First, in the pre-Reformation church (that is, before the year 1560), communicants came forward and knelt at the altar rail and were given the 'wafer' by the officiating priest. They did not receive the wine, since the argument was that since the wafer, when consecrated, turned into the actual real flesh of Jesus, the blood also came into being within his living flesh. So only the priest partook of the consecrated wine.

Incidentally, he had to drink the entire contents of the chalice since Jesus' words, 'Drink ye all of it' (Matthew 26:27: Geneva Bible, 1560; King James Version, 1611; Douay Latin, Bibite ex hoc omnes), were understood as referring to the wine—'drink all of the wine'. However, when we read both Luke's and Mark's account, the text clearly says, 'And they all drank of it', so the modern translations of the Bible have, 'All of you drink of it'. Unfortunately, alcoholism became rather common among priests since they celebrated the Mass daily and drank a full chalice of wine to the dregs.

### Kneeling abolished

During Mass, communicants knelt at the altar rail because they were worshipping the 'host', that is the flesh and blood of Jesus being sacrificed once again for sin (transubstantiation). So the reformers abolished kneeling, for they insisted the New Testament's teaching was that the presence of Christ in communion was spiritual and not corporeal, that is, the bread and wine remained bread and wine and did not actually turn physically into Christ's flesh and blood. Nonetheless, Christ was present spiritually in the elements.

After 1560 in the reformed churches, communicants took both the bread and the wine. They partook standing at the 'High Table' or the 'Holy Table'. Notice that the communion table was never called an altar, for an altar is a place of sacrifice and the reformers believed that Christ's sacrifice on

the cross was once and for all and could never be repeated (Hebrews 10:12).

Communion is a ministerial act. Originally, during communion about a dozen communicants had come forward at a time and stood at the table as the minister served them, first the bread and then the wine. Most churches still have the large silver or pewter tankards, which were filled with wine to recharge the large silver communion cups from which everyone drank. Two cups could not hold enough wine to serve an entire congregation. In those days, the elders took no part in serving the bread and wine; celebration of the Lord's Supper was purely a ministerial act.

It was during the early years of the last century that elders began serving communion to congregations who were seated. As medical knowledge regarding germs and bacteria developed, it had been realized that infection could be passed on through the use of the 'common cup'. Therefore, increasingly individual communion glasses were introduced for reason of hygiene and so the help of elders was called upon to pass along the pews the plates of bread and the trays of individual glasses.

Administering the Lord's Supper is still a ministerial act, not a Kirk Session act. However, the Kirk Session, on the minister's recommendation, has the responsibility of ensuring that those who come to the Lord's Table are persons whose morals are not scandalous and whose beliefs are not heretical, and who therefore do not disqualify themselves from taking communion.

That is not to say that any single person on earth is 'worthy' to come to the Holy Table. In the Bible, the only qualification laid down for taking communion 'worthily' is that we humbly confess we are sinners who need a Saviour, and that we acknowledge that the Saviour we need and earnestly desire is our Lord Jesus Christ. D Searle.

## LOOKING AHEAD

September services are in **Arbroath Academy** and commence at 11 am.

### SEPTEMBER

#### Sunday 6

11 am - Worship Service  
7.30 pm - Evening with the Malawi Team 2009

#### Sunday 13

11 am - Worship Service

#### Sunday 20

11 am - Worship Service

#### Sunday 27

11 am - Worship Service  
4 pm - Messy Church

October services are in **Knox's Church** and will commence at 11.30 am.

### OCTOBER

#### Sunday 4

11.30 am - Worship Service  
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

#### Sunday 11

11.30 am - Worship Service

#### Sunday 18

11.30 am - Worship Service

#### Sunday 25

11.30 am - Worship Service  
4 pm - Messy Church

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

- ♦ A 40 minute 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 as advertised)

## Home Groups

The Home Groups are up and running again after a well-earned summer break. These groups offer opportunities for all of us to

- get to know one another better
- get to know our Bible better, and how to apply its teachings
- grow in our faith through sharing the journey with others

With around one hundred people in these groups, clearly they are a key part of the life of our church. If you are not presently part of a home group, speak to Lawrence Davie (Tel: 871874) about getting involved.

## WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS

You will be delighted to know that Ruth has successfully completed her probationary period and is now the

### Reverend Ruth Bell

There will be much more on this in the next edition of Quest, but for now we rejoice with her in her richly deserved achievement.

## Friends Club

St Andrew's Church Friends Club restarts on Thursday, 3rd September at 2pm in the West Kirk Hall. If you enjoy a cuppy and a chat, come along and meet us. Old and new members of the Golden Age are welcome.

Beatrice Gerrard (Secretary)

## Clerk's Corner

### Fund Raising

The Kirk Session and the Leadership Group have debated the matter of fund-raising and have decided that, over the next few months, the sole emphasis for this should be our commitment to the next stages of financing the Building Project.

We know that we now have the challenge of raising the money necessary to clear the loan which has been received from the Church of Scotland. Details of how we are going to go about this will be made known to you as soon as possible.

To help us all to have a focussed approach to this, **there will be no other forms of fund-raising up to the end of this year.**

## Pew - Phew!

Are we losing an important tradition by removing the pews?

Have you heard of a French lawyer called Rene Descartes (1596 - 1650)? He was a brilliant mathematician who made a significant contribution to the development of geometry. But he was also a philosopher. Though a devout Roman Catholic, he spent most of his life in Protestant Holland. Among his writings, perhaps the greatest is *A Discourse on Method* in which he tried to produce an intellectual framework to prove the reality of the existence of God and the truth of the Christian faith.

Descartes had thought about this for years until at last he found the foundation on which to build a logical structure, which he thought proved God was real. What was that foundation? In Latin: 'Cogito ergo sum'; in French: 'Je pense, donc je suis'; in English: 'I think, therefore I exist'. On that fragile basis, he erected a whole framework of philosophy. His book was published in 1637. Without his ever realizing it, he had initiated the period in Western civilization known as 'The Enlightenment' or 'Rationalism'.

Rationalism gave prominence to science. Through the progress of science, the theory of knowledge began to develop in a way that Descartes never envisaged. It led to the attitude that you only believe something if you can see it demonstrated either mathematically or empirically in the laboratory.

But rationalism had other unexpected 'spin-offs'. One of them was orderliness in the way things are arranged and done. And that brings us - astonishingly! - to pews in church buildings. If you visit pre-reformation church buildings (e.g. Dunblane Cathedral, or St Giles Cathedral) you will see that any pews in the church nave are much later additions to the furnishings. There were, however, the 'misericordia' seats. The Latin word 'misericordia' means 'mercy', and these seats were for the elderly or disabled. There were also seats in the chancel areas for the priests

and monks' choirs. But the congregation gathered standing in the main part of the building.

Until rationalism infiltrated church services, church buildings were usually the centre of the local community. The weekly markets were held in the kirk if the weather was inclement. Plays and theatre productions were also staged there. Because there were no pews, the space was unrestricted and so there was excellent potential for all kinds of community events.

But as rationalism took hold with the belief in 'controlled orderliness' it brought pews on its coat tails, so to speak. Fixed wooden benches were increasingly introduced so everyone could be seated facing the same way. People in church now had to behave and do as they were told by the minister - when to sit, stand or bow in prayer. Until then, if you wanted a seat, you brought your own.

This was why Jenny Geddes was able to hurl her stool at the Episcopal priest using an Episcopalian liturgy in St Giles Cathedral on Sunday 23 July 1637. And because there were no fixed seats, a riot then broke out in the kirk! Jenny Geddes' famous words which all Scottish primary school pupils had to learn in the days during the Boer War (when I was at school) were: Deil colic the wame o' ye, fause thief; daur ye say Mass in my lug? meaning, Devil cause you severe pains in your guts, false thief: dare you say the Mass in my ear?

So, the point is obvious: pews slowly came in during the Georgian period (1714 onwards). But they robbed church buildings of their flexibility, restricting their use to 'Divine Service'. (Incidentally, the word 'service', as in 'Morning Service' and 'Evening Service', is the same in both Hebrew and Greek as the word 'worship'. But that is another, very interesting story.)

Removing the pews in St Andrew's Church, therefore, is by no means abolishing an honourable tradition. The very opposite! It is restoring to our church buildings the original flexibility which they had in the earlier centuries of the history of the Church of Scotland.

David Searle.



# International Youth At Its Very Best

## Special Homecomings in the Year of Homecoming

It is so good to report on the wonderful achievements of our young men and women, and to give thanks for their safe return.

Our Malawi 2009 Team arrived back at the end of July (bang on schedule), tired from the long journey but exhilarated with all that had been achieved. As the youngsters piled out of the minibus, expectant family members and friends rushed forward to greet them. Hugs, with tears and laughter, were evident in equal measure!

With articles to come in upcoming editions of QUEST, we'll get to hear more about all of these experiences and achievements. The Kirk Session, however, was fortunate in this respect in that both Becky Dunphy - who spent the whole of the last year in Malawi - and Thomas Coutts gave presentations at August's meeting...a little foretaste of what we can all look forward to! Becky spoke of the daily grinding poverty faced by most Malawians and Thomas of the way in



**Joyous and tearful reunions with family and friends**

which the trip had challenged him to appreciate just how fortunate he has been, and is. Those listening were struck both by the passion of these young people and by the maturity that they displayed.

We also welcomed home Amy Ramsay who spent several months in South Africa, based in Brakpan, which is just outside Johannesburg. While there, she was mainly involved in children's ministries and worship with much of this work being done in squatter camps and the surrounding areas. And finally, Jack Newth has returned from Romania where he helped in an Orphanage as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award.



**Amy Ramsay**



**Jack Newth**

Watch out for full reports next month!

## Viking Invasion!

During the last week of July, Arbroath was invaded by a team of 12 young people from Norway, who came on a summer mission for a week. They got in contact with me through my connection with Youth With A Mission and I put together an outreach programme for them.



The team was part of the Mission Adventures summer outreach programme run by Youth With A Mission. Aged between 15 and 23, the team served in various ways throughout the week at Starter Packs, Havilah, Sunday Club, Prayer on the Streets, the Back Door Sale, as well as praying and sharing their faith in the community.

They had a great time connecting with the young people at OB's on the Friday and Saturday evenings, as well as playing football and chatting to young people in the community up near the Clifftown Hotel and down at Victoria Park.

They wanted to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who provided an evening meal each night for the team, and to their hosts who gave them a bed to rest their heads!

Hopefully we'll have more friendly Vikings come to visit in the future!

Chris Barton.