



November 2009

A Message From Our Minister

New Beginnings



It took a whole year, but the refurbishment is now done and we will be back 'home' at the beginning of November! We can now look forward to settling back into what will pretty soon become familiar surroundings again.

In many ways this is a time for looking back. We can reflect on the faith of those who first committed to building a church on this site, over 120 years ago. And we can think back, with thanks, to the historic coming together of St. Ninian's and Hopemount churches fifty years ago. And, much more immediately, we can rejoice in the work that's been done to revitalise our buildings, readying them for the coming years.



From this

And perhaps that is the point. As we look back, so we find ourselves looking forward with great anticipation to what is to come. We want our church buildings to be filled with life – morning, afternoon and evening, every day of the week! We want to welcome more and more people into our lovely new buildings, that we can enjoy fellowship with them and journey in faith together. And we want to see our buildings as being a base from which we can reach out even more into our community, to where the needs are greatest.

It is for those reasons that we look forward. Now, as never before, is the time to come and be part of it!

Martin



..... to this, in less than one year

Christmas 2009

St. Andrew's has always had a love affair with Christmas – hardly surprising given that it is the time when Christians celebrate Jesus coming into the world!

This year is going to be very special indeed. Due to the building works taking place last year, we found ourselves being a bit like Mary and Joseph – looking for somewhere to celebrate the birth of their child! We were hugely grateful to our brothers and sisters at both Knox's and Old & Abbey Churches who opened their doors to us.

Even so, it will be wonderful to be back in St. Andrew's for this year's Christmas celebrations. Central to these will be our Nativity and Christingle service – at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve – always a sell-out

occasion and our Traditional Watchnight Service at which we will sing together the best loved of the Christmas carols and reflect anew on what the message of Christmas really is. With coffee and mince-pies before hand, that service will be another one that will see people coming early to make sure of a seat!

But alongside these celebration services, St. Andrew's will be making sure that it doesn't forget those who will have little or nothing to be joyous about. As always, special collections will be taken to support some of our cherished work among the most needy and vulnerable.

You will also have opportunity to buy a gift for a child or a family or a village in Malawi – the ideal kind of gift to buy for one of your own loved-ones who already has everything!

They say that Christmas is for the children. Let's all be children this year!



Lucy Mineard
as an angel in 2008

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

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Ian Robertson : 877519

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Chris Barton : 439488

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES
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Audrey Brown : 439723
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Elaine Fair : 873238

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PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS

Judy Spink : 872395
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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**

September 2009

Baptisms - Alfie Clark, son of Michael and Laura

Weddings - none

Funerals - Connie Menmuir

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES**DECEMBER 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 13th November (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 17th November (Word-Processed file)

Thank you - from Anna Reid

Hi, I am Anna. I was born on 24th May 2009 and I am now 17 weeks old. My first connection with St. Andrew's Church was when Granny Reid took a little rose to church. Martin prayed for me, and daddy and mummy were so pleased to hear this.

But then I needed a big heart operation and you have been supporting me since. You

prayed for me at your Wednesday service and my name has been on your prayer sheet.

On the day of my operation, Granny went to the Wednesday service and Martin said a special prayer for me and my family. Everyone still asks for me and prays for me!

So 'thank you' to Martin, Ruth and all of you at St. Andrew's Church for your love and prayers.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**Organisations will alert members when changes to venues are made.****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.

Church Life

Messy Church

When St. Andrew's members gather to worship together, the mood is generally relaxed and upbeat. You quickly get the sense that these people love being together! But the most chilled-out gathering of them all is Messy Church. It's ideal for all ages, including the very youngest and is ideal for people who are not used to being around church. Mainly, it's about people being together.

Messy Church begins with a half hour of fun and games – sometimes table-top games, sometimes active games with the parachute or with Giant Jenga! Next, comes a session of fun-filled crafts – lots of paint and glue and sticky fingers – all of the crafts relating to the overall theme of the day.



Emily Hamilton and Jenni Marr

Then with the crafts complete, everyone gathers for fifteen minutes of songs and story through which a simple message from the Bible is brought to life. Even then, Messy Church isn't finished! The time together finishes with everyone sitting around the table enjoying a cooked meal, from the youngest toddlers to the teenagers to the parents and grandparents.

Sometimes it does get messy! But it's always fun, always about people coming together and always focussed on God's love for all of us. Now that's a winning combination!

Youth

Most people have a picture in their minds of what churches are like – and that picture is usually full of old people! Now, St. Andrew's Church has lots of much-loved older people. We value them for who they are and for their wisdom and life-experience from which the rest of us can learn so much.

But what makes St. Andrew's different on a Sunday morning – and throughout the week – is the number of children and teenagers who are involved, right at the heart of it. In St. Andrew's, young people aren't just tolerated, to be seen and not heard. Truly they are welcomed and loved and deeply appreciated. They bring energy, enthusiasm and vitality – not to mention commitment, passion and a desire to be real about Christian faith.

For many years now, the congregation has employed a youth worker – someone dedicated to leading our young

people and to supporting them through all of the ups and downs of the growing-up years. Sheila Dunphy has been doing the job for almost seven years now and speaks readily about her time with the teens:

"I love working with the young people – they are enthusiastic, honest, idealistic and challenging. We have a large group, around 50 in number, who regularly meet. Unusually there are more boys than girls ranging in age from 12 to 21.

There are young people from both secondary schools, college and some who have started working. They are a very friendly group who are always open to new people coming along. Part of the strength of the group is the fact that they care and support one another and also that the older ones help lead the activities with the younger ones. Young people need to feel accepted for who they are, to feel that they are valued and have something to contribute and to be encouraged to be all that they can be – that is what we offer at St Andrews. The young people are part of the extended church family and are actively encouraged to take part in the wider church life."



Sheila Dunphy

Kenny and Julia first started coming to St. Andrew's because they wanted somewhere for their teenage daughter to belong and be safe. Kenny takes up the story:

"We started coming to St Andrews Church just over 3 years ago. One of the main reasons was that our eldest daughter, Kate, was just going to secondary school and we wanted her to go to a Christian youth group rather than just drifting and maybe ending up in the wrong company. It's not just Christian activities at youth group, it's fun things too!!

We had heard good things about the youth group, and we felt it was a nice fairly low-key activity to keep Kate (and now Kieran too) interested in church. They also really enjoy Teen Ranch and OBs and other special events.

We always get the feeling at youth group that everyone is included. It is well run, and Charis, Sheila and others have come out a number of times to give Kate lifts in to OBs for an evening do, which has been a big help for us with the other two little ones to look after."

Carla has been coming to St. Andrew's, and fully involved in the children's and youth scene since she was very young. She loves every minute of it, especially now that she is in the youth group:

"I started going to Youth Group two years ago because everyone told me how fun it was, which is true. The thing I like best is that you meet new people and have a laugh with them. My favourite thing is playing the crazy games which Sheila and the leaders come up with.

We go on camps and I'm looking forward to Teen Ranch, which is really good fun. We go to this in the beginning of November. I'm so glad I started Youth Group, because I have made a lot of new friends and have done lots of new things."



Carla Ingram

If it's true of any church, it's true of St. Andrew's – that the people matter much more than the building. In this month's QUEST, we're giving you the opportunity to get to know some of the people as they share something of their story – what St. Andrew's has meant to them. These are all people who have come into the church and have found a welcome.

Elaine Kay has been coming to St. Andrew's for a few years now. When asked about her experiences, she had this to say:



"When I first entered St. Andrew's, I was struck not by the quietness but by the buzz that was about the place! People were chatting to each other and there was an air of openness and friendliness that you couldn't miss. And people noticed me and made me feel welcome!

The congregation includes everyone from babes in arms to the older generation and with so many people about, there's a vibrancy that makes you want to be a part of it. These things made St. Andrew's the exact opposite from other churches that I've visited.

St. Andrew's has definitely fulfilled my impression of being a really friendly Church and through that, I have become much more involved in the life of the church. First of all, I started attending a Home Group that met near to where I live. Despite the fact that I had lived in the neighbourhood for years, I didn't even know my neighbours' names never mind actually knowing them! The Home Group changes all that for me by giving me the mechanism to get to know them AND at the same time to join in some excellent discussions on life.

The Church services are great to be involved in, being vibrant, sometimes serious, sometimes fun. But importantly, the message always relates to life today – how we should live it and a reminder to all that being a Christian is not just about going to church on Sunday mornings.

I now do some volunteer work at one of the local schools and also at our Havilah drop-in. I am very happy to do these things – no one pressurised me to do so – and its through this type of involvement and service that I find a sense of belonging and a sense of purpose that what I'm doing is beneficial to me as well as those I help."

David and Jacqueline Cochrane, along with their daughters, **Naomi and Niamh**, are fairly new to St. Andrew's. But, they have found themselves settling in very quickly. David says:

"Those of us of a certain age will remember an advert for a breakfast cereal which, when eaten gave us a certain glow which kept us going for a good period of time – those of you who are a wee bit younger should check out "youtube" and type in "ready brek" and you will see what I am talking about.

Eighteen months ago, we Cochranes were looking for a new church. Our youngest daughter Niamh, who met Callum, Andrew, Struan and Kieran at an SU camp, actually encouraged us to try St. Andrew's!

Tell Me Your Story

As a family we had visited St Andrew's a couple of times over the years and had enjoyed the service and fellowship. However, you tend to look at things a wee bit closer when you are looking to join a church.



What struck us initially was the sheer volume of people attending. However what was evident was that this was a Church which had a glow about it and we felt it straight away – the Holy Spirit was amongst us. We love the way the Church is not afraid to get its hands dirty with the various ministries it is involved with. Those ministries not only serve the community but also our congregation and other parts of our world.

Another strength we see within the Church is the large amount of people who contribute to its life and its ability to include new people in its work.

In addition, the Church is always trying to improve how it serves by embracing new ideas, technologies or tackling tough issues – a Church that definitely does not rest on its laurels.

We love coming to our Church and it certainly feels like "ours" and that is testimony to the way it listens to what God wants.

So, to get that glow week on week, St Andrews is the place to be and dare I say it...a far warmer feeling than I ever got from the Ready Brek!"

Going back some nine years, **Tracey McLeod** never imagined she would have anything to do with church – she wasn't religious and wasn't looking to be part of a church. Pretty quickly, she discovered that you don't have to be *religious* to be part of St. Andrew's! The story of what brought Tracey to God is an amazing one:



"Throughout my life I have been to church for weddings, christenings and funerals but never thought it would be a part of my life, until January 2000. Things changed when I was asked to be Godmother to my friend's youngest daughter. That Sunday that I was in St Andrew's I had a strong feeling that I wanted to come back, so I started coming to church Sunday by Sunday, then I started attending the Wednesday

morning service too, all the time having a really strong feeling I wanted to know more about Jesus.

I had been unwell for a year before I came to the christening, attending the Doctor and Ninewells for test after test without any diagnosis. Eight months after I first came to church, and still unsure in what I believed to be the truth about God, I got an appointment to see a neurologist but the appointment was 9 months away. Feeling strongly that I couldn't wait that long I made an appointment to see my GP to ask if I could bring the appointment forward. The night before that appointment, I was lying in bed in tears, sure that I was dying. In that moment, I cried out to God and said to Him, *"I need you to help me and if you are really real I need you to show me"*, I also said, *"If you help me I will do anything you want me to do"*. The next day while sitting in the doctors waiting room I picked up a magazine. I started to read a story about a woman who had an illness called Myasthenia Gravis. I identified with all her symptoms straight away and so when I saw my GP I told her what I had read and asked her if that was what I could have! She was sure I did not have Myasthenia Gravis.

When I got home I looked on the internet about Myasthenia Gravis and had my self convinced I was dying. In desperation I phoned a nurse I knew who worked in a department of Ninewells that I was already attending. She then arranged an appointment for a week later to see one of the doctors I had previously seen in one of the clinics. The doctor I saw contacted the neurology department straight away. Two days later I was asked to go to the neurology ward. I was given tests for Myasthenia Gravis which were positive.

My belief is that God intervened that day and put that magazine in my path. He heard me cry out to him and responded. From then on I knew He was real. It's been a hard struggle since then but I don't just have God on my side – I also have the fantastic support of family and friends and a huge amount of these are in St Andrews Church."

Finally, here's something of Lesley's story:

My name is Lesley and I am 34 and have lived in Arbroath all my life. I had a pretty good childhood and my mum and dad were always there for me, and still are. Growing up, I thought I would meet a man, fall in love, get married, have kids and live happily ever after!

But my life fell apart when I was 19. I fell pregnant to my ex-partner and we had a little girl – who died after just nine days. We both went off the rails; I had a nervous breakdown and just couldn't cope with life. I ended up spending the next 5 years in an abusive relationship and had another two kids to him. I eventually plucked up the

courage and left him when my boy was 2 and I was pregnant with my little girl. I decided it was easier to bring up two kids on my own.



Life was not easy. I was depressed, felt alone, worthless and useless and felt that there was no future for me. You could say that I had given up as I had lost my confidence, self-esteem and all my friends. I was empty and broken and felt I had nothing.

Then I came to know a Christian woman who, now, has become one of my best friends. At first, I thought she was mad as she would talk a lot about God and Jesus and his Holy Spirit. I was scared because I didn't understand and so I kept away from her for a time. But when I did get to know her better, I came to like her and became more and more interested in what she was saying. She then suggested that I start attending St. Andrew's Church which is where I have been for the last four years.

At first, I just sneaked in and sat at the back; I didn't want to speak to anyone. But I always felt so at peace when I was in the church and I found myself being interested in what the minister was saying. I just wanted to keep going. It was about two years ago that I became a Christian and have now become fully part of St. Andrew's. My life has changed so much!

I have gained lots of confidence. I have started a job. I am in a new relationship and have made lots of friends who truly care about me and my family and I know they are always there if I need them.

I never thought any of this would be possible! With all that I am, I thank God every day for my changed life! I know it isn't always going to be easy as we all have our ups and downs. But what I do have is that God is always with me and I have a peace in my heart. I don't feel alone anymore and I feel that my Lord has given me a future and a hope. I look forward to whatever he has planned for my life and want my life to give glory to Him – my awesome God!

The bottom line is that everyone has their story – some of them more dramatic, some more ordinary. Whoever you are and no matter what your story is, there's a place for you at St. Andrew's. Who knows, maybe some day you'll be telling your story in QUEST magazine!

Belonging and Believing

Someone asked recently concerning what actually goes on in the church – previously being of the mind that churches just opened for an hour on a Sunday morning! At St. Andrew's we think about it in the following way.

♦ Firstly, Church is a place where you can **belong**. There's nothing better than being welcomed and accepted for who you are. At St. Andrew's, there are a whole number of options available through which you can meet new people and make real and lasting relationships. There are the weekly home groups (with venues all across the town),

the Woman's Group, Guild, Senior's Club, Men's Fellowship nights, uniformed organisations for both girls and boys as well as Sunday evening youth programmes – and that's just for starters!

♦ But so too Church is a place where you can explore what it is to **believe**. Of course everyone believes something. At St. Andrew's, we don't claim to have all the answers – most of us spend most of our lives journeying with some answers and looking for others! But our Christian faith provides us with a map and compass for the journey. And so a big part of being in Church is working together, wrestling with the Bible, praying, listening and discussing, that gradually we might come to a belief to live by.

Havilah

St. Andrew's church is just as interested in people outside of it – including those who are usually shunned by society at large – as it is in those who belong to it! It was out of that spirit of caring that *Havilah* came into being. Over three years old now, *Havilah* is a three-hours-a-day drop-in service open to anyone seeking company and non-judgemental listening.

To start with, very few people ventured over the threshold but the slow start soon gave way to a steady stream as more and more people began to find something of what they had been looking for. Now, as we approach the end of 2009, numbers have grown to the point that over 100 different individuals came in to spend some time at *Havilah* last month alone! – which proves both that the need is great and that we have something to offer. But what is perhaps most surprising is that many of those who come to *Havilah* are young men and women with drug problems – many of them living on the very fringes of our community. Through *Havilah* the church expresses its belief that EVERYONE is a child of God and that no-one should ever be written off. Recently, we asked some of the young men and women who have enjoyed coming to *Havilah* to give us quick comments about what it is that they enjoy most about it. The following is a selection of these responses: *"I have decided I am not going to waste this*

chance God has given me."

"I am now a new person and it's only through the work of the staff at Havilah."

"They went out of their way to be friendly and helpful."

"People listened and didn't judge me. Always offered sound advice."

"Since attending Havilah, the help I got from the staff has totally changed my life for the better. I have more confidence in myself and am able to talk more openly to others if problems arise."

"I'm bouncing with life - I feel awesome."

A good number of those who come to *Havilah* get to the point of wanting real and lasting changes in their lives and, for some, that means a full-blown programme of rehabilitation. To date, we have had two young men finish their rehab programmes and returned here to Arbroath to get on with life – the life intended for them! One of



Michael Rennie who completed the rehab programme and is now a changed man

those guys, Sean, describes it as being like going from death to life! At least half a dozen others are currently in rehab and so, in the meantime, we will continue to pray for them and support others as they get ready to go.

Paired reading

Lots of people imagine that church is about showing up on Sunday morning and not much more. Through the opportunities for service that are regularly presented to members, it gradually becomes clear that church starts on a Sunday morning – but certainly doesn't finish there! The Christian faith involves all of life and finding ways to serve is a big part of that.

One of our most popular service opportunities is the paired-reading scheme that runs in Arbroath Academy and at Hayshead and Warddykes Primary Schools. Members of the church (after proper training and security checking) are paired with children who are experiencing difficulties with their reading skills. Thereafter, they meet with the pupil once a week for an hour to work on specially selected books. Everybody wins! The pupils enjoy the one-to-one attention and getting to know their adult helper and the adults love getting alongside the children – and seeing

them progress. Mary Reid, support for learning teacher at Warddykes, raves about the way the scheme is working:

"This has been a very successful project both from the church's and the school's point of view. Pupils are receiving support that could not have been given without the input from the church. There are many success stories that could be told!"

Similarly, Rosalie, one of the adult partners, speaks highly of her experience so far:

"Chris and I have been teaming up our pupils, who happen to be friends, with the two of us and reading books together as a foursome. The boys have some positive competition and try to read well for each other. It's great when the stories are so good that the boys don't want to leave when the bell goes! Being part of helping someone to be a competent reader and enjoy books is worth it."

With lots of opportunities to serve, one way or another most St. Andrew's members find themselves active in the community.

They've all discovered that church is about so much more than Sunday mornings!

LOOKING AHEAD

All being well we move back 'home' on 1st November!

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1

**11 am - Worship Service
In St Andrew's!**

Sunday 8

**10.50 am - Worship Service
beginning with
Act of Remembrance**

Sunday 15

**11 am - Worship Service
including
Service of Infant Blessing**

Sunday 22

**11 am - Worship Service
Guild Sunday across Scotland**

Sunday 29

11 am

Celebration Sunday

**First Sunday in Advent,
with all-age Communion
AND**

**official thanksgiving for
opening our newly-
refurbished buildings!**

DECEMBER

Sunday 6

**11 am - Worship Service
2nd Sunday in Advent**

Sunday 13

**11 am - Worship Service
3rd Sunday in Advent**

Sunday 20

**11 am - Worship Service
4th Sunday in Advent**

Thursday 24th

**6.30 pm - Nativity Service
11.15 pm - Traditional
Watchnight Service**

Friday 25th

**10.30 am - Christmas Day
Family Service**

Sunday 27

11 am - Worship Service

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

- ♦ **A 40 minute service every
Wednesday morning at
10.30am.**
- ♦ **Messy Church, from 4-6pm,
generally on the last Sun-
day of every month. Two
hours for all the family with
games, craft and worship
and an all-together meal.**
- ♦ **A full-on contemporary
worship service, OFF the
W.O.L. on the first Sunday
of every month at 8 pm, or
as otherwise intimated.**

Malawi

Perhaps the most misquoted saying of all time is this: *Charity begins at home*. In fact, it should read, *Charity is learned at home!*

At St. Andrew's Church, we have all come to learn that charity is about so much more than the scrapings from the rich man's table – so much more than giving from the change in our pockets. True charity is always sacrificial, always costly. It's about appreciating how richly blessed we are then joyously sharing that with those who are in greatest need. There's nothing grudging about charity – no scrambling around in our purses looking for some small coins to put in the tin being rattled in front of us. At St. Andrew's, we have come to see that charity is actually a way of life.

That's what we have learned. And, increasingly, we've found ways of putting the lesson into practice. For four years, we supported development work in some of the poorest rural areas of Cambodia, ensuring that some of the most outlying communities had clean water, health clinics, school facilities, agricultural cooperatives etc. When that work reached its conclusion, we switched our attention to Malawi and over the last three years have dedicated ourselves to supporting the work being done by the development organisation *Aquaid* among hundreds of orphaned children.



In that time, we've organised two volunteer trips to Malawi and two of our young people – Charis for four months and Becky for a whole year – have lived and worked in the main orphan village.

To date, it's been the young people of the church who have made the running on the Malawi projects. The first group to make the journey went in the summer of 2007 and a larger group picked up where they left off this summer. Through their fund-raising, a day-care centre, two residences and a health clinic have all been built and equipped – not to mention a play park for the kids and various bits of infrastructure work. While there, our youngsters have been involved in all kinds of work including teaching, running sports programmes and painting and decorating. Many of them have found themselves doing things they would never have imagined themselves capable of! All of them have returned from their trips with a changed view of life and a different attitude concerning the things that really matter in life.

Here's what some of them had to say about this summer's work camp:

"While I was out there it made me think a lot about myself. The kids had very little. However, what they did have, they shared, even if it was a tiny piece of bread. It made me think of back home and how selfish we all are. Whatever we have, instead of thinking of sharing, we think of how we can double it and make more than what we have. It made me sad to think that the people who can share their

possessions and their food are the ones who are most selfish with what they have. It's not only about food that I admire the children, they are always there to help each other and there is hardly any fighting going on. It made me think long and hard about whether I want to live a life of selfishness or like the children here who always seem so happy."

"Malawi was a life changing experience for me. I absolutely 100% loved it! There were of course the negatives of arguments which are to be expected when living with people for a month. However when you compare



The group celebrating with the albino lady after she got a new roof

that with seeing the children's faces light up when they see you then it was worth it. The children have been through a lot but they are the happiest kids in the world! The kids are full of faith and are strong Christians and to be honest

they put me to shame. I love Namisu village - everyone is so friendly and kind there. When they sing it makes your soul lift up and makes you smile. I feel so lucky and glad that I went to Malawi. I would recommend the experience to anyone. I love everyone there at the school and in the village and I'm so thankful that I got the chance to meet them all."

"My experience in Malawi was probably the best thing that has happened in my life so far. The positives of my trip were

- ♦ Going to Thyolo and building the play park for the children there. There had been nothing for them to do but when it was finished the kids were all playing on it which was incredibly satisfying- it was ace!
- ♦ The Malawian people are amazing- the way they welcome you into their country, they don't care what you've done in the past: they accept you as you are, this is the way that I think people here in Britain should be like.

The things that I learned out in Malawi have helped me since I came back- like not judging people before getting to know them and being honest. Before I left I judged everyone I met which looking back is pretty pathetic. I really learned a lot more about God and how to put him first in my life and in control 100%. Every Malawian we met put God first in their lives so that's when I started putting God first in my life."

"My experience in Malawi was a real eye opener for me. It made me realise how lucky I was and it taught me to appreciate things a lot more than I used to. I also think that I have changed spiritually and that I got closer to God. All my life I have had so much from people and I believe that God sent me out there to give something back. The people out there are amazing. They may not have much but they are willing to share anything that they have. I instantly fell in love with all of them and I miss them all so much. I wish that someday in the near future I can go back."

More photos on the back page.

Clerk's Corner

If you wanted to see the dirtiest looking people in Arbroath then you needed to look no further than St Andrew's Church in the last few weeks! An assortment of people dressed in well-used and often paint-stained clothing descended on the buildings, with one purpose – to get the building ready for our church family.

At St Andrew's we have a veritable army of heroes and heroines – a band of volunteers who have given unstintingly of their time to carry out what has been a mammoth task to restore the buildings to use after the contractors vacated the building. Careful planning and consideration to the most effective way of utilising the many skills of the workers has resulted in the small halls, the office, the MacLeod Room, corridors, stores and external areas being repainted, cupboards resited and rebuilt, audio-visual equipment with the accompanying rewiring repositioned, new curtains made and a myriad of joinery jobs carried out. In addition our temporary premises in Dorward's have had to be emptied. Cleaning has been constant and carefully and conscientiously carried out.

You all know that when you decorate one room in your house, the rest of the house becomes loaded with the furniture from that room. Imagine this multiplied by the size of our buildings! As soon as one area was dealt with, furniture etc. had to be moved into another and it seemed at one point as if there was an ever revolving circle of people moving things, sweeping up dust, washing floors and then starting all over again.

All of this is probably a once-in-a lifetime experience and probably not wished to be repeated by these volunteers. However, at all times there was a superb spirit of camaraderie, no moans and a no-nonsense approach to getting on with the job. Only those who have been involved can truly be aware of the scale of the work, but they can be assured that their work has played a very important part in ensuring the continued development of the vision of St Andrew's Church.

Jane Miller.

Malawi Photo Gallery

Becky Dunphy
Thomas Coutts
Alison Skea
Jade Gordon
Charis Bowie



Answers To Retaining The Wow Factor

Dig out your copy of the October Quest and compare with the pictures on the back page. Hopefully, you will soon be seeing much more!

1. A fire escape exit sign
2. Serving hatch from the new kitchen into the Old Hall
3. A door post on the feature wall in the new Gallery
4. Indicator lights on our new cookers
5. The stainless steel cooker hood/extractor
6. Looking into the Old Hall from the Old Hall corridor (through a new doorway which has beautiful Flemish glass panels which give a rippling effect to the Old Hall wall, blue noticeboard, and a new white radiator).
7. A handle on a door
8. An 'unoccupied' indicator on a lady's toilet door
9. Fire sensor (dust cap)
10. I was standing in the vestibule looking into the church and the new glass arches give a reflection of the entrance windows at my back
11. A mixer tap
12. A door handle on the new glass arches with a vestibule window in the background
13. A light bulb
14. A door hinge on the new glass arches doors (looking into the sanctuary)
15. An automatic window opener in the new Gallery
16. A fluorescent light shade in the new kitchen
17. A panel bracket in the Gents toilet
18. A corner of a stainless steel sink (in the servery in the new Gallery)
19. Bobby Craig in our new boiler room which was previously two of the Ladies toilet cubicles (knocked into one area)
20. The meeting point of two of our new arches (which are built from the wood of new our old pews)
21. The controls on our sliding glass entry doors
22. A light fitting
23. A heating control thermostat