

QUEST

www.arbroathstandrews.org.uk

December 2008

First Sunday Back - Full House of God!

It is not often nowadays that stewards have to work hard to find seats for everyone trying to come in for Sunday worship – but, on a few Sundays since we returned to our beautifully restored buildings, that has been the way of it ! The first day back, Sunday 1st November, was just about the wettest day in living memory for our corner of Scotland. News programmes reported that Arbroath was virtually cut off with the main roads in and out of town being blocked with substantial flooding. Despite that, the sanctuary was packed with every available seat being taken downstairs and many more upstairs...(still enjoying the remaining pews!!)

And the singing!! For whatever reason, the acoustics seem better than ever such that the singing of praises threatens to lift the roof right off! If you haven't been back to worship yet, make a point of it sooner rather than later!



buffet and refreshments (served by a team of our young people) after which they moved through to the sanctuary for a presentation and short service. The event ran smoothly from start to finish and all of our guests left greatly enamoured by our new facilities and by the welcome they received.



Celebration Weekend

With months of planning ahead of time, and much prayer offered, our Official Celebration Weekend eventually arrived at the end of November. We gave thanks for fifty years of St. Andrew's Church and rejoiced in our beautifully refurbished buildings, all the while focussing on how good God as been to us and trusting in him for a future equally full of excitement!

Over one hundred people attended the Official Opening Ceremony held on the afternoon of Friday 27th November. Elders and invited guests from the wider community joined together for a beautifully-prepared



An Open Day was held on Saturday from 10am - 4pm. Coffees were served throughout the day, with soups over lunchtime. Several hundreds came over the threshold and were treated to a tour of the new facilities and a chance to view the superb display boards documenting the life and witness of the congregation. Again, the response to the refurbished buildings was universally positive, much to our obvious delight, given the tremendous amount of work that it took to get everything ready!
(Continued on back page)

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

PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS

Judy Spink : 872395
Lesley Bailey : 436751

SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

ADMINISTRATOR and BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

November 2009

Baptisms - Strathdee, daughter of
Gillian and George

Blessings - Callum and Megan, son and daughter of
Lisa and Leighton Lawrence
Brandon and Gavin, sons of
Lyall and Kirsty Stephen

Thank you

Aileen Dickson would like to thank all her church friends for visits, cards, flowers and phone calls during her recent illness. God bless you all.

Thank you

Janis and the Coffee morning team would like to thank the BB for setting up the tables for them on every Thursday evening.
Well done lads!

DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES

February EDITION
(Note - no January 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 22nd January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 26th January (Word-Processed file)

Apologies

An editor loves it when there is slightly less material than is needed. (Stand-by articles, pictures, headings, can easily expand to fill empty space!)

Apologies, therefore, to those whose articles and pictures have had to be omitted from this edition.

And, of late, there has not been enough hours in each day (including the wee sma' hours) to do justice to everything - hence the rather plain and very crammed interior pages. Better days ahead!

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

MONDAY

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

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

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

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

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

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

5.45 pm – Brownies – Morag Scorgie (01674 820721)

7.15 pm – Guides

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

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – Joan Archer (876522)

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

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning

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

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 431135 in the event of corrections or omissions, and an updated sheet will be produced.

Martin



Fair

December 2009

Dear Friends,

We made it! We've moved back into our newly-refurbished buildings and, slowly but surely, things are returning to normal. Ken Miller and Bobby Craig, with a fantastic team of volunteers, have made this transition as smooth as possible. Endless hours devoted behind the scenes have meant that those of us who use the buildings have noticed the minimum of fuss.

And, yes, before too long, it will be as if we've never known any different! We'll be as comfortable in our new surrounds as we were in the old – what was new will pretty quickly become familiar.

But let's make sure that we never, ever take for granted what has been achieved through this project. Surely God himself has been at work among us. Even the most ardent idealist would have doubted our ability to pull it off! And yet, with the attention on God, and with an insistence that this was about our mission and not the comfort of our surroundings, we made it!

Even so, much work still lies ahead:

- ◆ There is still a list of odd jobs requiring to be completed – the expected *snagging list* together with bits and pieces that we want to do to finish things off
- ◆ We need to get all of the groups and organisations back into the buildings and to give the fullest consideration as to the additional ways in which we want to utilise the space
- ◆ **And we need to pay for it all!** As has been made clear, over 70% of the required monies are in place. You have been hugely generous to date. But the remainder of *the spend* has been made possible with a loan from The Church of Scotland which, obviously enough, has to be paid back. We want to do that as quickly as possible. And so, thank you to those who have returned their gifts and pledges following our recently-mailed appeal. We look forward with much anticipation to receiving returns from those who have not yet got round to doing so. Whether in one-off gifts or through monthly direct debits etc., every gift helps. When God's people truly reflect on how greatly they have been blessed, and are prepared to be generous and sacrificial in their giving, everything becomes possible! We've come this far; let's make it a sprint towards the finish line.

God bless,

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

MartinFair@aol.com

The Rev. Ruth Helen Bell MA, BD

What a treat it has been to have had Ruth with us over this last fifteen month period! As of 30th November, Ruth officially finished her time as our Probationer Minister and on 1st December, she started as our Associate Minister (part-time.) So, as previously revealed, we're delighted that we're going to have Ruth among us for another period, until the autumn of next year.

The congregation should note, though, that Ruth will be working part-time and therefore she will not be as 'available' as she has been. (The other part of her week will be taken up with preparatory studies for her intended PhD course.)

Finally, given the one-week delay in this edition of QUEST coming out, as you read this it will already be the case that Ruth's Service of Ordination has taken place. In a special service organised by The Presbytery of Angus, Ruth was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Thursday 10th December, in St. Andrew's Church. All being well, we will bring you pictures of that occasion in the next edition of QUEST.

GUILD NEWS

On the 5th October we welcomed Dr. Alan Fraser and some of our own Youth Group. Dr. Fraser was very interesting and highlighted the work he has been involved in with his church and Tearfund in Malawi. He also showed a super DVD of the journey he had made. From our own youth group, Lee gave us her personal report on her visit to Namisu and Naomi & Charis told some humorous stories of the groups visit before helping Sheila dish up nsima and relish. On the 19th we joined the West Kirk to listen to Irene Hoare introduce the 6 projects for the next 3 years and on the 2nd November we had a night out at the Minstrel Show.

Our theme 'What the Lord requires of us – To Act Justly' was discussed at our meeting on the 16th and the final meeting of 2009 will have taken place on the 30th when we celebrate St Andrew's night.

We were delighted to take part in the church service on the 22nd November, the first day of Guild week. Hopefully the children enjoyed 'our sharing game' and got to eat the sweetie afterwards.

Our Christmas party is on the 14th December, 7 for 7.30, at the Meadowbank then we resume in the church halls on the 11th January, 2010. New members welcome. Why not come along.

Youth Group

Like everyone else the Youth Group are very excited to be back in the Church halls. We are really grateful to Jean Kucharski and the Guides for the use of their hall in Ogilvy Place over the last year.

The first weekend in November saw 46 of us heading off to Teen Ranch near Inchture for the weekend. Despite all the rain we had before and after that weekend the weather was great - dry and even sunny! We all had a great time and we even managed to come back without any major injuries – one stubbed toe, not bad! The Dunphys continued to be the ones causing all the problems – Fraser doing a head dive over the handlebars of his bike and Naomi flying off her horse and then doing a backwards roll before coming to a stop. Just as well they have thick heads as they came off none the worse! It is always good to get away and spend time together and always an encouragement to see everyone being included and being part of the group. Thanks again to those

who gave up their Friday night or Sunday afternoon to take a carload of noisy teenagers there or back!

With Christmas fast approaching some of the group have had the opportunity over the past few weeks to make Christmas Cards with Brian Anderson. Thanks again to Brian who is always so willing to help us out with crafts and is able to help the young people make some amazing things!

The annual pool competition has now taken place with the winner this year being Cary Stewart. Well done Cary!

Sunday 20th December will be our annual Christmas Dinner and Ceilidh - a very important date in our annual calendar! So thanks in advance for those who will help with providing and preparing the food – you know how much the young people appreciate it!

Just to add that youth group is open to anyone in S1 at secondary school upwards. The group is very caring and always open to new people coming along. If you know of anyone who would be interested please feel free to contact Sheila.

Help with Smiley Savers!

Angus Credit Union now has over 200 adult members, but did you know there is also a Children's Savings Scheme called Smiley Savers? Children in Angus now have the opportunity to save money through ACU, and this is being offered as a school programme to make it really

easy! Already there are 38 school pupils who have an account and we're looking to expand this programme to offer it to schools in Arbroath.

If you are interested in encouraging children to save their pennies, and help one or more schools start up a Smiley Savers programme then get in touch. Teaching children financial responsibility and taking care

of their money can change a child's life. Debt is such a big problem in Scotland - let's break this pattern by starting at the beginning with Smiley Savers.

Full training and support is given and time commitment is one or two hours per week. Call Ewen Allardyce, ACU's Development Manager on 01307 463388. Chris

Jacqui

Many of you will remember the day in Knox's Church when we prayed for Jacqui, who had come to us through the Havilah door, and who was about to leave for a period of rehabilitation at a centre in Wales. The good news is that Jacqui is doing really well; yes, she is finding elements of it very difficult to bear and yet she is hanging in there. Let's continue to pray for her and for the various others who are in Teen Challenge in Aberdeenshire.

By way of testimony, here's an excerpt from a letter that Jacqui wrote

to Jim and Tracey:

'I had a tough time last week and I was going to come home but I'm glad I never because I went to Church last night and am now feeling totally different and really well. I feel peace and excitement which is something I haven't felt ever!'

I prayed for you (Jim and Tracey) and for all of the Church at prayers on Thursday. May God continue to help everyone who comes in your path and I thank you all for helping me to get here to Hope House. If it wasn't for you, I don't think I would be here now. I thank everyone in the church for praying for me and that has

encouraged me when it's been a struggle. I pray that more people come to the church and find their strength, peace and hope.'

So, please do continue to pray for Jacqui and for the various young men who continue on the road to recovery at Teen Challenge. (Isn't it amazing to think that she is praying for us!!) Your prayers are to them a continual encouragement.

If you would like to find out more about ways in which you can support young men and women who are channelled into rehab through Havilah, please speak to the minister or to Jim or Tracey McLeod.

Friday Gang

The Friday Gang are glad to be back on familiar ground and no doubt our loyal customers are too!

The following people deserve a big "Thank You" for making our time at Old & Abbey Church run so smoothly.

To George Dickson who drove everything over from Dorwards on Friday mornings to their hall, then

stayed to help set up the tables.

To Dick Davidson who helped put away the tables and came along with a few of us to take it all back again.

To our faithful rota of bakers – Joyce, Rosalind, Val and Doris, who probably hoped to get a holiday, but no such luck – the customers appreciated it though!

To the staff who baked regularly too, Liz, Nan, Nellie, Sheila and

Aileen and to Bobby Bridges for generous donations gratefully received.

Customers brought along items for sale as well, keeping the stalls interesting.

And amidst all the fun and fellowship there was work to be done, staff and customers pitching in to fold the bulletin week by week.

Many, many thanks to everyone!

Malawian Alternative Gifts

Once again we are giving you the opportunity to support the work in Malawi at the same time as giving friends and relatives an alternative present. We have worked closely with

Aquaid Lifeline in Malawi to ensure that the gifts that we are offering will be of benefit to the children they are working with there. By giving a friend or family member one of these gifts you will know that you are making a real difference and are giving something that will transform a child's life in Malawi. We have seen first

hand these gifts being distributed and know that it actually happens.

The gifts range from medicines that will be used in the clinic that the Malawi 09 team set up, to school uniforms, textbooks, meals, school trips and much more... To view a catalogue please contact the church office or Sheila on 873218.

7th Arbroath B.B.

We have been busy since the break for the "tattie holidays". We held a Halloween party at the Sea Cadet halls and had chips from the "Round O" chip shop. Winners of the fancy dress were - Anchor Section - 1st Hall Webster - Cowboy, 2nd Robert Thomson - Ghost Crocodile. Junior Section - 1st Fraser Fair - Bart Simpson, 2nd Rhys Williams - Ballerina

Company Section - come as you please winner, Dale Taylor

The last night in the Sea Cadet hall

was also bonfire night so we had a few less boys as they attended the display at the harbour. We are delighted to be back in our own halls again and so pleased to see the new surroundings. We held our enrolment service in the church and invited guests and parents and friends to come and support this evening. It was well attended and we thank the company chaplain Rev W. Martin Fair for helping to make the evening possible. The evening opened with worship and a reading from Jordan Tasker before the boys took their promises. The evening closed with the benediction.

We have two warrant officers who are going to undertake their youth leadership and become officers in the company section. Keith Ewart and Andrew Moore are to attend battalion courses in Forfar during the next few weeks and we hope to have their appointments endorsed by the Kirk Session in the near future.

We will finish off our year by going to the panto at the Abbey Theatre for Cowboy Joe... a few tickets are still remaining for Thursday 17th December. Please see Wilma Ewart or phone her on 876114.

Captain E.J. Matthew M.B.E.

Getting There

In amongst all the excitement and 'wow factor' of the new building I have been aware that there are some of you who have not been able to come to see the changes as you find it some what more difficult to get about these days. We would love to be able to help

you to come and see what the rest of us have been talking about so much over the last weeks. We plan to have a morning or afternoon session early in the New Year for you to do just that. Someone would come and collect you from home, take you to the church for a good look around, have a cup of tea with you and then get you back home.

If this is something that you or someone you know would be interested in doing then let me know either by phoning the church office in the mornings on 01241 431135 where Alison will take your name or you could phone me on 01241 430505 or e-mail me at kimmarr@talktalk.net. Kim Marr

Christmas Celebrations

Last year, we were grateful to our brothers and sisters at Old & Abbey who shared their Christmas services with us. This year, we'll be *back home* and looking forward to celebrating Christmas in style.

With so much controversy being generated by the de-Christianising of civic celebrations across the UK, it's good to know that, in church, we really can make Jesus the reason for the season!

◆ Our morning service on Sunday 20th December will be a family affair, with the whole church – young and old – united for favourite carols and a re-telling of the timeless Christmas message

◆ At 6.30pm on Christmas Eve, the Church will be packed for our Nativity and Christingle Service. Already, plans are well underway for this year's Nativity Play with anxious parents searching for suitable costumes and hoping that their little darling will remember to do their bit at

just the right time!

◆ Our Watchnight Service will commence at 11.15pm. Prior to that, coffee and mince pies will be served from 10pm. Always a big favourite, the Watchnight Service features much loved carols, a Christmas message and a chance to experience the magic of welcoming the new-born King!

◆ Finally, at 10.30am on Christmas Day, there will be a short service suitable for all ages when together we can give thanks for all that God gives us in Jesus.

Clerk's Corner

A Welcome Opportunity to Serve!

You will all be aware that you receive a very warm welcome each Sunday when you arrive at the church. This is a very important part of the showing of our love for one another and, of course, is vitally important in the welcome of any visitors.

Less obvious is the work of these teams in counting the offerings afterwards. Hidden away in the Session Room, a well-organised system is in place for counting and recording our practical gifts to God.

The time has now come to update the list of the groups and to give more of you an opportunity to offer your time to this service. One important change being considered is that you can be on **both**

welcoming and counting duty as at present, or you could opt for **either** welcoming **or** counting.

What does it involve? If you are part of the welcoming team you will be on duty once a month on a designated Sunday and need to be ready to welcome worshippers from 10.30 onwards. Counting teams meet after the service – also once a month for each team.

We now need to ensure that we have additional members in each group. Is this a service that you could offer? I would be delighted to hear from you as soon as possible so that the new lists can be made ready for early in 2010.

Existing members of the teams do not need to respond to this letter as each of you will be contacted individually.

Men's Retreat

We have organised a Men's Retreat for the weekend of 12-14th March, 2010, to be held at the Cairngorm Christian Centre, near Aviemore. The retreat will be open to all men of 16 years and up and will be a wonderful opportunity for food and fellowship and for working together on the

challenges facing Christian men today. With study times mixed in with opportunities to get out in to the big outdoors that is the Cairngorm National Park, the weekend will leave men feeling refreshed and enthused, supported and challenged. On top of that, with a bargain-basement price of around £40 – £50 per head, it represents great value for money! (exact price will depend on how many men go etc.)

Names, with deposits of £10, should be handed in to the Church Office by 31st December 2009. Places limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED

Many of you did the *Christianity Explored* course when we ran it a couple of years ago. Now that we are back into our buildings, we are going to run the eight-week follow-up course, *Discipleship Explored*. According to the writers, it's a course for 'those who want to get the most out of their Christian lives.'

This course takes a good look at Paul's letter to the Philippians and is a step-by-step look at what it means to live as a Christian. Biblically-based but thoroughly practical, all Christians, whether newcomers to the faith (or *old-timers!*) will benefit greatly from it.

Discipleship Explored will run on Wednesday evenings throughout January and February, and will be held in the church itself, beginning each evening at 7.30pm. No meal will be served but there will be a coffee and snack break half-way through. Those who would like to attend the course should sign up through the Church Office or, where appropriate, with their Home Group leader by 31st December 2009.

For further information on the course, visit www.discipleshipexplored.com

SERVICE CORE GROUP

The Service Core Group have met several times during this year and are very encouraged by the Service opportunities which the members of St Andrew's Church are now involved in, both Church-based and in the community.

Our major focus for 2010 will be to become registered as an Eco-Congregation and Fair Trade Church. More details of these will follow in the coming months. In the meantime our friends at Old and Abbey Church as part of their Eco-Congregation status are collecting the plastic tops of milk bottles. These tops are sent on to a company who produces toys using these recycled materials.

The Group would like to ask you to start collecting your plastic bottle tops. We will let you know when you can bring these to Church.

Wishing everyone a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas

Joan Hainsworth

LOOKING AHEAD

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
6.30 pm - Service of Memorial
and Thanksgiving

JANUARY

Sunday 3
11 am - Worship Service
Beginning a New Year

Sunday 10
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 17
11 am - Worship Service
Main service followed by
celebration of
Holy Communion

Sunday 24
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 31
11 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.
- ◆ Messy Church, from 4-6pm, generally on the last Sunday of every month. Two hours for all the family with games, craft and worship and an all-together meal.

Kampong Tralach - Five Years On...

Earlier this year you may recall I had the opportunity to do what I never thought would be possible! I received a call from World Vision UK asking if I would be interested in returning to Cambodia as part of a small team of four. Well that took a bit of thought... about a nano-second! My thoughts went back to my first visit to Cambodia and Kampong Tralach, That first visit was so amazing that there was this small niggle at the back of my mind, "What if this second visit didn't live up to my expectations? What if that

sense of something 'special' wasn't there second time round?" Also, because the nature of the trip was different [going out as part of the World Vision project evaluation team] I did feel conscious that this time round I was in a more active role rather than as a passive observer – which was both exciting and slightly daunting at the same time! Would I be able to make a positive contribution?

Despite all of these thoughts though, I was delighted and looked forward to my return to Cambodia and Kampong Tralach and particularly to meeting the sponsored children which was 'the icing on the cake'!

My recollection of the last visit was one of hearing, from the groups we met, primarily about food security; pig, chicken and cow banks; infrastructure developments (wells, latrines, etc.); the development of village planning committees; and supporting pastors and their development. Having had the benefit of seeing the project 5 years ago, I

did feel a definite sense of progress. Last time round, one Wattanack group showed us with great pride their first ever rice surplus which meant they had enough basic food and a small surplus to sell to help buy vegetable seeds and livestock to improve their diet and it allowed then to think about other things such as their children's education. This time round, that position now seemed much more the norm, i.e. food security has improved allowing groups to concentrate on other aspects of development, e.g. education

- in terms of health (inc HIV/Aids), domestic violence, diet and as a priority for their children. Groups also seemed much more mature and confident in their planning committees, which gave a real sense that the capacity building work of the project was having a positive impact on the lives on the communities.



The sponsored children - from left to right:
Soklay Lorn (Jim & Tracey McLeod) - Wants to be a farming advisor
Sokrim Inn (Isobel Cargill) - Wants to be a teacher
Sarath Ngim (Boys Brigade) - Wants to be a teacher
Chanda Khim (Audrey Brown) - Wants to be a translator (English)
Kosal Duch (Scott & Elaine Anderson) - Wants to be a mechanic

It is very difficult to single out any particular story as everything was very positive and inspirational and demonstrated that sustainable change may be slow and not without its challenges, but it is possible! I enjoyed seeing the groups do the 'river of life' exercises. Why? I think that this did show times when there was great successes but, perhaps more importantly, some times when things did not go to plan – life can never be planned out with certainty and what these instances showed was that the groups (and the project) were able to adapt and address the issues that arose and learn and move on from these.

(To be continued next month.)

Service of Memorial & Thanksgiving 6.30pm, Sunday 27th December 2009

As in previous years, the minister will lead a Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving between Christmas and New Year. This service is intended for those who find the festive season something of a struggle, perhaps because of the loss

of a loved one or some other personal circumstance. Usually lasting for about forty minutes, it combines gentle singing, readings and poetry and an opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one lost.

All are welcome, whether you want to come for your own benefit or to support others who come with heavy hearts.

Poem for the Church re-opening, by Judy Spink 'Church without Walls'

We have been a 'Church without Walls' for quite a while.
We now have our building renewed, and we can smile.

We are truly grateful to God for our 'new home'.
We'll be able to Glorify Him - not having to roam.

Our thanks and our praise we'll now give to God our King,

Our worship, our witness, our lives to Him we'll bring.

For our Church with it's modern design we've had to wait.
It's walls and it's ministering work we now dedicate.

We pray for the presence of Jesus within this place
We pray for the Spirit to lead us and for God's grace.

We pray that our Lord God will guide us and show the way
To reach out to all around us every day.

Buildings Transformed



On the Sunday morning, the downstairs of the sanctuary was filled to capacity, with late-comers having to go upstairs to an already well-filled balcony! Following a procession into the church, by which the great symbols of our faith were returned to their places on the chancel, Ruth led the congregation in a prayer of re-dedication. Thereafter, with singing and readings, and with a celebration of Holy Communion for the whole Church family, much rejoicing was done. The service finished with the singing of 'Shine, Jesus, shine' – rarely has such a joyful noise been made to the Lord!

Lives Transformed



The finale of the weekend was a rock concert by the Christian rock group, *Superhero*. Amazingly, the sanctuary was transformed into a night-club style venue for the over two-hundred young people who flocked in to see the band, some of them travelling from as far away as Dyce! Ably supported by local band, *Acemaster Faceblaster*,

As part of the minister's message that morning, ten members of our Church family presented *cardboard testimonies* (some pictured here.) From these, the congregation was reminded that God is alive and active among us even now, changing and restoring, redeeming and supporting us through all of the ups and downs of life. Surely, Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow; mighty to save now as in every generation gone by.



Superhero put on a great show that had the young crowd literally jumping in the aisles. The evening came to a close with band leader, Tim, making an impassioned declaration of his Christian faith and an invitation to audience members to consider the same.

As an extra note, Sunday proved perfectly what is possible with the flexibility that we now have in the sanctuary. We had a regular service in the morning and then, right after its end, we cleared all of the chairs away, put in a special lighting rig, and by the evening the space was ready for a totally different kind of event. Then, on the Monday evening, a team went back to put everything back in place – and did so in such a way that that no-one would have known that those two hundred plus youngsters had even been there!!

And so the weekend came to a close – a fantastic weekend from start to finish! To God be the glory! Here's to the next fifty years...