

## Men's Retreat

Over the weekend of 12-14<sup>th</sup> March, sixteen men from the congregation enjoyed a retreat at the Cairngorm Christian Centre, near Aviemore. What a great weekend it proved to be!

At the bargain basement price of only £40 for the whole weekend, including all meals and transport, this was a weekend designed *not* to break the bank and, therefore, to be accessible to all. The programme contained a mix of worship, discussion sessions based around the Old Testament figure, Elijah, and a whole lot of fun and games!

This was the first ever St. Andrew's Men's Retreat but if the first group has any say in the

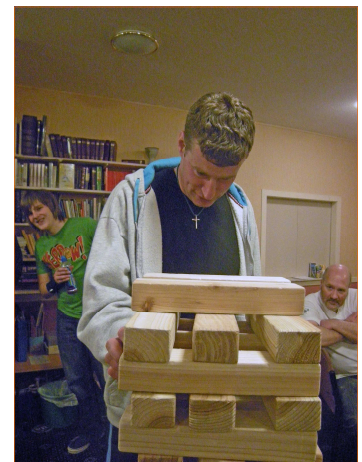
matter – which it will – it certainly won't be the last!

With the average Church of Scotland comprising at least three women to every one man, it's obvious that ministry to men needs to be a much higher priority in the coming days. This is a challenge that we at St. Andrew's are going to take increasingly seriously. Watch this space...and enjoy the pictures of the Cairngorms weekend!

**Left - James Beal brews up the morning tea  
Right - Michael Rennie tries Jenga watched by Jack Newth and Ian Martin**



**David Cochrane, David Tarrant, John Wilson, James Beal, Jack Newth, Michael Rennie, Michael Marr, Ian Martin, Jim McLeod, Tommy Reynolds**



## Michele Guinness

Not long to go now till the Michele Guinness weekend! As previously advertised, Michele – who is an internationally-known writer, speaker, columnist and broadcaster – will be our guest over the weekend of 24-25<sup>th</sup> April. On the Saturday evening, from 7.30pm, Michele will be the *main event* at a Women's Supper Evening.

As the title suggests, this will be an evening which will begin with food and which will flow, quite naturally thereafter, into Michele's presentation. She is a witty speaker and yet one who is able to tackle the most serious of subjects in ways which both comfort and challenge in equal measure. She is a thor-



oughly committed Christian – having been raised in a Jewish setting – but is enjoyed by people of faith and by those who haven't yet made that move.

With that in mind, the Saturday evening event has been planned with *outreach* in mind. The plan is that women of the congregation will invite a friend – buy a £5 ticket for that friend! – and then bring them along to enjoy the evening. The hall and sanctuary will be specially prepared for the evening, the welcome will be sincere, the food will be beautifully prepared and served – by a team of men! – the fellowship will be warm and engaging and Michele will be, as always, well worth hearing. What more do you need to know!!

Tickets are available now and can be bought from the Church Office.

**CONTACTS****CHURCH OFFICE : 431135**

Alison Davie

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**

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Janis Clark : 878594

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**YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR**

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**SUNDAY CLUB**

Elaine Fair : 873238

**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

**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**

March 2010

Baptisms - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Bill Beattie

**DEADLINE DATES FOR DIARIES****MAY 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 16th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th April (Word-Processed file)

**Perth event – 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Members of St. Andrew's will be travelling to Perth on the evening of Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April to take part in *One Church, One Worship*. This gathering, which will take place in the superb Perth Concert Hall and will feature the *One Worship* band together with renowned speaker, Kenny Borthwick, minister at Wester Hailes in Edinburgh. Details for travelling etc. will appear in the weekly Church bulletin in the couple of weeks prior to the event.

**Pentecost event**

The celebration of Pentecost is that time in the Christian calendar when we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit, given to the Church following the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. This year, we are offering a special contemporary worship evening event, led by our Praise Band, to which we hope to draw people from across the town and beyond. The first Pentecost was about believers coming together – the breaking down of barriers. Let's see the same kind of coming together this year! More details in next month's QUEST.

**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**

12.00 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 – M McIntosh (876993)

**WEDNESDAY**

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

12.00 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

12.00 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.

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

# Martin



# Fair

April 2010

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of March, I took the opportunity to travel down to London for a conference on Church leadership. First of all, I was taken aback by how many people were there – almost eight hundred church leaders from across the UK and beyond. It was great to interact with so many others who are in the same kind of position as myself – and all of them desiring to see the church thriving.

But beyond the sheer size of the conference, it proved to be thoroughly inspirational in every other sense too. The speakers were, without fail, well-prepared, thought-provoking and basing what they had to say not only on solid theological ground but on years of hands-on experience. The churches they lead, and which they were describing, are all growing and, of real significance, are growing rapidly due to the influx of younger people.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that, largely speaking, churches are drastically short of younger people. Lots of churches are struggling to keep any kind of Sunday School work going. Most churches have little or nothing by way of youth work and, even more so, the vast majority of churches record a 'zero' when it comes to young men and women in their twenties and early thirties!

At St. Andrew's we're just about holding our own in these categories. But not by much! The coming years are going to be critical in terms of how our congregation develops. Will we be able to build on what we presently have? Will we be able to bring lots more young people through the ranks and into mature adult faith? And will we be able to build up our strength in terms of those who have finished with education and have moved into the workplace?

We need to make sure that the answers to all of these questions are a resounding YES! That's why it is so important that I, as minister, take such opportunities as present themselves to get out there and see what is happening around the country. There's plenty for us to learn, for example, from a church that numbers ten thousand young people on a Sunday!! Now, in terms of scale, that will never be our situation; there aren't ten thousand young people in Arbroath!! Even so, these churches have much to teach us regarding how they go about things.

It was these kinds of stories of growth that were being highlighted at the London conference. It's good to know, as we move through this Easter season, that there are signs of resurrection. In many ways, old-style church is decaying, even as we watch. But at the same time, God is doing a new thing – against all the odds – and a church for tomorrow is forming.

All across our nation, congregations are going to have to ask themselves: will we cling to what was known and dear or will we relinquish *what was* in order to receive *what will be*? As for St. Andrew's Church? Well, I think you know.

God bless,

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

MartinFair@sky.com

## Special Commission

You could hardly have failed to notice that the question of *same-sex relationships and the ministry* was a very prominent one in the Church of Scotland (and other denominations) last year. The debate centred around the subject of whether or not a person in an openly gay relationship should, at the same time, be allowed to be a minister of the Church.

Since no resolution was reached at the General Assembly of 2009, a *Special Commission* was established to allow for a period of wide consultation and reflection. Materials have now been prepared to encourage that reflection to take place and every Kirk Session and Presbytery in the land *must* engage in the process and make a response by the end of May this year. The general Assembly of 2011 will then

be asked to reach a decision.

Our own Kirk Session will carry out this task within the next period of time and as part of that, those of you who wish to offer your views and prayerfully-considered reflections on the subject will have opportunity to do so. To this end, a shortened version of the papers will be available to every member of the congregation together with a list of the questions that need to be answered. As soon as these become available to us (early April, we hope,) Jane, our Session Clerk, will have copies for everyone who wants them. She will also advise as to the deadline for the submission of any returns. Thereafter, though the Kirk Session will be entirely free to reach its own decision, it will have knowledge of the range of views present within the congregation.

So, why not speak up? What do you think? Now is the time to let your voice be heard.

## Malawi News

Presently we have about 80 children attending the Day-Care centre in Thyolo and we are seeking to extend that. To get round the problem of the government permission for the residence John Searle has found out that there is a possibility that we could place houseparents in the residence as foster parents. This is being investigated and if it proves to be the case we will seek to take on suitable houseparents. Please pray that this will work out as there are many children attending the Daycare Centre who are in need of being taken in full-time.

Please pray for the situation in Malawi, The rains have come really late and for lots of people there, their seeds have shrivelled up and died. It looks like being a very poor harvest and, in that case, there could be severe hunger problems by next year.

Forthcoming Initiatives:

**The Foster project** – in memory of our good friend Foster who died last month aged 22 from a combination of Cholera and Hepatitis. Both of these diseases are preventable. Our work with Aquaid involves helping provide boreholes to give the children a clean water supply. Now we want to provide clean needle packs so that when a child from Namisu, Thyolo or Kambilonjo is taken to hospital they will be given a needle pack to take along with

them to ensure that they are not given a dirty needle while they are there. If you want to be involved with this project please speak to one of the Malawi team.

**Sponsor a Child** – many people are already involved with sponsoring a child through World Vision or Compassion. By the summer we hope to be ready to launch our own Child Sponsorship Scheme. You will be given the opportunity to support one of the children in our residences. We will provide you with a photograph, regular updates and a chance to write and encourage them personally. Again more details to follow but if this is something you are interested in please speak to one of the team.

**Fundraising:**

**Skills Catalogue** – We are relaunching our skills catalogue which will be available from one of the team or from the Church office. Needing some babysitters, gardeners, cleaners, dog walkers or help with something else then we are sure one of the Malawi team will be available!

**Quiz Night** – Friday 23rd April in St. Mary's Church Hall at 7.30pm. Teams of up to 4 people. Cost is £10 per team. A raffle will also be held. Tickets are available soon. Please see Adele for more details.

**Murder Mystery** – The Sultan's Pyjamas. - Saturday 22nd May in our own Church Halls, 7.30pm. This event will feature the Abbey Theatre Group and will include a 3 course meal.

## Friends Club

Our Christmas Party was held in the Meadowbank where Santa paid us a visit in December.

February was our first meeting back in our own church. We were very grateful to Mike McEwan who stood in at the last minute. He played selections of Scottish and Irish music from the shows.

In March we had Helen Addison with Male Voice Choir members S. Low, I. Whyte and I. Fleming. Along with Margaret Sim they sang a selection of Scottish songs, show songs and old favourites when the members were able to join in. We were grateful to them for standing in at the last minute.

The club is now growing in numbers and we enjoy entertainment, a cuppie and a chat.

## Midweek Ministry with Children

Over this last year, we've noticed something of a dip in terms of numbers of children being part of our Sunday morning routine. Sometimes that's just the way things go; attendance goes in cycles.

But alongside our Sunday morning programme for children, we have midweek ministries which are designed to reach out beyond the immediate church family and these continue to go well. Elaine, one of our Children and Families workers, runs a *lunchtime zone* at Warddykes Primary School and an *after-school zone* in our halls. Combined, that means a total of between forty and fifty children – 90% of whom have no connection with the Church – with whom we have weekly contact between October and Easter.

Given the ever-changing nature of our social and cultural landscape, perhaps we should expect more and more

of this kind of *non-Sunday* work among children. If their parents aren't around church, it's unlikely that coming on a Sunday is going to be the first step for children. We need to take that seriously, respond accordingly and continue to make sure that what we offer is the best that we can do.

That said, we want to see a thriving ministry to children on Sunday mornings – complementing what we offer for teenagers on Sunday evenings – and would therefore encourage all families to reflect carefully on the importance of spiritual nurture in the life of *every child*. This would, of course, apply especially to those who have had their children baptised, in which cases promises are made concerning this very matter!

The bottom line is that churches across the land are struggling badly in this area with many congregations having given up Sunday School etc. altogether. Bearing that in mind, St. Andrew's continues to do well.

But *good* is never enough. We want everything we do to be *great* and that's what we'll continue to strive towards!

## GUILD NEWS

We have enjoyed two completely different nights during March. Our first meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> was from the Bible Society. They gave us an update on the work being done in this country as well as a Brazilian project. The Bible is being printed in many different languages and it is so hard for them to keep up with demand. This proves that it is still the best selling book of all time. Also, we heard about the work done in schools by providing

a mobile bus, with all the trappings of internet and interactive games, to introduce the Bible to children in a contemporary way.

Last night we had Joyce Lownie and Karen Gammie outlining the work they do in schools as part of the Support for Learning teams. This was a most enjoyable evening and gave us an insight into how children with special needs are integrated, with care, into mainstream schools. It also opened up to a good going discussion on how things have changed in schools with everyone having some story to tell.

Our next meeting is our AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> April. After the business has been conducted, we will have a decorated Easter Egg competition. As our end of session trip is now to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, we have decided to have an extra night to finish off our year on the 19<sup>th</sup> April. This will be a 'Supper and Something' night!! Please give your name to Shona or Doris for catering purposes.

Finally our annual coffee and pancake morning is on the 17<sup>th</sup> April with usual stalls. Tickets are £1, available from members or on the day.

### Discipleship Explored

Between January and the beginning of March, our adult education programme centred around the eight-week series, *Discipleship Explored*. Being the natural follow-on to *Christianity Explored*, which we've offered in recent years, this material was ideal for those wanting to consider moving on in their faith journey and for those who are far-travelled but were keen to revisit the key components of what it is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. With around fifty people completing the course, and enjoying the worship and small-group fellowship that was part of every session, *Discipleship Explored* proved to be extremely worthwhile.

Between now and the summer holidays, we'll be reverting back to meeting in our home groups with the material being based on our Sunday morning teaching. Anyone who is not yet part of a home group should speak to Lawrence Davie, who coordinates this aspect of our midweek church life. (Lawrence can be contacted through the Church Office or on Sunday mornings after worship.)

### Eco / Fairtrade Congregation

Churches need to *speak* about what they believe, *act* according to these beliefs and adopt *stances* consistent with these beliefs. It's with the last of three ideas in mind that the Service Core Group of the congregation is, over the coming months, steering us towards being awarded both *Fairtrade* status and *Eco-congregation* status. A Fairtrade Congregation believes in justice for the developing world and, in practical terms, chooses to serve Fairtrade tea and coffee etc. etc. We are well on the way to meeting all of the goals required of us and so, pretty soon, will be able to describe ourselves officially as a Fairtrade Congregation. Eco-congregation status will require more effort of us. We have some of the necessary things in place but we have other areas that we need to improve in. In the end, it's about making clear that we value God's creation and that we believe in stewarding it rather than exploiting it.

These two stances are entirely consistent with the Biblical principles upon which we need to build.

## READ MORE ABOUT THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR THEIR FAITH

It was challenging on Sunday, 7th March, to be made aware of people and places where faith costs most. We would like briefly to enlarge on what was shared.

**INDIA:** There were at least 152 violent attacks on Christians in 2009. To date, even those housed in refugee camps from Orissa state are still subject to violence but are fearful of returning to their villages because of death threats or forcible conversion to Hinduism. As yet, few people have been brought to justice for the large scale violence.

**CHINA:** Esther, the daughter of Wang who was arrested after the destruction of his church and factory, was devastated at the arrest of both her parents and has appealed for their release and exoneration from their hard sentences.

**ERITREA:** There are still approximately 2,800 believers in

prison for their faith. Recently, another lady who suffered the same detention as Helene, refused to have sex with the camp commandant and subsequently died in custody.

**EGYPT:** We do not know if President Obama ever replied to Dina's letter for freedom to practise her Christian faith and to move around freely. It is more than likely that pressure will be brought to bear for her to marry a Muslim and thus be further "imprisoned" in her own country and prevented from following Jesus.

**CHAD:** Mustafa was typical of many who face harassment, verbal and physical abuse for leaving the Islamic faith. There are now however those in the country who have been convinced that they can find peace with God through a faith in His Son and are prepared to face any mental or physical cost that this stance could bring.

Please do not forget these who know just what it is "to be crucified with Christ". Be informed about these global issues; pray at home or within a group and be ready to give to those who can make some small differences to their circumstances.



## Clerk's Corner

### June Event

As was reported last year, after acknowledging the wonderful work undertaken for many many years by Mary Nicol and her team, a decision was taken to devise something different by way of a summer event, the *back-door sale* having been made more difficult in recent years by inclement weather, heavy demands on volunteers and other logistical problems around storage, transportation and clear-up etc.

With this in mind, we have planned a *Summertime Special* to be held in the Community Centre on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June**. Of course the hope is that we will raise some money on the day – though this is unlikely to be as much as the sum raised by the back-door sale – but, beyond that, we want to offer something for the whole of the community that will, as with so much else that we do, be about putting our congregation at the heart of what happens in Arbroath. And so there will be sales tables, teas and coffees throughout the day, light lunches, lots of games and activities for the children, and, at key points during the day, displays by vari-

ous groups of musicians, dancers and the like, from all quarters of the community. Leading up to the event, there will be a sponsored walk, as in previous years, and a *mass car wash* to build momentum, led by our men.

Now we need you to start gathering or making items for sale. There will be the ever popular cake and candy stall of course, but in addition how about looking out and setting aside all the unwanted toiletries and gifts you may have received for Christmas. You might also have books, CDs and DVDs which you could donate, cuttings of plants you could prepare or perhaps you are one of these talented people who excel at various craft activities. According to our men folk, all ladies have far too many handbags so we are going to do something about this with an Accessorise Stall with bags, scarves and jewellery. In the next edition of Quest the full list of stalls will be given along with the arrangements for collecting items, and getting them to the Community Centre. We will also need volunteers to help set up the stalls and clear away at the end.

So, right now, make sure that 12<sup>th</sup> June is in your diary and let's make sure that it really does prove to be a highlight in our year.

### Presbytery Resource Day

During the day of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April, the Presbytery of Angus will be hosting a Resources Day in our buildings, organised by the Presbytery's Education Committee. Some of you might want to come along and view the various resources that will be on display. But we're highlighting this event to draw attention to the ways in which outside organisations having been using our buildings since the refurbishment.

There have been concerts, retreats, prayer days, exhibitions and more, all pointing to the way in which different groups are seeing our buildings as being ideal for their purposes. This will prove to

be helpful to us in terms of revenues generated but more important than that, it's about ensuring that our buildings are used as widely as possible and that as many different people as possible come over the threshold – of a building that would previously have been unknown to them.

We want to say *thank you* to the members of our Events Team who have helped to host and manage these things and to encourage others of you to get involved in this important aspect of our ministry. You can speak to Jane Miller, our Session Clerk, about joining the team AND, among the people that you interact with, you can make it known that St. Andrew's is very much *open for business!*

### WOW! What An Afternoon.

I received an invitation, on a beautiful designed card, from our church youth group to join them for an afternoon meal and entertainment. Needless to say I was delighted and I accepted right away.

Sunday afternoon came and we were welcomed at the hall door by members of the youth group dressed in black and white clothes. The tables were beautifully laid out and decorated with flowers. Two of the young people were delegated to each table, serving juice and taking orders for our choice of the main course and dessert.

They served the piping hot food on warm plates. It looked good and tasted delicious. We were offered seconds. The puddings were delicious too.

After tea or coffee we were invited to go through to the church for entertainment.

What a wealth of talent we have in our young people. From the first skirl of the pipes to last pipes and drums we were thoroughly entertained with singing, dancing, instruments, even a little sketch. Aaaah, it was good. So, thank you youth group, you have made one old lady feel very special indeed.

P.S. I know more of these afternoons are being planned, so when you get yours, do go, for you can be sure of a very good time.

May Smith.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### APRIL

**Sunday 4**  
8 am - Sunrise service ; in the grounds of the Abbey, followed by breakfast with our friends from Old & Abbey  
11 am - Easter Family Celebration with communion for all ages

**Sunday 11**  
11 am - Worship Service including a *Holiday Club* thanksgiving!

**Sunday 18**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 25**  
11 am - Worship Service with Sacrament of Baptism AND special guest, Michele Guinness

4 pm - **Messy Church**

#### MAY

**Sunday 2**  
11 am - Worship Service  
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

**Sunday 9**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 16**  
11 am - Service of Holy Communion

**Sunday 23**  
11 am - Worship Service  
8pm - Pentecost Celebration

**Sunday 30**  
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.
- ◆ OFF the W.O.L. contemporary worship on the first Sunday of each month, 8 - 9pm

## Communion Sundays

In former days, especially when large numbers of people used to come to communion services but not at any other time in the year, there was a need to hold several sittings on Communion Sundays. Nowadays, most people are regular in their worship attendance meaning that we don't see spikes in attendance on these occasions. Also, Communion is now more frequently available at St Andrew's, monthly at the end of a normal service and also occasionally at our Wednesday service. The consequence of this at St. Andrew's, is that attendance at the second sitting on the evening of Communion Sundays has become so low as to make it no longer viable. At its most recent meeting, therefore, the Kirk Session agreed unanimously to discontinue the practice of having an evening Communion on these twice-yearly occasions. As with anything else, should circumstances change the decision will be open to review. But, for the time being and until further notice, there will not be an evening Communion; this arrangement to take effect immediately.

## The Shack

'The Shack', by William Young, has become a publishing phenomenon, with millions of copies being sold around the world – not to mention those copies that get passed from one person to another! It's been read by Christians and non-Christians alike and has provoked huge interest. It is a work of fiction, depicting every family's nightmare, but as the book progresses it offers a thoroughly thought-provoking reflection on *what God is like* and on *why bad things happen in the world*. In that sense it is a theological book but no theological background is needed to read it.

While there have been those who have been critical of it, most people by far have enjoyed it and have been caused to think deeply about its themes. With that in mind, we're going to hold a *Shack Evening*. Those who are interested should read the book in advance, of course, and then come along to engage in a time of reflection.

If this evening, which will take place on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm, is a success, we may well look at a more regular programme of directed reading and reflection.

## Annual Stated Meeting

The meeting was held after Morning Worship in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Moderator:** Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

**Sederunt:** 90 members of the congregation were in attendance. **Apologies:** I Drever, P Drever, W Mill

The minute of the Annual Stated Meeting held in Arbroath Academy on 29th March 2009 was approved on the motion of R Brand and P Mill.

**Finance Report:** The Moderator indicated the full statement of accounts had already been scrutinised by the Finance/Administration Group and by the Kirk Session. Derek Scott, Treasurer, presented an abbreviated form of the accounts and provided the detail of the salient points as follows:

Before dealing with the accounts, the Treasurer thanked the congregation volunteers who had given unstintingly of their time to carry out the DIY work to restore the Church and Halls after the Contractors completed the Refurbishment work in October 2009, so no costs appear in the Accounts for DIY Voluntary Expenses!

The Trustees report for 2009 included the Minister's Achievements and Performance report and the Treasurer's Financial Review gave a short resume of the Income and Expenditure for the year. Offerings and Donations by WFO, Open Plate and Gift Aid Schemes were £148,871 compared with £159,408 in 2008. Total income from all sources in the General Account was £169,884, with gross expenditure of £163,595, leaving a net surplus for the year of £6,289. The Kirk session at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2010 agreed to transfer this surplus to the Refurbishment Fund Account and this was endorsed by the meeting on the motion of D Searle and M Esplan.

At the end of December 2009, we had paid £515,026 for the cost of the Refurbishment which was 86% of the estimated final cost. Grants of £25,000 had been received and the Congregation had contributed £87,053. The Church

of Scotland General Trustees Central Fund provided a loan of £245,000 and at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 we are to be repaying capital of £105,000, leaving a balance of £140,000 which can be paid over four years at half yearly intervals, or earlier if funds become available.

The statement of Movements in Funds disclosed Incoming Resources of £282,256, Total Expenditure of £649,358, Gains on Investments of £2318, leaving much depleted Funds to carry forward into 2010 of £12,169.

The Treasurer, in presenting his budget for 2010, asked for a 4.5% increase in Offerings for the General Account. This would achieve the level of Income before the small 'dip' which we had budgeted for last year.

**Moderator's Report:** The Moderator began by thanking the Treasurer and then commended the congregation for their commitment to remaining faithful to our vision throughout the many challenges presented in the last year. Congregations can enjoy periods of growth and then levelling out and he urged us not to sit back after the Refurbishment, but to use our beautiful new sanctuary and halls to enable the mission of the congregation to be maximised. While he acknowledged that the year had been a most draining and demanding one for him personally, he indicated that he remains convinced that God's work can and will be seen in the coming days in astonishing ways. There will be a new understanding of who God is and what He is capable of. The work in such areas as Malawi and Havilah will bear fruit in years to come. The moderator invited all to be part of this.

The Session Clerk thanked the congregation for undertaking so willingly many additional duties in the supporting of our organisational structures which are now laying a firm foundation for all aspects of the work of St Andrew's. Tribute was paid to the Rev Ruth Bell for both her dedication to pastoral work and for her innovative preaching of the Word. Finally God's blessing and protection was sought for Martin with thanks given to God for his outstanding leadership, and for the challenges issued to us all through inspirational preaching.

The meeting closed with the benediction.

## Special People!

Everyone counts at St. Andrew's – whether ninety, nine or just a baby! That's very much part of our guiding philosophy, and rightly so.

With that in mind, we hosted two events in March which were designed especially for our more senior members –



**Our youth group also served our members at our November Celebrations Weekend. Pictured here are Aaron Scott, Jordan Tasker, Jill Finlayson, Andrew Moore, Jade Gordon, Naomi Dunphy, Adele Ramsay, Thomas Coutts, and Rachel Stewart**

our *special people*! On the morning of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, a group of people who had not thus far been able to see the newly-modelled buildings, were able to take part in a short service followed by a tour of the premises and a cup of tea. Kim, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, organised the morning and Ruth, our Associate Minister, led the short service. But the event was chiefly about those who came and the good news is that they all thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were, without fail, greatly taken by the way in which our buildings have been enhanced.

Then on the afternoon of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March, around sixty of our seniors gathered in the hall for a special meal hosted by our teenagers. In advance, they had made special invitations, all of which were hand-delivered, and, on the day, they acted as hosts, waiters and waitresses, and cleaner-uppers! The meal was followed by a programme of entertainment during which the wide range of talents evident in our youth group was highlighted. From music to drama to dance, there was something for every taste. And again, most importantly, those who were able to attend the event, were unanimous in their praise of our young people and in how much they had enjoyed their afternoon. *'When's the next one?'* was the oft-heard question from the throng as it left the building at the end!

*'Well done,'* to Sheila, our Youth Worker, her volunteer team and our young people, is the conclusion of us all.

## Easter Outreach Idea Is Hatched!

By the time you'll be reading this edition of QUEST, our Easter outreach will have come and gone. But as of the time of writing, our plan is to be on the streets of our town on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, distributing over 1,000 chocolate eggs in hand-knitted chickens and, with them, a special Easter greeting from our congregation!

Some people thought that our original aim of five hundred chickens and eggs was wildly ambitious. But, with a few days remaining, we are well over the thousand-mark with more coming in daily! Thinking about it, that means that about one in every twenty-four people in Arbroath should get one!! So, a huge well done to our Service Core Group who have organised the outreach, to our wonderful army of knitters, and to those who drop more stitches than

they ever knit and so donated money or chocolate eggs instead!

Why do we do this kind of thing? Quite simply, it's about making sure the congregation maintains a high profile among the town's people while at the same time sharing the blessings of our faith in a loving God with as many people as possible. Now that has to be worthwhile!



**Below - Men's Retreat - New ways of playing Jenga were invented by Jack Newth and Michael Marr!**



**Above - The flexibility of our Sanctuary space was put to good use at this AVO conference.**