

July 2010

## Memorable Service and Evening

A large turnout of family and friends attended the morning service at St Andrew's Church Arbroath to see Craig Paton and Jordan Tasker from the 7th Arbroath B.B. Company receive the highest award of the Brigade - The Queen's Badge. These young men have been members of the Company from age 5 and have come through all sections. Both attained the President's Badge before working on their tasks to attain their Queen's Badge.

Over the past two years the boys have worked with OB's in the West Port as volunteers, improved their physical skills, and gained insight of overseas projects such as Christian Aid and Oxfam. The awards were presented by Rev. Dr. W. Martin Fair. The Awards Evening was also very well attended by proud parents and friends. The Inspecting Officer was Ian Drever and Pam Drever presented the prizes.

Next session will be the 50th Anniversary of the company and a weekend of celebrations is being planned for next May.



**Rev Martin Fair with Craig Paton and Jordan Tasker**



**Rev Martin Fair, Dale Kidd, Aaron Findlay, Andrew Fair, Calum Ferguson, Daniel Jamieson, Keiran Young, Jake Christieson, Connor Townsend, Craig Paton, Jordan Tasker, Ian Drever, Pam Drever and Earl Matthew M.B.E.**

### Ruth Bell

All too soon, Ruth's time as our Associate Minister is coming to an end. Her last Sunday among us will be Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2010 – which is a date you will most certainly want to put in your diary! (Ruth, herself, will be preaching and leading worship for the last time on the previous Sunday.)

Where did the time go?!?! It's been an absolute joy to have Ruth among us

– first as probationer, then as a minister in her own right. And how she has proved herself! In terms of her leading of worship and preaching, the growth in stature has been remarkable. Of those of us who were present on Mothering Sunday earlier this year, who will ever forget Ruth's message and meditation?

But although much more behind the scenes, Ruth's pastoral work among us will be remembered just as well, long after she herself has left to

return to academic study. Her calming, gentle nature has been just what so many of you needed as you went through trials of various kinds. Whatever the issue, Ruth was there for you.

In gratitude for her ministry among us, a presentation will take place on Ruth's last Sunday. Members of the congregation – and others – who would like to contribute towards this gift can leave marked envelopes in the Church Office any time from now.

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9 am to noon**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD  
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**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH  
REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

June 2010

**Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - Kerry Smith & Kevin Proctor;  
Lesley Smith & Michael Rennie**Funerals** - Ann Tosh, Irene Ironside**IMPORTANT DATES****SEPTEMBER EDITION (Note - no August 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 20th August (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th August (Word-Processed file)

**Apologies and Corrections**

I always like to check spelling of names and therefore sometimes enter xxxx during compilation stage. Names had been checked and entered for the June edition, but unfortunately I sent the wrong (older) file to the printers! My apologies to those who were not named.

Front page - Guild top table picture was

**Ruth Bell, Linda Gray, Ian Dunn, Betty Dunn,  
Martin Fair, Mary Calcott and Rick Calcott**

Page 5 - Youth Group was

**Rachael Stewart and Jenni Marr / Carla Ingram, Bronwen Barton, and Leigh Addis**

Back page - Youth Group was

**Michael Marr, Nige Grant, Michael Jamieson and Graeme Hamilton****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

July 2010

Dear Friends,

Elsewhere in this edition of QUEST, you'll find a report concerning the Kirk Session meeting during which the question of same-sex relationships and the ministry was debated. In broad terms, the Kirk Session adopted a traditional view on the subject.

But equally important, in my view, has been *the way* in which the matter has been handled. We have a range of different opinions on this – as on any subject – both within the Kirk Session and in the congregation at large. In our discussions, there was opportunity for all of these views to be expressed. Even where strong views were held, there was always a willingness to listen to others and to respect their standpoint. And, given the eventual outcome of our deliberations, clearly there were those who found that their view hadn't prevailed. But no-one has gone off in the huff; rather, what we have witnessed is a willingness to respect the view of the Kirk Session as a whole.

This is the only basis on which a congregation such as ours can survive and thrive. Doubtless, there are congregations in which everyone thinks the same way – and there are some congregations within which only certain views are allowed! But ours is a congregation made up of people of widely differing backgrounds and, at times, holding widely different theological perspectives. The key is that these differences are never allowed to obscure the vastly more important things that we have in common – chiefly our love of the Lord Jesus Christ and our desire to see His Kingdom come.

The danger arises when intolerance creeps in – when some want to insist that only *their* view is acceptable, only *their* way of seeing things. Of course there are some doctrines of the Christian faith that are set in stone; to reject them is to reject the faith. But clearly there are other areas over which there always has been and probably always will be vigorous debate. To stifle such debate rather than to create space for it is to risk closing ourselves off to what God is saying.

As minister, I am privileged to lead such a diverse, yet creative, committed and enthusiastic congregation. One thing is for sure – it's never dull! Nor should it be.

God Bless,

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

Martin.Fair@sky.com

## Leadership Group

Working under the authority of the Kirk Session, we operate a Leadership Group and a number of Core Groups, each of which is responsible for certain areas of church life. The Leadership Group is charged with setting direction for the congregation; that is, discerning where God is leading us and deciding on priorities etc. To ensure that that group doesn't become stale, the conditions insist that its

membership rotates, with new members coming on to it at set intervals.

It's for those reasons, therefore, that three members of the Leadership Group will be standing down this summer. Ian Drever, Wilma Ewart, and Liz Smith have all brought real value to the group and their contributions have been helpful throughout.

At the time of writing, the process of selecting new members for the group is underway. The next edition of QUEST will carry the names of those called to this role.

## When is an SO not an SO?

Answer - when it expires! Which is what happened, last November, to all the Standing Orders of those good folks who had pledged for the previous 18 months in May 2008.

Recently, in connection with our Refurbishment Appeal Fund, we circulated a letter to those who had not returned a card from our second pledge day of last November. At

least two folks were surprised to have got a letter because, quite understandably, they thought their SO was ongoing - but it was not, and now they have gladly re-pledged for another 18 months.

If you also had not realised this, and would like to renew your pledge, then please return the card to our treasurer, or contact our Administrator, Alison Davie, at the church office for further information (431135).

## Paired Reading at Warddykes Primary School

I want to say a big thank you to my team of willing helpers. They are Ruth, Audrey, June, Anne, Roberta and Margaret. These ladies have been so supportive to the pupils selected. All the pupils have taken steps forward with

their reading and others have leapt ahead.

I am pleased to say that my group had lunch with me on Friday to say thank you. It was good to share this fellowship. The school is acknowledging the ladies' hard work and have asked them to present the prizes at the end of term service.

Thank you ladies for all your hard work. Will you come back next session? Please! Please!

**Mary Reid**, ASN Teacher

## Hayshead Primary School

On behalf of the staff and pupils of Hayshead, we would like to give a huge thank you to four of your church members. Tania, Elaine, Sharon and Julie have helped enrich the lives of a number of our pupils by providing support, encouragement and fun during their regular visits. The children always look forward to their sessions with enthusiasm. We are also aware that as well as giving up their time, they also supply resources and materials which they refuse to be reimbursed for.

**Wilma Simpson** (on behalf of the Support team at Hayshead)

PS We would also welcome any new volunteers especially for help with

- the Eco group who are looking for a community representative - someone from the area who could come to meetings from 1.00 - 1.30 p.m. on Thursdays.
- the school gardens, mostly flowers at the moment, but we would like to grow some veg too.
- a greenhouse - we have a greenhouse waiting to be used but need help in siting and maintaining it.
- paired reading - as always improving reading standards

## School Visits

One of our great joys over recent years has been welcoming children from local schools to our church. As we offer explanations concerning the font, lectern and communion table, it gives us an opportunity to talk about what happens when Christians gather in worship – which of course opens up the subject of what Christians believe.

On the most recent such visits, we welcomed the Primary 2 classes from Hayshead Primary School. It's quite something to see their wide-eyed stares as they come through the doors and allow their heads to tilt up to take in the height of the roof space!

Someone asked me after the visit if the children had liked the refurbishment work that's been done. Actually, since almost none of the children had ever been in our church – or in any church before! – it made no difference. They were seeing and experiencing for the first time.

Hopefully what did strike them, though, was the warmth of welcome and the invitation to come and enjoy some of our regular activities for children.

## Mary Scott in Malawi

A big thank you to all who handed in Paracetamol, Vitamins, etc. to be taken to Malawi. There were so many that I thought I wouldn't manage them all but I did and they were received with great gratitude by Ethel, the Malawian nurse in the Namisu clinic! Again I had a wonderful and often emotional time there.

One Saturday, after going to a factory shop where my brother John bought 103 blankets, we went by truck to a small village called Mpemba where we gave out the blankets to the elderly. It was up in the hills where it gets very cold at night. The gratitude of these very frail elderly people was extremely moving - some were unable to get to us and sent a child to receive the blanket for them. With tears in my eyes I was given so many hugs and thanked over and over again as I thought of my bed and duvet at home. These old people didn't have a bed but slept on a dirt floor!

The new Dawn centre, a day care centre for handicapped children is up and running. It is a few minutes walk from

Namisu village. It now looks after 40 disabled children, and was founded by Miriam, the mother of Blessings who was the little boy who had his leg amputated when he was so badly burned after falling into the fire. Blessings is wonderful, and after four months in hospital he is back home and it was a joy to play with him. I had taken bubbles with me and the children loved them. Blessings managed to blow some after a lot of effort and was so delighted.

We went to the opening of 2 new churches and joined in the great celebrations. John has now funded the building of over 30 churches in Malawi as well as 12 day care centres in out-of-the-way places in the bush and of course the one in Kambilonjo, up in the mountains.

During the first week, I helped in the clinic at Funsani, one of the day care centres. I struggled with the heat reaching 40 degrees one day and always in the high 30s but, apart from that, and from getting up at around 5am, I enjoyed every minute. Playing with the children when school finished and hearing them at the door yelling "Auntie Mary" was great fun.

I can't wait to go back on the 3rd of August!



## Malawi Update From Becky

Malawi - The warm heart of Africa... so I left my heart again after being reunited for only 3 weeks. It was a very painful occasion!! However I did have an awesome time. Thought I'd update you all a little on my shenanigans. On my first week there after spending a few days at Namisu I headed off to Thyolo which is a couple of hours journey away by the local transport (minibus). So anyway I arrived at Thyolo to be met by the wonderful administrator of St Andrew's Daycare Centre that is Kiri Chipanga. As per the usual Malawian greeting I was met with 'Becky! Now you are fat!!' To which through gritted teeth I replied 'Thanks Kiri, you too!' You've got to love the Malawian fascination with weight! There's nothing better for building up your self esteem!

Anyways, that's not what I went there for. Although I was desperate to see my good friend Christina (Kiri), I went to Thyolo to set up a 'sponsor an orphan' scheme for our Daycare Centre. So many charities have these schemes and we thought we could do as good a job if not better ourselves. So I had a meeting with Kiri who has agreed to do all the admin for the scheme on the Malawian side and proceeded to set up a database of the details of all the orphans under our care. I then proceeded to take their photos, which was very funny as many of these children had never had their photos taken before. I started with the nursery children and when I told them to smile (which in Chichewa, incidentally, is the same word as laugh) they proceeded to try and make themselves laugh. Their little fake sniggers were absolutely hilarious and the nursery teacher and I were in absolute stitches. The poor kids probably then felt even more awkward to be honest now that all the adults were laughing at them! Oops! Some of the children refused to smile and were quite solemn so I had a couple of the older kids making faces and doing funny antics behind me which then had the kids rolling around the floor laugh-

ing! Not the easiest for taking their mugshot! So, yeh, it was pretty funny!!!

The good thing now though is that we now have a 'sponsor a child' scheme in which people can sponsor a child from our Daycare Centre. This is pretty awesome and we'll be able to find out plenty about what's happening with each of the children which is really cool.

The Daycare Centre is doing really well and had a very good harvest this year which is very good as most of Malawi had very poor harvests this year. Kiri wishes to thank everyone who prayed for their harvest and thanks God for his answer to prayer. We should however continue to pray for the millions in Malawi and across central Africa who were affected by the bad rains and who now don't have enough food to feed their families this year. Kiri has increased the number of orphans using the centre from 90+ to 120 children. This is exciting and means that the Centre will now be getting fully utilised. These 120 children have all been provided with sweaters for these cold winter months and Christina is interested in employing a full time tailor to provide uniforms and clothes for the children all year round. Kiri is very forward thinking and has drawn up some great plans for future years. She showed me several pieces of land which are very fertile and which in future she would like to buy in order to expand the agricultural side to the project. She has had new rocket stoves put into the kitchen and these stoves use much less firewood and are far more efficient than ordinary wood fires. This is very good because in Thyolo firewood is very expensive and when you are buying lots every day to cook for 120 children then these rocket stoves have been a great investment and saved plenty of money. The classroom has had new benches put in for the older children to sit on when they are learning as opposed to the traditional Malawian way of sitting on the floor. Also the play park that was built by the 09 team is still being well used and the kids still love it. While I was there I bought some polish and polished the slides to the great delight of the kids even if they did get a fright the first time they attempted to slide down the chute!!!

## Friends Club

Our June meeting also included the AGM. In the absence of our President and Vice President, the Secretary, Beatrice Gerrard, took the chair. After the business she handed over to Rev Martin Fair.

Our AGM appointments were; President, Liz Smith; Vice President, Jackie Carnegie; Secretary, Beatrice Gerrard; Treasurer, Isobel Mitchell.

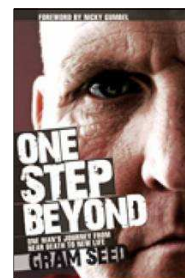
After the appointments were made, Rev Fair handed the meeting back to Beatrice who introduced the Rev Linda Broadley who gave us a wonderful demonstration on 'Tasty Texts'. These included Scorpion Bites, Travellers' Salad and Aaron's Bread. A superb afternoon was had with everyone enjoying a wonderful feast at the end. Jean Beattie gave the vote of thanks and Beatrice Gerrard wished everyone a good holiday and looks forward to seeing everyone back in September.

## GRAM SEED

At the end of September of 2009, we welcomed Barry Woodward to Arbroath, to be our guest speaker at a special evening meeting. Barry is a renowned speaker throughout the UK and talks passionately about his finding faith after years of drug addiction. Naturally, given our *Havilah* ministry, his testimony was very relevant to some of what we're doing – and to a goodly number of the people we have contact with.

With the same thinking going on, we're delighted to announce that we're bringing Gram Seed to Arbroath over the weekend of 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> September later this year. Gram's story, like Barry's, is in print and is concerned with his turnaround – from futility to faith, from drugs to destiny. As a speaker, he is well worth hearing.

Details of this special visit will be publicised from the beginning of August. For now, make a note of the dates!



## Same-sex Relationships and Ministry

Most of you will be aware that the question of whether or not people in same-sex relationships should be allowed to be ordained to the ministry has been exercising the Church in recent times. To that end, by way of consultation, a Special Commission was established by the General Assembly of 2009 to report to the General Assembly of 2011. Part of their work has been to canvas the views of every Presbytery and Kirk Session in the land.

As a result, our own Kirk Session engaged in a special debate on this subject – having previously given opportunity for members of the congregation to express their views. Following a very helpful evening of presentations, speeches and small-group discussions, elders voted on a set of questions that the Special Commission had provided.

The results of that vote were announced at the Kirk Session meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> June. There is considerably more detail than can possibly be contained in QUEST but the following key results were recorded.

- Nearly all elders agreed with the contention that sexual orientation is a given; that is, not something that we choose

- Of those who voted, a large majority considered that it would be wrong for a person in an actively same-sex relationship to be ordained to the ministry of word and sacrament. This became a smaller (though still clear) majority, if the person was in a civil partnership

- Likewise, for Leadership roles (other than as a Minister), a majority voted against, but this became a small majority against if the person was in a civil partnership

- Very few members of the Kirk Session stated that they would see a decision that was contrary to their own view as grounds for leaving the Church of Scotland

- Nearly three-quarters of elders said that they thought that a higher standard of Christian living should be expected of leaders

In summary, then, our Kirk Session has given its support to the traditional position.

At next year's General Assembly, it will become clear how voting took place across the length and breadth of the country. Then, with these figures in mind, the Assembly itself will be asked to reach a resolution.

## Parish Development Fund

As mentioned in a previous copy of QUEST, our minister was nearing the end of his four-year stint as convenor of The Church of Scotland's Parish Development Fund. He's now completed it! After his report to the General Assembly in May, the Moderator officially discharged him from his duties. It was especially gratifying for

Martin that this year's Moderator is John Christie, a friend from college days! John spoke warmly of Martin's work with the Fund and, given his personal knowledge, was able to throw in some witty comments as well!

At some stage, Martin will doubtless be asked to serve in some further capacity – but for now there's just a little more space in the diary!

## Calling all bookworms!

Members of St Andrew's and Old and Abbey Churches form a small and friendly book group which meets at Old and Abbey once a month on a Sunday morning before church. The group is open to everyone who likes a good read, so you can bring along friends who aren't church members, and then invite them to stay on for the service afterwards...

Our discussions often veer away from the book in hand to encompass anything and everything! I've found it's a great way of reading books that I wouldn't otherwise choose, and we all throw in suggestions about titles for future months. We always go for titles that are available through the local library, so there's no need to buy any books. For the past couple of years we've also read the nominations for the local teenage fiction competition called

the Angus Book Award, so if you have teenagers in the family it's a good way of keeping in touch with what the younger generation are reading. It doesn't matter if you don't manage to finish a book either – in busy months when I don't have much time to read, I've still enjoyed the discussions at the book group.

Our next meetings and books are:

- Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July –  
*Warnings of Gales* by Annie Saunders
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August –  
*Boy A* by Jonathan Trigell

If you'd like to know more, speak to Linda McDonald (Tel: 876727). If you are interested in joining us, we meet in the Old & Abbey session room at 9.45am so feel free to come along.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### JULY

**Sunday 4**  
11 am - Worship Service  
including Service of Blessing

**Sunday 11**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 18**  
11 am - Worship Service  
Main service followed by  
short Communion

**Sunday 25**  
11 am - Worship Service

### AUGUST

**Sunday 1**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 8**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 15**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 22**  
11 am - Worship Service  
(First day back for  
Sunday Club)

**Sunday 29**  
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 Sunday of every month. Two hours for all the family with games, craft and worship and an all-together meal (excepting summer months)
- ♦ OFF the W.O.L. contemporary worship on the first Sunday of each month, 8 - 9pm (excepting summer)

## General Assembly – 2010

As the commissioner to the Assembly this year I have been asked to write a summary of the proceedings which, considering what was covered in a relatively short space of time, is no mean feat!

Firstly I would like to say that I found it an enormous privilege to represent St Andrew's Church at the Assembly and I enjoyed every minute of it. It has to be said that I went with an open mind – I really did not know what to expect, but was determined to glean everything I could from it. The Moderator, John Christie, and other officials stressed from day one that the Assembly was one in which we were all encouraged to participate, and we were taught the technicalities of voting with the electronic voting system at our 'first time commissioners' meeting on the evening before the Assembly started.

The topics were many and complex, and it would be impossible to do them all justice in a short report and therefore I will attempt to summarise a few of them:

### Special Commission on the Third Article Declaratory

In 2008, the General Assembly appointed a Special Commission on the Third Article Declaratory. The remit of the Special Commission was to consider its relevance in today's Scotland. The Third Article Declaratory reads:

'.....As a national Church representative of the Christian Faith of the Scottish people it acknowledges its distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry'.

The Assembly endorsed the views of Presbyteries and others that the 3rd Article should continue to be part of the role of the Church, but acknowledged that there would have to be changes made to take into account the current financial position of the church.

### Deliverance from the Ministries Council

Again, because of the financial state of the church, it was proposed that there would be a reduction (about 10%) in the number of full time equivalent ministerial posts over the next few years. Although the Assembly endorsed this deliverance, there was much debate about the flexibility of ministry – e.g. greater use of elders, church workers, associate ministers etc.

Because, throughout my career, I have always been involved with working with children, I was particularly interested in the **Report of the Safeguarding Committee** (formerly child protection).

Points of interest were:

All persons over the age of 16 and having leadership roles working with children and young people will be required to have enhanced disclosures.

The Scottish Parliament will consider a Bill later this year to produce 'Disclosure Passports' so that individuals would not need to have multiple separate disclosures for employers/organizations.

### Also of interest was the **Report of the Church and Society Council**.

In this report it was agreed that Presbyteries will now be required to report on the ways they are enabling the voices of children and young people to be heard.

I felt a warm surge of pride when Martin, in his role as convener of the Parish Development Fund, described to the Assembly how some of the funds had been used in developing the work of Havilah, and the way in which the work has borne fruit – it was another proud moment too to see our own Ruth, with her fellow 'newly ordained' ministers, be encouraged as she embarks on her ministerial journey.

It was a good year to attend the Assembly. I am someone who loves history, and so to be at the Assembly on the 450th anniversary of the Reformation was a bonus - it reminded me of the rich foundation on which our church was built and the people who made it possible. I also had the privilege of being a 'shaker' – someone who welcomes the Lord High Commissioner and his wife to attend the Assembly - again an experience I won't forget.

The General Assembly week seemed to fly by, and when I returned home Fat Cat was much relieved to find that I had not enlisted into the army!

For me the Assembly was a wonderful experience and I would like to thank the church once again for affording me the pleasure of being this year's commissioner.

**Elaine Anderson**

## Clerk's Corner

We **FAIR** excelled ourselves!!!

The Summer Fair held in the Community Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> June showed a strength of St Andrew's Church – team work.

There was the initial planning team, the teams from each organisation who manned the stalls and various activities, the team who served at the tables and the kitchen team.

The biggest team of all was the one that so you are all members of – the St Andrew's Team. You provided masses of items for sale and turned up in great numbers to buy items.

We were delighted to have the junior section of Ar-

broath Instrumental band entertaining us in the afternoon. They demonstrated such an array of talent from quite young people and they had no trouble filling the hall with their rich sound. Our young Highland dancers, Amy and Kirsty also delighted with their skills.

Throughout the day there was an atmosphere of enjoyment which was enhanced by many of you bringing people who are not members of St Andrew's along with you. We went a long way to achieving our aim of making this a community event.

The magnificent sum of around **£4,437** was raised on the day and to this has still to be added the amount which will be raised by the sponsored walk. The treasurer was delighted to be kept so busy counting the money!

Well done to everyone.



## Pentecost Passion

Almost 150 people attended our Pentecost Passion evening service, our own people being joined by friends from churches across Angus. The Praise Band led the service brilliantly while the minister used the example of the Lewis Revival of 1949 to inspire the congregation in believing that the Holy Spirit is capable of the most extraordinary ministry in the most ordinary, and



**Martin Fair, Ann Guest, Joan Archer, Moira Hendry, Una Stewart, Margaret McGill, Pat Mill, Elizabeth Crosby, Edith Hayes, Scott Anderson, Judy Spink, Eugene Jarych, Ian Martin, Karen Reaney, Rachel Martin, Adele Ramsay, Jenni Marr, Leigh Addis, Sarah Martin**



least-expected, places!

This theme has been followed up at our Wednesday morning services where the minister has been suggesting that the evidence for the Holy Spirit being *in town* is when the Fruit of the Spirit begins to appear in ever-greater abundance – the Fruit being love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control.

## Oberammergau 2010

It is November 2009, and a village of around 5,300 people are waiting to begin rehearsals in earnest for the 2010 Passion play. They will be continuing the act of faith undertaken by their ancestors in the plague ridden 17<sup>th</sup> century. Half of the population will be in the play which runs for 110 performances and most of the players have grown up with the play and have parents and grandparents who have taken part.

There was a palpable feeling of anticipation as the St Andrew's Church group joined the crowds wending their way through the village to the theatre for the first half of the play in the afternoon. 5,000 people were seated in a building which resembles an aircraft hangar with the stage where the doors would be. We were inside watching the action take place on the stage outside with real trees waving in the wind and hills in the far background.

From the moment the children appeared waving their palm branches, and the arrival of Jesus on a donkey, I felt a tingle in the spine as we were transported to the visible display of all that is familiar to us through our Bible readings of the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection. Sheep, goats and birds all added to the reality of the scenes.

A magnificent choir spread out along the stage set the scene through choruses and solos, while the orchestra was hidden in the pit. From time to time, tableaux vivants - living images - were portrayed by actors standing absolutely still inside the temple,

making links between the Old and New testaments. Thus when Jesus was being condemned by Caiaphas, the scene of Daniel in the lion's den appeared lit in vibrant colours.

In the scene with the money changers in the temple, the righteous anger of Jesus was shown dramatically when he smashed a very large earthenware vessel to smithereens, and there was a heart-stopping moment of drama when Judas was handed his thirty pieces of silver and later when he hung himself, very realistically, from a tree. Pontius Pilate appeared on horseback and Herod's entourage appeared on camels. During this and many other scenes we were amazed at the number of people on stage and how well-controlled all the movement was.

The second half began in the evening with the gradually fading light adding to the drama of the enactment of the trial of Jesus. It was difficult to watch the cruelty of the scourging, the violence with which the crown of thorns was pressed down on Jesus' head and the constant mocking, knowing that the crucifixion itself would be horrific. And so it proved to be. The moment of the raising of the three crosses, and the agony portrayed, enable the audience to experience the full horror of what we have only experienced in the past through reading and listening to the word. It mattered not that the words were all in German - we know them so



**The massive stage - no pictures are allowed at the performance**

well. The final words of the women as they encounter the Risen One are followed by a darkening and emptying stage with a single flame burning at the centre – the light of the world.