

Declaration Declared A Success



Ian Coffey

Our first ever Men's Conference, titled, 'The Declaration,' was a great success! Around fifty men from churches across the Tayside area and beyond took part, all of them being much inspired by our guest speaker, Ian Coffey, who spoke about the day-to-day living out of the Christian faith, with particular reference to the workplace environment.

But over and above the main sessions of the conference, it was wonderful to have Michael Marr acting as Worship Leader for the day. Michael is just 19 but already his gift is apparent and there can be little doubt that he will go on to become an inspirational figure at the forefront of St. Andrew's Church worship. (A real highlight was at the very end of the day when Jack Newth, on bagpipes, joined Michael and Scott and Dave, for a rousing version of *Amazing Grace*!)

With Doris and members of the Fellowship Core Group working their usual miracle in the kitchen, and members of

the Events Team on hand to welcome and guide visitors, it really was a day when lots of different people came together to make it work. But first and foremost, it was Keith and Robert, who through months of planning and praying, ensured that it was such a valuable day.

Next year, let's see our numbers double and treble! There's no reason as to why this event shouldn't become a fixture in the diaries of Christian men from across the whole of the east coast of Scotland.



Michael Marr, Dave Patterson, Jack Newth and Scott Anderson

Annual Stated Meeting

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after the close of worship on Sunday 20th March 2011. This is always an important meeting but especially so this year as our long-time Treasurer, Derek Scott, will be presenting his final Financial Report, bringing to an end an almost unbelievable period of over thirty years magnificent service to the congregation. I have no doubt that you will want to be there to receive the report and to be part of an occasion which very definitely marks the end of an era.

When I first came to St. Andrew's Church, it soon became clear that three individuals in particular were key to the operation of the congregation – these being, Bill Shaw (Session Clerk), Alan McSkimming (Roll Keeper and QUEST magazine) and Derek Scott (Treasurer.) Sadly, Bill

is no longer with us. Alan is retired from these positions but still very much with us. And so with Derek's retiral, the last of 'the three' will have laid down their respective duties.

It is uncommon to find such commitment nowadays; these men really did represent all that is best in terms of duty and dedication. But though times change, I am constantly amazed at the way in which God provides for his people! In other words, somehow we always seem to find ourselves in the fortunate position of having someone else in place to take over.

There will never be another Derek Scott; of that I'm sure. Some people, you just don't replace. But others will rise to the challenge and in years to come we will look back and, again, be amazed at how we have been provided for and thankful to the faithful folk who were willing to step forward.

Martin Fair



Our Guild with their Link partners from Glenrothes who were given a tour of our buildings followed by High Tea

CONTACTS**CHURCH OFFICE : 431135****Alison Davie**Monday to Friday
9 am to noon**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD
873238**MINISTER EMERITUS**

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Ken Miller : 875235

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH
REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

December/January 2010/2011

Baptisms - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Ida Anderson, Jean Ogilvie(Our minister conducts funerals for all people
residing in our parish. Only members of St. An-
drew's Church are listed here.)**IMPORTANT DATES****MARCH 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 17th February (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd February (Word-Processed file)

Fair Days Ahead!Members and organisations might
wish to begin thinking about what
they could contribute to our next**Summer Fair**

which has now been booked for

Saturday 11th June

in the Community Centre.

Malawi Fundraisers**Saturday 19th February**
Soup & Pudding Lunch
Church Hall 12.00 – 2.00. Tickets £4.**Saturday 5th March**
Craft Fair
Church Hall 10am to 4pm.
Entry £1 includes tea/coffee. Anyone wanting
to take a table speak to Sheila asap please.**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

February 2011

Dear friends,

Our first ever *Alpha Course* concluded with a special away-day in the middle of January. In fact, it should have been all wrapped up in time for Christmas but the severe winter weather meant various postponements and subsequent re-scheduling. But none of that got in the way of us enjoying a wonderful day together, reflecting on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and bringing the course to a most moving conclusion with a time of praying for one another and the sharing of communion. *Alpha* means different things to different people but almost everybody leaves glad that they took part – some deciding that following Jesus is the way for them, others feeling a fire being lit within them where before there was only a flickering candle, and others glad of the chance to get back to basics in terms of what this faith of ours is really all about!

An *Alpha Course* is built around a number of presentations, each one covering one or other aspect of the Christian faith – such as *Who was Jesus?*, *Why did he die?*, *Why and How should I pray?* and *Does God heal today?* Generally, these talks are in DVD format. Of those who were on the course just finished, 73% said these talks were very good and 27% good. Here's what some of them said about the course in general:

"I loved it! It has made me stronger in my faith." *"I have found it very friendly and encouraging."* *Very positive, would have liked more time and now would like to do the course again!"*

With that in mind, the great news is that our second course is about to begin! Given the difficulties that some *not so young* people find in getting out in the evenings, we're running a *Senior Alpha* to take place in the afternoons. Nicknamed *Large-Print Alpha*, the course is put together with more senior people in mind and, in our situation, is open to people from the congregation and, just as importantly, to those who have no church connections whatsoever. Our course begins on Wednesday 9th February and will run from 2.30pm to around 4pm and will include a nice afternoon tea and towards the end of the course, a lovely away-day trip! Bookings for *Senior Alpha* are now being taken at the Church Office (TEL: 431135)

Further to that, we'd love to hear from anyone who is interested in a regular evening course – for themselves or to bring a friend to. If there was sufficient interest, we'd have no hesitation in timetabling a new course to begin sooner rather than later.

We're running *Alpha* because we understand that **the purpose of the Church is not just to keep the truth of God's love to ourselves but to make it known in word and in deed!** When that's the agreed purpose, there's little doubt that *Alpha* is the tool of choice, having proved itself for well over twenty years in countries all over the world.

St. Andrew's Church is committed to growth through evangelism and service. Always, the aim is to relate to people who have never had a live Christian faith and to those who lost it along the way. In this, we will NEVER seek, as some do, to draw people away from other churches. Seeing new people coming to faith is the intention and not the *swap-a-Christian* approach which has nothing to do with the building of the Kingdom. So, although anyone can come to one of our courses, we will not use it as a means of drawing people to St. Andrew's where that person is already a member of another church.

It was Jesus who said, *"Go then to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples."* That starts right here, right now.

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

martin.fair@sky.com

London – Paris Cycle for Christian Aid 2010.

Well it's been a few months since we managed to finish our London-Paris cycle ride last year and we are delighted to tell you we raised a total of £3263.00 plus £351.71 (gift aid)

for Christian Aid.

We would like to say a big "thank you" to all the church family for all your wonderful support, I think that without your encouragement and prayers we would have struggled to reach Dover.... never mind Paris.

Rab Bramhall and David Cochrane (Photo on back page.)

Clerk's Corner - Minister's Sabbatical

From 1st May until the end of August Martin will be on Sabbatical leave. In recent times, a sabbatical has come to mean a period of extended absence in one's career in order to fulfil a goal, for example studying for a further degree or carrying out research. It may be that while considering a sabbatical, the question of exploring self and purpose becomes important and this kind of question gets more important as we get older. Now, while Martin is still a comparatively young man, the sheer busyness of life, combined with being driven by passion and purpose, can mean that there is little time for contemplation or indeed for consistent periods of uninterrupted personal and family leisure time.

In the past three years we have gone through massive changes in all our organisational structures, every stage of which required Martin's attention and necessitated what seemed like endless series of meetings with groups and individuals. His diary at that time made frightening reading! In addition, when the refurbishment of the building was being carried out, nothing ceased in what St Andrew's normally undertakes in its week by week endeavours – no mean feat, but expensive in terms of personal pressure. Added to all of this has been the carrying out of the ongoing vision which Martin has had for the past nineteen years for the growth in witness of St Andrew's Church in Arbroath. We should give thanks each day that he still feels that being with us is where he wants to be.

In spite of all this, Martin has never said that he is 'tired', but he does recognise that now is a very good time for him to consider recharging the batteries and then being able to return to his work re-energised and ready for more.

With all of the above in mind, the Session and Leadership Group have unanimously endorsed the sabbatical period.

Arrangements for all the logistical aspects are well in hand and some of these are as follows:

The Rev David Searle, so well-known and respected by us all, will act as locum, conducting worship for three of the four months and carrying out pastoral work for a fixed amount of time each week.

For one month, the Rev. Dan McCoig from America, with whom Martin will be involved in a pulpit exchange, will be resident in the manse and will conduct morning worship.

The Manse Family are likely to be on holiday abroad for most of the period of the school summer holidays.

All normal scheduled events such as the Sunday Club Prize Giving, the Family Picnic, and the June Fair etc. will take place and there will be identified members of the congregation who will organise these.

Martin is also researching the possibility of undertaking study at a theological centre in England.

Throughout the period of the Sabbatical, Martin will not be able to be contacted, and he will therefore not be available for any meetings, weddings, funerals, etc. Hard as this might seem, this period will only be successful for Martin if we allow him to take full advantage of its opportunities. We should also try to look on it as a period which will be good for us to experience different things. We should also keep in mind that many sabbaticals last for a year – we are getting off lightly!

Further details will appear when finalised.

GUILD NEWS

The Guild has had a busy couple of months since the last Quest. Our earlier November meetings went according to plan but the end of the month was busy time with Guild Week. As part of our special week we held on the 27th November a great fundraiser with our Soup & Pudding lunch. Also that day we welcomed our Link partners from Glenrothes and enjoyed a time of fellowship and High tea (thanks to the Youth group for their efficient serving). We also had some Guild members as tour guides to take our guests around the refurbished church and halls in groups.

The meeting on the 29th November which should have been our Topic Night had to be cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions so the next Guild night was our party. We had an excellent evening at the Meadowbank with Laura Taylor providing the musical entertainment. Games, dancing and finishing off with the '12 Days of Christmas' acted out by Shona and Doris!!!

Our first meeting of the New Year was on the 10th January and this was a combined Topic/Theme night. After listening to a modern version of the 'Prodigal Son', we split into groups and a questionnaire and discussion took place. A 'Mercy' word search completed the evening. On the 24th we had a very successful Quiz night hosted by Morag Shaw. Our thanks to Morag for once again giving us a super quiz which was very varied and got everyone's 'grey matter' going.

Our next meetings are on the 7th and 21st February with 'Mercy Mission' (speaker Pam Cairns) and 'Therapets'

New members always welcome.

7th Arbroath B.B.

Since our last report we have had a very successful Potted Sports night with 3rd/5th Arbroath. A total of 19 boys took part. Due to the bad weather we had to cancel our meeting on the 2nd of December. The weeks just flew by and our Panto visit was our last meeting of the year. Can't wait until this year's production of Nessie the Panto. Before all that we have the rest of this Birthday Celebration year to arrange. As I said in the last magazine report we would love to hear from any former member of a story or even better a photo of your time in the Company. We are putting together a history of our Company which we can show at our weekend celebrations. The boys are all currently working hard on their badge work. We are entertaining the Special Friends Club on 17th of February and a report will follow in the next Quest.

Our weekend Celebration starts with a reception for past members and invited guests on the evening of 29th of April (I know it's the Royal Wedding Day, they should have checked the dates Ha! Ha!). More details to follow in the coming weeks. Parents' Night will be on Saturday 30th of April and then we will join the Morning Worship Service at church on 1st of May. The Company Boys are arranging a weekend away at Carronvale House in May. Fundraising events to help the boys with this will be announced shortly. Exciting times ahead which we are all looking forward to.

Wilma H. Ewart O.I.C Junior Section. (Can be contacted on ewarts@btinternet.com)

Malawi Update

St Andrew's Church Daycare Centre, Thyolo is now experiencing the joys of the rainy season in Malawi. The rains having reached this area around a month ago, the garden staff have been busy these last few weeks planting the crops for the centre. They have planted maize, their staple crop and also a field of 'green maize' - a slightly sweeter version of the crop which is harvested while it's still green and then boiled or roasted over an open fire, before being eaten like corn on the cob. Although not the most efficient use of land or the most cost effective, it is a local delicacy and makes for a nice snack for the children and a great change from the usual food. There has also been enough rain to allow the cultivation of pumpkin leaves (nkwanini in Chichewa). These are used to accompany the staple 'nsima' as vegetables. (This is my favourite!) Soon after the first field of green maize begins to be harvested, they will start planting sweet potatoes and different types of peas and beans which are a great source of protein for the children.

The Daycare Centre has also formed three choirs - the nursery, junior school and senior school choirs. They have even been practising all together and performed for John Searle on his recent visit. They are looking forward to performing for the 2011 mission team when they visit in July. Kiri has also suggested a trip to Namisu to compete against their choir!

The residence has now been fully functioning for several months. Kiri has been continuing to budget for improvements to the centre with a sofa set and dining tables and chairs being added recently. The boarders were all given new uniforms and clothes for this new semester at school also. They along with the daycare children have all been working hard and continue to do well in class. The daycare teachers have been continuing to teach the children vocational skills along with their mainstream subjects.

Christmas day was a big highlight for the children. All the daycare and boarders came into the school despite Christmas falling on a Saturday. After their church service the children were treated to an exciting meal of rice with chicken. In Malawi rice is only grown in certain wetter regions and for most ordinary people is too expensive to buy apart from on rare occasions. So rice is a very special delicacy symbolising an important event! Although many families in Malawi will treat themselves to rice on Christmas day, it is unlikely that these children would have had rice at home and many may never have had rice before.

Chicken on top of that is an expensive meat and a sign of wealth in many villages would be by owning a chicken or two - on a similar kind of level to a Rolex watch or a Prada handbag. Chickens are not killed lightly, and these scrawny birds are also saved for special occasions.) The children were also given their bottle of Coke or Fanta etc. Much to their delight, those 300ml bottles lasted the kids all day, and were proudly flaunted, much like many kids around Arbroath would have flaunted their iPhone 4 or their shiny new iPod. (In Malawi it is a common village tradition for parents on Christmas day to hand their children K50 (20p) as a treat, to go to the shop and buy a bottle of juice. That bottle is sipped all day, and often shared with friends who didn't get any.

The house parents put on an entertainment programme and the children performed, like a talent show. They also had some traditional dancing and later a football and netball competition. All in all the kids had a great day and each got a new set of clothes which they were delighted with and of course was badly needed by many. The nursery and standard 1 kids all also got a pair of good sturdy shoes, as most children in Malawi walk around with no shoes on as it is not seen as worth buying children shoes. (However this is dangerous as it opens the kids up to worm infection from a small parasite called a 'hookworm' - these worms attach onto the base of unequipped individuals' feet with their hooks and burrow through the skin.)

Meet Crifton Luka (see photo on back page). At 3 months old, Crifton is our youngest beneficiary at St. Andrew's Daycare, Thyolo. Crifton was just two weeks old when his mother died. There had unfortunately been multiple complications with the birth and though she hung onto life determinedly Crifton's mother was just too weak to survive and eventually passed away - a tragically common occurrence in rural Malawi. Crifton's Grandmother was too poor to support him, as a tin of formula costs nearly two of the average weeks wages and Crifton's Grandmother will be below the average line. Crifton still lives with his Grandmother, but now St. Andrew's Church Daycare supports him with food and clothing and he has a close eye kept on him by all the daycare staff.

Please continue to pray for your child and all the work at the Daycare Centre, including baby Crifton,

God bless

Becky

The Bible in a Year

What a great response we've had to our *Bible in a Year* Church Challenge! We've supplied over seventy of these special bibles and, considering that in lots of cases couples or families are sharing, that's the better part of a hundred members of our congregation who have committed to reading the whole of the Bible in a year!!

Only good can come from such an undertaking as more and more of us spend time daily reading God's Word. And with this year marking the 400th anniversary of the publishing of the *Authorised Version* of the Bible, what better year to do it in!

Throughout the rest of 2011, we're going to have various

other special events and features highlighting the Bible as being the key resource available to the Christian Church. Along with churches across the length and breadth of the UK, we've signed up to the *Biblefresh* pledge, committing ourselves to making sure that the Bible is central to our life and that we regularly get it down from the dusty shelf and into our hands! For more info on *Biblefresh*, check out: www.biblefresh.com

Finally, those of you who are taking part in the *Bible in a Year* challenge, don't forget to get involved in the online discussion forums through which you can share with others what you're thinking and wondering and hear from them about their reflections. (The web address together with usernames and passwords can be had from our Church Office.)

Worship Core Group

The Worship Group's members are Rev. Martin Fair, Alan Marr, Amy Ramsay, David Searle, Elaine Anderson (Leadership Link), Jocelyn Slater, Judy Spink, Sheila Davidson, Mary Spink, Lawrie Harris, Isobel Mitchell and Audrey Brown.

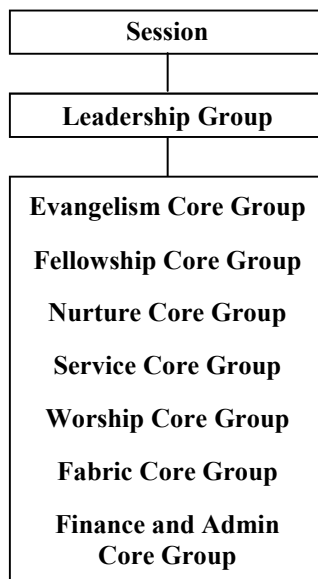
The group meets as required to discuss pertinent issues which concern worship services in St Andrew's Church.

These have included –

- arrangements and seating formations for special Communion services like the Advent and Easter all-age communions.
- the balance between modern and traditional praise
- how to support efforts to evangelise using the internet channels like Facebook and Twitter
- prayer triplets throughout Lent
- establishing a 'Quiet Corner' for after-service contact and/or prayerful support for the congregation
- establishing a booklet for note-taking and questions which arise during the preaching of the word and readings from scripture.

Some of these ideas are still to be put in place. Some have been more successful than

St Andrew's Church Structure



others. We were disappointed when our 'Walk with God in 2010' footsteps banner never finally happened, although some responded to the craft and share opportunity last January.

Watch this space, however, for seeing some of the above becoming reality.

We would appreciate prayers to support us in these aims.

Audrey Brown

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

Sunday 6
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 13
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 20
11 am - Worship Service
incorporating a Celebration
of Holy Communion

Friday 27
11 am - All-age Worship for
the whole family!
4-6 pm - **Messy Church**

MARCH

Sunday 6
11 am - Worship Service
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 13
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 20
11 am - Worship Service;
Main service followed by
short Communion

Sunday 27
11 am - Worship Service
4-6 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 (except January).

"I couldn't put it down!"

At the third time of asking, we eventually managed to hold an evening dedicated to the novel, *The Shack*! A very full and enlightening discussion took place with everyone contributing their thoughts about the themes of the book and how, in particular, it had helped them in terms of their *picture of God*.

At the end of the evening, it seemed to all present that it would be a good idea to do it more often! And so it was decided that

we would select another book and meet again in due course to share our responses to it. There and then, another title was suggested and agreed upon – Adrian Plass's book, *Never Mind the Reversing Ducks*. We've subsequently found there may be issues with sourcing copies of this book and if so we will return to it later.

But the main point is that there seems to be a definite sense that a reading and sharing group would be a welcome addition to the life of the congregation. Watch for more details, and, why not get reading?!

Eco Corner

Don't throw it away – give it away!

After the cold and snow of the past couple of months, most of us are looking forward longingly to spring – but probably not to the spring cleaning! While sorting through your cupboards, you'll probably end up with a pile of stuff which is tempting just to dump in the skip next time you're at the recycling centre. There is a better way: join the **Arbroath Freegle Group** (it costs nothing to join) and give your neighbours the chance to re-use the things you don't want.

Arbroath Freegle is an email list that helps you give

stuff away when you need to get rid of it, but don't want to throw it in the bin.

You can also save things from landfill by asking for what you need; often someone is about to throw it away or it's been sitting in a cupboard unused for years. There are almost 1200 people in the group, so there are a lot of potential recipients; almost everything I've offered has been gratefully received by someone who's put it to good use.

So when you're reducing the amount of stuff you have, try using Arbroath Freegle to re-use it; it's better than Recycling! Visit -

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ArbroathFreegle/>
to find out more, or join by emailing a request to -
ArbroathFreegle@yahoo.co.uk.

Linda McDonald (For the Service Core Group)

The Many Years Before The King James Bible

Every schoolchild will know that for hundreds of years in the British Isles there were few people who could read or write. Learning was kept alive in the monasteries, though many monks were illiterate. Oxford University came into being in the 12th century, Cambridge University in the 13th century and St Andrews University in 1413. But these places of learning were available almost exclusively for the wealthy and for clergy. There was virtually no schooling for the vast majority of the people. The nobility employed live-in tutors for their children, but none of the common folk were so privileged.

In churches the Bible was read mostly in Latin. Pictures and carvings were used to depict some of the biblical scenes and stories. True, a few parts of the Bible were translated into Old English, and other parts were made into rhymes set to popular tunes. But that was all. So ignorance of the Good News hung like a dark cloud across the land.

The church in the Middle Ages was extremely powerful. Many of the highest positions in the government were held by bishops; the State's business was hugely influenced by them. But a few evangelical scholars who knew Latin, and therefore could read the Bible for themselves, came to believe that such power of the churches was not at all what Jesus had taught his followers. They understood the Gospels to be saying that Christian leaders should live simple, honest, upright lives. That certainly was not true of the wealthy church dignitaries who occupied great palaces and grand houses with retinues of servants.

One of these evangelical Oxford scholars was called John Wycliffe; he lived in the 14th century. An ordained priest of the church, he gathered around him a band of learned men and inspired them to translate parts of the Bible into English. He preached passionate biblical sermons in Oxford on upright living, grace and forgiveness. But he was branded a heretic for criticising the life-style of many of the bishops and other clergy. Though his enemies failed in their attempt to bring him to trial and so condemn him to be burned to death, they did succeed in silencing him. Nevertheless, in spite of persecution his followers continued to translate more of the Bible into English and spread his opinions.

But the printing press had not yet been invented, so every single copy of Wycliffe's Bible had to be written out by hand. Obviously there were very few such copies and they were extremely expensive to buy. So in spite of Wycliffe's efforts, the Scriptures were still largely unavailable for the vast majority of the people. But the work he had done at least meant that many passages of the Bible could be read in some of the churches in English.

About seventy years after Wycliffe's death, a German called Johaan Gutenberg invented the printing press. The very first printed Bible was in Latin; it was published in the year 1454. Over the next sixty years there appeared printed copies of the Old Testament in the original Hebrew and of the New Testament in the original Greek. These were produced in large numbers and made the original books of the Bible available to far more scholars than previously.

The next important person in the story of the English Bible was William Tyndale. In 1522 when Tyndale was twenty-eight years old, Martin Luther had provided the German nation with a translation of the New Testament in their own language. William Tyndale was convinced that the absence of a widely available English translation was the cause of the huge ignorance in the church as to what Christianity was all about. But because Luther was regarded by Henry VIII as a heretic, any suggestion of copying for England what Luther had done for the German people was strictly forbidden on pain of death.

So Tyndale left England for the continent armed with Hebrew, Greek, Latin and German copies of the Scriptures. By 1526 printed copies of his translation of the New Testament directly from the original Greek were flooding into England. By this time William Tyndale was almost penniless. The Bishop of London was gathering as many copies of the New Testament as he could find and burning them publicly at St Paul's Cross. He arranged for a merchant to go to Antwerp and buy up the entire remaining stock of Tyndale's New Testament. The money paid for these hundreds of copies saved Tyndale from complete bankruptcy, even though the Bibles had been bought for the bishop to burn! But with the bishop's money Tyndale was able to have thousands more New Testaments printed and secretly smuggled into England.

He started to work on the Old Testament, but before he could complete this mammoth task he was arrested, tried and—after languishing for many months in solitary confinement in a dark cold prison cell—was condemned to death and burnt at the stake. He was only 42 years old. His last words were a great cry: 'Lord, open the eyes of the King of England!' In fact God answered his prayer for Henry VIII's second wife, Anne Boleyn, fervently supported a scholar called Miles Coverdale who completed Tyndale's unfinished task; with Queen Anne's protection and considerable influence on the king, Coverdale was able to make printed copies of the complete English Bible widely available throughout the land.

In the next issue of Quest, we will see how the King James Version grew out of the work of all three of these courageous men, John Wycliffe, William Tyndale and Miles Coverdale.

D Searle

Service Core Group - Fairtrade

On Sunday, March 6th, there will be a Fair Trade Stall in the hall after the Church service. Please visit the stall and see the goods on offer.

Youthful Efforts

Our Youth Group have raised a magnificent £2,007 by packing bags in Morrisons. Their unbounded energy, enthusiasm and commitment is a credit to them, and also their Leaders and Parents. Well done!

Party Time!

Among their recent endeavours, the Service Core Group staged the latest in their *Acts of Random Kindness* by way of a children's Christmas party. Made available to children of our parish and run in conjunction with the committee of the Bruce Road Community Flat, the evening proved to be a fantastic success with somewhere between sixty and seventy kids turning up (almost all of them from beyond our church family). So, this really was an evening when the congregation was able to stress the *WELCOME* part of its ethos, with the doors being flung open and the party – food, refreshments and all – being offered free of charge! Free also, was the highlight of the entertainment package, an appearance by Fat Cat! Given that these children had never met the large, pink furry one before, it was great to watch their reactions!!

But above all, this was a great example of congregation and community working together and the Service Core Group is to be thanked for its thinking of and delivery of the event. We're hopeful that we can continue to work with the Community Flat Association and so improve these links still further in the years ahead.



Angus Milne pours juice for the children



Crifton Luka (see page 5)

Service Core Group An Appeal for Toiletries

Often when a woman turns up at the Women's Refuge, she has nothing with her - not even a toothbrush.

In the week before Christmas we delivered to the Refuge 25 small bags of toiletries, each with a message and details of St Andrew's Church attached. The Refuge staff were delighted and promised that

each new admission would receive a bag.

We would like to give another batch of bags to the Refuge in the spring and so are appealing for donations of toiletries - perhaps you received too many toiletries at Christmas! Hotel samples brought home from holiday are ideal for the bags.

There will be a box for donations at church or the toiletries can be handed in to the office or to any member of the Service Core Group. Thank you.

Watoto Children's Choir

We're very excited to announce that the Watoto Children's Choir is coming to St. Andrew's Church to be part of our Easter celebrations this spring! This news is hot off the press, the booking having been confirmed the day before the QUEST print deadline. The members of the choir are being hosted in Dundee, where they will be performing on Easter Day, but will travel through to Arbroath to give a concert on Saturday evening, 24th April.

As many of you will know – perhaps having heard similar choirs at Old & Abbey Church in previous years – the Watoto organisation forms these choirs in various countries in Africa then gives them the opportunity to travel around the world, bringing to large audiences everywhere their very own brand of African rhythm, music and dance. But as well as the choir tours, a huge amount of work is done in the countries of origin by way of improving the

lives of the whole community. So, naturally, we are delighted to be bringing Watoto back to Arbroath and, for the first time, to St. Andrew's Church.

For this event there will be no charge to get in but an offering will be taken to support the work of the choir and the work being done in their home countries.

Let's make sure that our church is packed to capacity for this event! Bring friends from far and wide for a not-to-be-forgotten evening.

Further details to follow in future editions of QUEST. Meanwhile, why not check out the following web links?

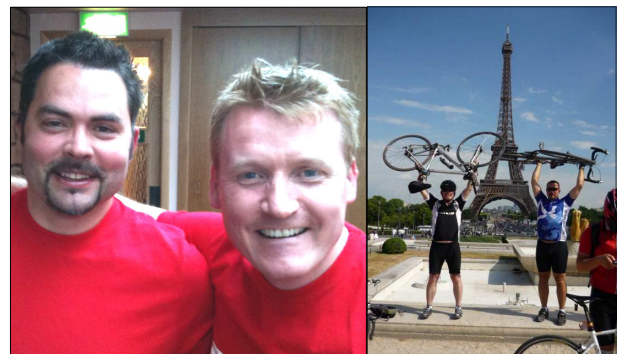
<http://www.watoto.com>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Gs_kgxbOII

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyLCcl8dd0o>



Our Senior Sunday Club children had a great party with Santa



Rab and David raised £3,614 for Christian Aid