



Our Treasured Treasurer Retires

Derek Scott has retired from the position of Treasurer of St. Andrew's Church, a position he has held since January 1979. On Sunday 20th March, in an emotional farewell address, Derek presented the accounts to the Annual Meeting of the congregation and urged members to continue in faithful stewardship.

But in terms of faithfulness, Derek himself has, of course, been the model! His dedication through these 32 years has been unwavering and that, combined with his undoubted ability, has meant that our finances have been brilliantly managed to the point that we have never had to worry about everything being in order.

No one should underestimate the size of the job of church treasurer – and that has only increased in recent years with the creation of OSCAR to oversee Scottish charity regulation. Real skill and ability is required and Derek had that in abundance.

But on top of that, he possesses two great Christian qualities; integrity and humility. With Derek in charge, there was never any need to doubt that monies were being handled properly. We trusted Derek 100%. One might say that he inspired trust! But all the while he was thoroughly humble, perfectly prepared to do his work behind the scenes without the need for recognition.

To say that we are grateful to Derek is to run into the



Rev Martin Fair thanks Derek Scott for 32 years of dedicated service. Derek was also presented with a gift from the congregation.

territory of words being inadequate to express what is really felt. Even so, it's right that we've taken the opportunity to say 'thank you' to him. We should never take our volunteers for granted. Without them, there would be no church! People like Derek really do make the difference.

Let's all look for ways in which we can emulate him – by using our time and talents for the building up of the church and of God's Kingdom.



Susan Godsall

We warmly welcome Susan to the position of Church Treasurer and have every confidence that she will serve her church extremely well in this very important position. Susan is the daughter of Allan and Roberta Brand. She is married to Mark and has two daughters Leanne and Claire.

After working with William Brand & Son as an office junior, Susan soon went on to the purchase ledger position in Geddes Group where she spent 7 years. In the early years of their marriage, they travelled around the UK and

this allowed Susan to work in varying sectors, culminating in gaining the post of Finance Manager within the business sector in Leeds.

For the last 13 years Susan has been the Finance Officer for Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations (AAVO) where her career has developed to include the running and management of a busy payroll service, training and support for voluntary groups or organisations requiring financial guidance, and independent examination of charity accounts. Her work as an Independent Examiner came about in 2010 when she qualified as Licentiate Member of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners (ACIE).

Susan's voluntary work within the church includes supporting the Sunday Club for the last 10 years, and she is a member of the Finance Core Group and the Events Team.

CONTACTS**CHURCH OFFICE : 431135**

Alison Davie

Monday to Friday
9 am to noon**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD
873238**MINISTER EMERITUS**

David Searle

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Jane Miller : 875235

TREASURER

Derek Scott : 878305

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

Ian Robertson : 877519

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Janis Clark : 878594

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Kim Marr : 430505

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

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Margaret McIntosh : 876993

PRAYER CO-ORDINATOR

Judy Spink : 872395

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Norma Beattie : 873442

**ADMINISTRATOR and
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Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

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

March 2011

Baptisms - None**Weddings** - Bill Davidson & Jackelyn Ombajen**Funerals** - None

(Our minister conducts funerals for all people residing in our parish. Only members of St. Andrew's Church are listed here.)

IMPORTANT DATES

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 15th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 19nd April (Word-Processed file)

Summer Fair -11th June 2011

The planning team have had their first meeting for this event and there will be more detail in the next Quest. In the meantime would you consider finding items for the following stalls:

Books and Toys - in good condition.**Surprise parcels.****Items for tombola and the raffle** - Mary Nicol would be happy to receive any items for these two stalls from now on.

The leaders of the stalls will be seeking volunteers to work in shifts throughout the day and we will also need help with setting up at the beginning and clearing up at the end. More information to follow.

**Arbroath Friends of Guiding
Spring Coffee Morning**in St Andrew's Church Halls
on Saturday 30th April , 2011

10 am – 12 noon

Tickets are £1 and include
coffee/tea or juiceStalls include cake & candy,
Easter themed tombola, face
painting and lots more!**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 2011

Dear friends,

Those of us who are engaged with our *Bible in a Year* challenge may well have been struggling in recent weeks as we've ploughed our way through the latter parts of Exodus and Leviticus and Numbers. Much of it has been heavy going, with seeming repetition and a level of detail concerning animal sacrifices that would need a butcher to get to the bottom of!! Doubtless, most of us preferred the stories that made up the greater part of Genesis and the earlier parts of Exodus.

Even so, hang in there and let us continue *to search and reflect* believing with Paul that *all scripture is useful*. Elsewhere in this edition of QUEST you'll find an article written by one of our members who, like others, was finding those Old Testament books heavy going – until he had something of a breakthrough in terms of interpretation. Have a read of what Jim has to say in the following pages.

For my own part, though some of it has been undeniably boring (is a minister allowed to say that??!!) I've found something virtually every day that has spoken to me. In Numbers c9, for instance, there is a passage in which it is reported that the Israelites stayed in camp when the cloud of the Lord's presence hovered over the tent of meeting but that they packed up and moved whenever the cloud moved in front of them. Here we have a metaphor for obedience to the guiding hand of God – *Thy hand, O God, has guided, thy flock from age to age*.

But what struck me in particular was that sometimes God asks us to stay put, to linger in his presence. I've never had any trouble thinking of God's guidance being about his leading us onwards, from where we are to where he wants us to be. But it's never struck me so clearly before that sometimes his guiding of us is that we might stay put, in the same place!

I'm sure there are ways in which that insight might apply to each of us individually and to us all as a congregation. As I approach my upcoming sabbatical my overwhelming sense is that God is saying to me, *Stop what you're doing, be still, and let me refresh you*. That, I'm sure, is how he is leading me – to linger in his presence. For nearly twenty years I've been going full steam ahead, maybe charging on when God was asking me to stand still. I think its time for me to take seriously the upside down version of the familiar phrase – *Don't just do something – stand there!*

As a congregation of God's people we need to find the right balance between *standing there* and *doing something*. Perhaps you do, too, in terms of your own situation? Let us all be open, then, that we might properly sense when the cloud of God's presence is guiding us to move on and when to rest awhile.

God bless,

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

martin.fair@sky.com

Summer Services

At its meeting of 8th March, the Kirk Session decided to change the timing of our summer services – from an 11am to a 10am start. This, of course, is nothing new; it was our practice over many years, though not last year or the year before when we were out of our own building. (We have standing permission from The Presbytery of Angus to make this change.)

The general feeling is that an earlier start time allows people to come to worship and still to have the rest of the day for family outings etc. Those of you who rely on public transport may find that this presents problems. The Kirk Session is committed to ensuring that no-one need miss out and that those who need transport will be provided with it. Please contact the Church Office in good time should you wish to arrange a lift through the summer.

This arrangement will run from Sunday 3rd July to Sunday 14th August inclusive.

Resurrection Celebration

In recent years, *Dundee For Christ* has run an event on Easter evening in the Caird Hall. Generally, these have been great nights with inspiring worship and challenging speakers.

This year, given that no such event is taking place, we're going to hold our own Resurrection Celebration!! On the evening of Sunday 24th we'll have equally inspiring worship, drama and dance with our young people and an Easter message just right for the first evening of our collective *new lives!*

So, all in all, it's going to be a great weekend – and rightly so! Easter is crucial to Christians and if we can't make that weekend special then we should give up!! Who knows what will come out of this special service, when Jesus comes and stands among us and declares, *'Peace be with you.'*

Clerk's Corner

The Sabbatical

When the Kirk Session and Leadership Group first agreed to Martin's sabbatical leave, there was an immediate response to the need to plan for such an event. A small team has been working along with Martin at identifying all areas of church life and ensuring that, where necessary, there is a named person ready to lead certain activities, meetings etc. The list of these areas is considerable and what follows will give you a flavour of the extent of the planning. Please note that not every event/organisation/ happening is mentioned!

While Martin is away, any calls to his current home phone will be diverted to the office and he will have a different number for his mobile which will only be available to his family. There's a message here for all of us, isn't there? We need to give Martin a complete break from us and not disturb his period of contemplation.

Martin's last service will be on Sunday 1st May. This will be a very special service because it is the culmination of the BB 50th Anniversary weekend, includes a baptism, and will be an all age worship service. I'm sure that this is an occasion you will not want to miss, as we take the opportunity to wish our minister God's blessing on his very special spiritual journey.

Whilst Martin is still finalising his plans, we are able to give you some of the detail of what he will be undertaking.

A retreat at Pluscarden Abbey near Elgin will enable him to study Christian contemplative practices and he will also further this study through the works of Richard Foster at Glasgow University.

One month will be spent in America with Elaine and the boys as their summer holiday, although he will not be totally free from the pulpit as he will be preaching on two Sundays as part of the exchange with the Rev Dan McCoig. The latter will reside at our manse from 18th July until 14th August and will preach on one or two of the Sundays within this period. We may also have another guest preacher on one occasion.

Rev David Searle will be Interim Moderator during most

of the sabbatical and will lead us in Sunday worship. He will also undertake a weekly commitment of pastoral work along with Kim Marr, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator and Lawrence Davie. David will also, along with others, lead the Wednesday morning service and undertake the school chaplaincy work at Warddykes Primary School. Work at Arbroath Academy will be carried out by Sheila Dunphy, Youth Worker, and members of the Malawi team.

All planned meetings of the Kirk Session, Leadership Group, Ministry Team, Core Groups, Home Groups, etc. will take place as normal and any funerals will be taken by David Searle or by one of the other ministers in the town.

Elaine, Callum, Andrew and Fraser will be at home during term time and you may see them at church on some of the Sundays. Elaine, however, will not be leading the Sunday Club work and this will be undertaken by a team headed by Sharon Hamilton. This will include all the necessary arrangements for Sunday Club prizegiving and the Church Family Picnic on 26th June. The picnic will again be at Wellbank Park.

Quest will be published as normal and a range of contributors will ensure that the usual high standard is maintained. There will be an opportunity for new contributors to put pen to paper. As per the normal practice there will be no Quest in August.

Responsibility for the June Fair will rest with the very efficient team who organised this last year and by the time you read this they will have had their first meeting. Many of you will again be asked to assist at the various stalls etc.

Finally, what is our role? I'm sure that you would want to be a part of the St Andrew's Church which shows that it can rise to any occasion. Do you remember how, when we were out of our building for a year, we just picked ourselves up and went to the identified place for worship. We enjoyed the challenge of change and stayed together as a close-knit family. It would have been easy to have avoided doing some of our usual things because we were in a different place, but we were open to the changes, embraced them and got on with worshipping our God. Now is another chance to do just that – to support Martin by allowing him a sabbatical period secure in the knowledge of our continuing commitment to witness. In short, God's business as usual.

7th Arbroath B.B.

By the time you read this we will be only a few weeks away from our 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

We held a Quiz Night on Friday 25th of March and a big thank you to Michael and Laura Clark for all the arrangements that had to be made for a very successful night. Also we were shaking our cans at Gayfield Park for B.B.Funds and cheering on the "Lichties" as well.

We are all looking forward to the end of year celebrations and a full report will appear in Quest in due course. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers and helping us to advance Christ's Kingdom among Boys.

From the Officers of 7th Arbroath B.B.

The Next Alpha

Already, plans are underway for our next big *Alpha* course! This course will have its launch night on September 7th. The planning group have things are underway with the logistics etc.

But here's what really matters. NOW is the time for all of us to be thinking about someone we might invite to *Alpha*. Ultimately, *Alpha* is the means by which the church gets to share its core beliefs with those who have little or no Christian experience and/ or commitment. It's great when church members take part – whether as a revision course or to get back to basics. But ultimately, we've got to get beyond our existing membership!

So, in the coming months, be praying for friends, neighbours or colleagues. Just imagine each one of us invited one friend – wow! What a struggle we'd have to fit everyone in. But what a brilliant problem that would be!!

GUILD NEWS

What a wonderful month March has been, with our two meetings so very well attended. The 7th was our own Songs of Praise and we had two fine gentlemen to boost our singing voices. Thanks to Bill and Robert for coming along. We had a good mixture of old and new hymns and choruses. Our grateful thanks go to Jane Miller for her wonderful playing. A selection of prayers, readings, poems and funny articles on church life added to the evening and I would like to thank everyone for their participation.

On the 21st we welcomed Sandra and David from McGregor Balfour. They came to tell us about the history of jute and had some lovely merchandise to sell

after their talk. Sandra had already been to the Friends Club and so we knew it was to be a good night but nothing quite prepared us for the hilarity of their stories. We enjoyed hearing about how Dundee became the centre of the Jute industry and how Sandra had developed the family firm in today's market.

This was the last speaker of our current year and our AGM is on the 4th of April. We will round up our theme on that evening and look forward to having an end of session meal on 4th May at Angus College. All members are asked to check Guild board in big hall for other Guild events in the coming months though they will also be intimated in the bulletin.

Doris Bowie

Messy Church

Messy Church has enjoyed a wonderfully successful year with Elaine and her hard-working team of crafters and kitchen helpers laying on great family-style church from September to Easter.

Numbers have grown through the year as more and more families have come to appreciate the mix of fun and games, simple worship and evening meal.

Now, Messy Church has been put back in the box that all concerned might enjoy a well-deserved rest until the autumn relaunch.

News From Becky

The rains in Malawi have been very poor this year with the Blantyre area being especially arid. Most of Aquaid's day-care centres' crops have therefore become very dry and much of the planted crops have died. Please pray for these centres and also for the thousands of poor subsistence farmers who have been affected by this drought. However Thyolo has been very fortunate and has got plenty of rain this year; for this Kiri is very glad and thanks God for his provision this year. In Thyolo it has been raining 2 or 3 times a week - the near perfect amount of rain for maize growth. The maize is very green and is growing well. The garden staff at St. Andrews day care, Thyolo, have just returned for a 3 day course on 'farming God's way'. This is a technique used extensively in S. Africa and Zimbabwe but is very new to Malawi. In Malawi farmers tend to plant on top of the troughs, since there is a lack of fertile top soil. However, when it rains the water then runs down the hill off of the trough taking many minerals with it and depleting the soil. Farming God's way is a technique whereby after the top soil is dug up and hoed, the seeds are planted within a circular dipped 'bowl'. This collects the rain water and has been shown to increase maize yield. This technique is used throughout Aquaid daycare centres and is now being adopted by St. Andrews Church Day-care also.

Recently in Malawi there has been a huge problem with rural teachers striking. The government had been having a substantial problem in getting qualified teachers to teach in rural schools, since in remote areas there is no electricity, grocery stores, or even markets. The government solution to this problem was to promise those teachers an extra MK5000 per month (i.e. extra £16 or so.) Unfortunately, the government didn't have the money to sustain this and eventually the money ran out 7 months ago. The day-care centre children have therefore been unable to attend school since it's closed. They have all therefore been spending all day at the day-care centre, being taught by the teachers there. It is a difficult situation which will hopefully be resolved soon as it leaves students, especially those at the top end of school who don't have access to facilities like

those of our day-care students, in a very difficult situation. Please pray for a quick resolution of the issue.

All the children are doing very well at the moment and continue to perform well. Three of the children were top of their class in school before the strike. They are being worked hard by the staff at the day-care centre in order that they don't fall behind with their work. They have been helping in the garden and are enjoying their agricultural lessons. Some of the girls have been taking sewing lessons and have begun making things. Some of the children did not have a 'respectable' school uniform. In Malawi, this offence prevents the culprit from attending school. This is seen as a very humiliating problem and Kiri quickly set about putting it right. Therefore many of the children were provided recently with new uniforms on top of the new clothes or shoes they had received for Christmas. The children were all very excited and want to thank everyone for their Christmas gifts.

Meet the Moses Family. The Moses are the house parents at the St. Andrews Church Day-care. Stephano and Victoria Moses are both in their mid-thirties, and have two young children, Iain who is 9 years old and is in Standard 3 and Esther who is just over a year old. The family have been with us for nearly a year now, having started in August of last year. They had been staying in Blantyre up until then and attended the same church as the executive administrator of Aquaid Lifeline Malawi, John Kang'ombe. The couple had proved themselves to be Godly parents and faithful servants of Christ. Stephano had been working in the match factory in Blantyre and had quite a good job. However when approached by John Kang'ombe about the possibility of working for Aquaid, the couple were excited to be serving the Lord with us in our ministry to these poor orphans. They have since settled in well and get on with the other members of staff and, of course, the nine orphans within their care. They are working hard and the teamwork with our administrator Kiri is fantastic. Please pray for this family and the children in their care, and thank God for providing a steady, Godly influence for these children.

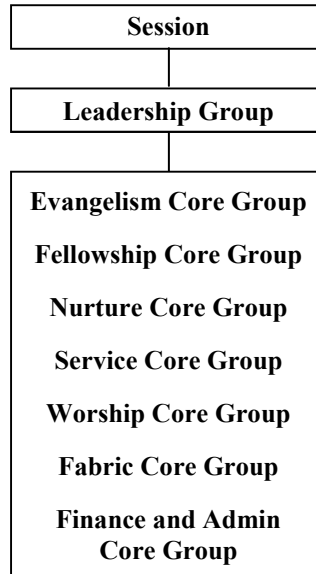
Thank-you for your prayers and continued support.

Fabric Core Group

The Fabric Group is made up of a broad spectrum of Church members, Roberta Brand, Alan McSkimming, Ken Miller, Ian Clark, Janis Clark, Ian Cameron, Tom Cargill, Dave Martin, Sandy Bowie, Ian Martin (Core Group Leader) and Ray Reaney (Fabric Convener). Our role is to maintain the Church property and make sure that it is suitable for all the many and varied users. That involves more than changing the occasional light bulb. Just like any family home, things get broken or simply worn out and with more and more people using the building there is always something needing done. But also like any family home, when everybody tidies up behind themselves things run more smoothly. If you find something that needs fixed we have a "found it-fix it" book located in the servery. While we are fortunate to have Mandy our cleaner and Janis our Church Officer, we also rely on the volunteer cleaning group to keep the sanctuary ship shape. We are always on the lookout for willing hands, not just those with "special" skills. So if you have some spare time and are willing to muck in I'm sure the cleaning group would like you to join them - contact Janis Clark.

The recent refurbishments have improved our buildings to a high standard, but rather than resting on our laurels we are now looking to get our gardens sorted out. We have quite an area of ground around the building even with the new kitchen extension into what was the Glenview memorial garden. As we are working towards eco congregation status we want to encourage our young and not so young members to get involved in improving our environment. We plan to set aside some of our ground as a vegetable garden to help encourage our children to grow their own food. Some areas will be planted up for the flower club to harvest, and provide greenery to the weekly and special flower arrangements. We hope to form an area for the crèche so they can enjoy some outdoors play, when (not if) the sun comes out. The

St Andrew's Church Structure



Glenview garden, now smaller, will be replanted to provide a quiet seating area. So if you have green fingers please get in touch.

There are regulations that we need to make sure we comply with. One recent example has been the need to have a Fire Action Plan. The users and stewards have now been trained up to make sure everyone gets out if the fire alarm goes off. If you haven't already, please read the notices near the exits on what our plan is! As always there are other things needed in the background like the regular checks and testing to make sure the alarm works, keeping our records up to date and that the risks of fire are kept in check.

There is always a need to look forward. Now that we are settled back in our home we are beginning to see some things we could do better or improve on. We need to provide more insulation to both reduce our heating costs and our carbon emissions. We could provide secure storage for cycles to encourage us all to leave the car at home. The storage space in the building isn't big enough (or we have too much stuff). The list goes on but so will we.

Ian Martin

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL

Sunday 3
11 am - Worship Service
Special invitational service for
Mothering Sunday
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 10
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 17
11 am - Palm Sunday
Celebration Service

Sunday 24
8 am - Sunrise Service
(with Old and Abbey Church,
followed by breakfast)
11 am - Easter Sunday
Family Celebration, with
all-age Communion
6.30 pm Resurrection
Celebration!

MAY

Sunday 1
11 am - Service for all ages,
featuring the Sacrament of
Baptism and Thanksgiving for
our Boys Brigade Company
8 pm - OFF the W.O.L.

Sunday 8
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 15
11 am - Worship Service;
followed by short celebration
of Communion

Sunday 22
11 am - Worship Service

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.

A New Take On The Beatitudes?

Here is some eco-food for thought and reflection from John Polhill, a member of the Iona Community:

Blessed are those who use low-energy light bulbs,
for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train,
for their lives are on God's track.

Blessed are those who use a car with low fuel consumption,
for they are in God's fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes,
for theirs is the warmth of God's love.

Blessed are you when you put yourselves out to use energy
from renewable resources,
for you have kindled the flame of the future.

Frendz

As a follow on to the Easter Holiday Club we are going to launch a new club on Friday nights called FRENZ. This will be a

Fun Club for P6 to S1

with games, crafts and much more! It will meet

**each Friday in the Church Halls
from 6.30 to 8pm – Entry £1.**

We are going to promote this in the local schools but please encourage any young people you know of this age to come along.

Malawi Fundraisers

Our last fundraiser was a Craft Fair. Thanks to all those who supported this event. We raised £655.

The fundraisers coming up are:

Race Night - Friday 22nd April – Meadowbank
Bad Taste Night - Saturday 7th May – Meadowbank
Bingo Night - Friday 13th May – British Legion
Ceilidh - Saturday 11th June – Meadowbank
Coffee Morning - Saturday 25th June – Church

Please remember to hand any old mobile phones and ink cartridges as they can be recycled for Malawi.

Leviticus and Numbers

Leviticus and Numbers are by no stretch of the imagination the most exciting or exhilarating books of the bible. In fact if truth be known, I found them to be repetitive, laborious and at times struggled to see the point of these scriptures. However when we think about whom it was written for and the time that it was written, we find clues to the relevance they have today.

After spending 400 years in Egypt the Israelites are set free through the miracles performed by the Lord. They praised Him as the one and only God for showing mercy to them. However, as soon as Moses was longer than they expected him to be on Mount Sinai, they reverted to worshipping the Gods of the Egyptians by making a golden calf. Therefore Leviticus and Numbers were written as a guide book for Holy living of the time. With this in mind and considering the many distractions we have in our everyday lives today, these Holy writings become as relevant today as they were 3,450 years ago.

There were a few scriptural gems that really stood out for me through these readings which I feel have enhanced my understanding of the great sacrifice Jesus made for each of us individually, the reason for how brutally He was tortured before being crucified, and, most of all, a far better understanding of His statement “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.” (Matthew 5:17).

Time and time again Leviticus describes how the sacrificial beasts were slaughtered and dismembered and what was to happen to all of the parts of them, at which I couldn't help but think of the Lord Jesus' horrific yet willing sacrifice for us. This was further emphasised when I read about “Azazel” which is translated as the ‘scapegoat’ in the NIV – “the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat.” (Leviticus 16:10). This really hit home how Jesus bore our sins and willingly was cast into the pits of the eternal wilderness of hell to atone for our sins before being raised to eternal life.

Another thing that struck me was the personal cost to the Israelites for the cleansing of their sins and how easy it is for us to accept the free gift Jesus gave us in sacrificing His own life in place of our sins. Bulls, goats, lambs, fine grain, fine oil and incense were all sacrificed out of the Israelites personal belongings. Over and above that, each

clan gave, as translated in the Good News version “The offerings each one brought were identical: one silver bowl weighing 50 ounces and one silver basin weighing 30 ounces, by the official standard, both of them full of flour mixed with oil for the grain offering; one gold dish weighing 4 ounces, full of incense; one young bull, one ram, and a one-year-old lamb, for the burnt offering; one goat for the sin offering; and two bulls, five rams, five goats, and five one-year-old lambs, for the fellowship offering.” (Numbers 7:12-23). This really made me think again of the true cost of the salvation I have in Jesus and how I take this for granted time and time again as I know He has made me clean enough to enter into the presence of God without any fear of reprisal or rebuke. What an awesome Saviour we have in Jesus and it is so easy to minimise what He has done for us.

In the midst of the realisation of the way Jesus has fulfilled the Law and the Prophets for us and how totally undeserving we are of this honour, we go on to read of God's instructions to Moses as to the placing of the tabernacle and where each tribe should be in relation to His dwelling place. Strategically positioning the Israelites would be no mean feat considering there were 603,550 men between the ages of 20 and 60. This would have to be at least doubled to add women, children and old men. But God knew exactly what was needed, not just for the placement of the camp, but also to show His people where He should be placed in their lives. Firstly, and most importantly, God has to be installed at the heart of the person/community. That's why the tabernacle was placed first, then little by little we build our lives/community around Him giving us the knowledge He is in our hearts. We read of the different tribes having encampments to the north, south, east and west of the tabernacle with God dwelling in the heart of the community. However God is not content to be latently living at the heart of the community so He sends members of the Levites to dwell among His people to help them grow in His power. This to me is most certainly a description of how Jesus dwells in our hearts while sending His Holy Spirit to empower us to share His love in our communities.

So, considering I began reading Leviticus and Numbers feeling it was a really laborious task I have come out the other end truly blessed by the truth that the Lord was the same back then, as He was in Jesus' time, as He is now and as He will be for evermore AMEN.

Jim McLeod



Thinking Day Service Success

Since our buildings re-opened it's been a joy to welcome outside groups into our lovely new surroundings. On Sunday 27th February, we welcomed the Guide and Scout organisations for their annual Thinking Day Parade Service. It was a real thrill to see the church filled to overflowing with these wonderfully enthusiastic young people - and supported by friends and family in the balcony.

Our church will again be filled when Warddykes Primary School comes for its Easter Service. So, on Good Friday, in the morning, the Church will be filled once again with the sounds of children's voices. It is just one aspect of proving the worth of the refurbishment by bringing more people, young and old, into our church buildings more often!

OUR TREASURER'S FAREWELL REPORT

For those who were unable to attend the AGM last Sunday, I wish to thank the Congregation for the exceptional financial support again during 2010. I reported that the Income and Expenditure for last year was:

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
General Account	153,078	135,647	17,431
Ministry Team Account	22,054	20,317	1,737
Fabric Fund Account	8,956	9,708	(752)
	184,088	165,672	18,416

In addition, our Refurbishment second Appeal received ongoing Donations of £44,502, grants of £30,000, and £20,000 from the legacy received during the year from the late David Gerrard's Executors, for which we were very grateful. In 2010 we reduced the Loan from Church of Scotland by £145,000 to a manageable amount of £100,000, and we are to be repaying a further £50,000 by the time you read this report. This means that the current SHORTFALL is £37,000 (6%) of the TOTAL COST of £603,000. This is a magnificent position to be in after only 2¼ years since the building work commenced in January, 2009. I am confident that the shortfall will be paid off before our AGM next March.

In my final Budget for St Andrew's

Church, I have produced one which is fairly similar to the above, with various additions and subtractions as required. If last year's level of income continues, then the end result will be a Surplus of £19,358. The Income Tax recoveries on Gift Aid will be reduced from 6 April from 28p to 25p in every £1 donated, so I am asking the Congregation for an extra £3,000 (£60

per week) just to cover this tax deficit. The offerings in the past 12 weeks are slightly up on 2010, so my estimate of income looks to be on target at this stage. I would ask the regular givers to WFO and Gift Aid Schemes to continue with their generous offerings this year. Members who use the Open Plate regularly should enquire with Iain Robertson, our WFO Treasurer regarding WFO Envelopes. I am sure there are still taxpayers in the congregation who could Gift Aid their offerings and increase their offering by 25% AT NO EXTRA COST TO THEMSELVES. In Christian Worship, there is an offering, not a Collection. When we give money in the offering, we give it to God, and trust that the Church will use it to enable the sharing of the Gospel.

I have prepared a summary of our Income and Expenditure for the past 38 years, which reveals that TOTAL INCOME in the General Account amounted to £1,005,908 in the past 8 years from 2003 to 2010. This enabled us to build Reserves, and following the very successful Stewardship Visitation in 2006, allowed us to have accumulated Capital to begin the Refurbishment in 2009.

I wish to thank the Congregation for their outstanding support given to me throughout my term as Treasurer, in times of need and rosier times. I wish to thank you all for my retiring presentation last Sunday. I am quite overwhelmed. It has been a privilege for me to be Treasurer of St. Andrew's Church, Arbroath under the two exceptional leaders, Rev Ian S Macleod and Rev W Martin Fair. Since the amalgamation of Hopemount and St Ninian's Churches in 1959, the late Mr Ben Esplan and myself have shared the Treasurership over the 52 years of St Andrew's Church.

Our third Treasurer, Mrs Susan Godsall, needs no introduction to St Andrew's Church, so please continue to give her the same level of financial support in the coming years.

Best Wishes to all from a
THANKFUL TREASURER.

A. Derek Scott.



Going To Watoto?

The long-awaited visit of the Watoto Choir, from Uganda, is almost upon us – Saturday evening, 23rd April. But the tickets are almost all gone!! Almost certainly it's going to be a sell out so if you haven't as yet got a ticket, you'd better move quickly. **Call the Church Office on 431135.**

Look out for pictures and a report of the concert in the next QUEST.