

Good To Be Back



Dear Friends,

It's good to be back! Having my first ever sabbatical was exactly what was needed and I feel much the better for it – and very grateful that it was granted to me – but it is great to be back!

It was a lovely to go to other churches around the town and further afield but I really missed being at St. Andrew's – not so much in terms of being upfront but just being among you all, my family. So, yes, it's great to be back!

As part of my time off, as a family we spent almost five weeks in the USA – mostly in Virginia but including side trips to New York City, Washington, West Virginia and Williamsburg. What a wonderful time we had! In Virginia, we were in the historic town of Winchester and became part of the community of First Presbyterian Church. They were a very welcoming people and there was much that they were doing that caused me to think about our own practice. It rarely makes sense for one congregation to copy another but it always makes sense to learn from what others are doing.

Much of my sabbatical was a learning experience. I did lots of reading, something that there's often not enough time for, and I'll be sharing some of that in the months ahead. But I learned a lot about myself – about who I am, about what makes me tick and about how I need to balance my life. My firm intention is to put some of these lessons into practice! Already, I've decided that there needs to be more consistent time off and that to make that happen I need to do less of some things to allow me to concentrate on what really matters. The trivial will always compete with the important; we all need to be able to see the difference between the two and live and act accordingly.

On my last Sunday before my sabbatical started I quoted *Arnie*, saying 'I'll be back'. Well, I am. And it feels great!

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

Exploring Life Through Alpha

Our new Alpha courses are up and running with around thirty people in total involved between our two sessions. Gaynor Scott is facilitating the afternoon session, which runs from 2 – 3.30pm, and various others of our trained group leaders are taking charge in the evening (pictured below).

This year, we have an age range stretching from teenage boys to ladies in their eighties. Wow! While the afternoon group has been enjoying Gaynor's marvellous home baking the evening group has started with a hot meal, beautifully prepared as always by members of our Fellowship Group. Thereafter, Alpha is about getting to grips with the big issues – something we all need to do at one time or another.



Fiona Robb, Lawrence Davie, Louise Smith, Elaine Fair, Theresa Beal, Jane Stewart, Heather Black, Kerry Bowick, James Beal, Martin Fair, David Kidd, David Cochrane, Jim MacLeod, David Tarrant, Thomas Coutts, Connor Goodwin, George Strachan, Marcellus Larnyoh

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Alison Davie : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Parish Records****September 2011****Baptisms** - None**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - Vikki Gammie & Trevor Park;
Leigh Hodson & Kevin Sievwright**Funerals** - Maureen Dennison**CDs of Services**

These are available for any housebound members who are unable to attend either Sunday or Wednesday services. If interested, please contact Ken Miller.

For all other members, please note that the weekly sermons go on our website and are therefore accessible for those who may miss some due to being on holidays etc.

IMPORTANT DATES**NOVEMBER 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 21st October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 25th October (Word-Processed file)

**Thank You
Havilah Coffee Morning**

Thanks to everyone who contributed their homebaking, time and energies to Havilah for the coffee morning on 3rd September. We were delighted to raise £392.37.

Sewing Bee

Meets every Friday in the Session Room from 10am to 12pm. Feel free to drop in any time to join in or for help or advice on some of your own work. No weekly commitment necessary.

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

4.30 to 6.00 pm – Youth Group

8.00 pm – Senior Youth Group

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 – Friends 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)

6.30 pm – Frenz Fun Club for P6 to S1 (855333)

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.

Worship

Worship is the beating heart of every congregation of God's people. It's important, therefore, that we connect ourselves through worship, in one way or another. At St. Andrew's, there are plenty of opportunities available.

Firstly, there is our Sunday morning service at 11am. I'm sure that Sunday morning will always be important for Christians. Right back at the beginning it was one of the things that made the Christians distinctive in their moving away from mainstream Judaism. They came to see Sunday as the first day of the week, the day of resurrection, and we should hang on to that – despite the rampant secularism that wants to make every day of the week the same.

Then there is our Sunday evening worship time, an addition to our programme for 2011. There was a day when evening services were standard in pretty well every church but, for better or for worse, that day is long gone. Our one comes with an important difference – you get your dinner before it starts!! Following something to eat at 6pm, the worship itself starts at 6.30pm and runs for about an hour. So far, the evening worship has featured lots of new speakers and various worship leaders – a great place, therefore, for new talent to come to the fore. We'll continue to develop our evening service and hopefully we'll be able to build it up in terms of numbers as well. Generally the attendance is upwards of fifty people but there's no reason why it can't double!

Finally there is our Wednesday morning service which has been alive and well since 1999. It's a forty minute service featuring a short talk, prayers and some songs and hymns. As with all of our services, anyone can come but of course it's ideal for those who are available during the day and for whom Sundays are difficult. The service is followed by coffee and biscuits and almost everyone stays for that time of fellowship.

So, the options are many. What matters is that you find your place in the worshipping life of the congregation. See you there sometime soon!

Ten thoughts

1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.

2] So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large and the Rear view Mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.

3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong don't worry, they can't last long either.

5] Old friends are gold! New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a dia-

Heart and Soul 2012

For as many years as anyone can remember, the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland has met each May and, as part of that, the commissioners have been invited to a Garden party at Holyrood House, hosted by the Queen's Representative to the General Assembly. It was a mix of polite conversation and finely-cut cucumber sandwiches!

Last year, no such garden party took place. Instead, something brand new took its place – an event called *Roll Away the Stone*, held in Princes Street Gardens. In effect, the garden party was replaced by a party in the garden!

Over 5,000 turned up for this new event and, in feedback received, over 90% of them rated it as either 'very good' or 'excellent.' With the response being so positive, the powers that be have decided to do something similar next year – but to make it even bigger and better!

It is going to be called *Heart & Soul 2012* and will take place on Sunday 20th May in the afternoon (this being the weekend of the General Assembly.) The programme is being worked on at the moment but will include events and attractions for all ages. While it is aimed at members of the Church of Scotland, it will, of course, be open to all Christians and to those with no particular faith. The public nature of the event means it is highly likely that passers by will be impacted by some of what they see and hear.

Our own minister has been invited to join the planning team for the event and he has been given the particular responsibility of planning and leading the closing worship celebration.

While our own service will go ahead as usual on that day, it is likely that we will run a bus (or two?) to Edinburgh for this special event. With churches gathering from all across the country it would be a shame to think that we were not there. And, beyond that, we will need to go and cheer on our minister!!

So put the date in your diary now and start praying for a gloriously sunny day in May.

mond, you always need a base of gold!

6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"

7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in his abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems he has faith in your abilities.

8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eyesight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10] Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

Malawi 11 Report

It's hard to believe that we have now been back for 2 months. It was a very busy trip but a really worthwhile one.

We started off for a few days at Namisu – a chance for the team to get orientated. We organised a school sports day between Aquaid and another local school. The team organised and supervised all the sports and we can happily report that once again Aquaid won the Scottish Cup.

We also managed a trip to Thyolo to meet our sponsored children and to give out the gifts folks had sent from Arbroath. How exciting it was to see their happy faces when they received their gifts. All the children treated us to a concert where they sang and recited bible verses. How good it was to see the good work that is happening at St Andrew's Daycare. The staff are very hardworking and loving to the children. On our second trip just before our return Kiri arranged for Fraser and me to meet the local Social Worker who works quite closely with our centre. He was full of praise for the centre and staff and was thrilled to tell us how they have been working together to home some needy children from the local area in our residence. There are now 14 children in residence and each was given a children's bible in Chichewa gifted by the ladies from our Guild. (They also gifted Bibles for the children's houses at Namisu.)

After less than a week in Malawi we headed up into the mountains to our 2nd centre at Kambilonjo. We stayed in the recently completed residence and spent just over a week there painting murals on the walls of both the residence and daycare and building an amazing playpark. Living there also gave us a chance to get to know the local adults and children. The government had stated that we had to sink a borehole in the grounds of the residence before we could have children live there so that is being sunk at the moment and hopefully we will be able to see children move into the residence in the New Year.

Back in Namisu we spent a lot of the time providing activities for the children who were by then on school holidays – sports, arts and crafts and dance workshops – both Highland and modern. Jack also entertained with his pipes and led the music for our ceilidh. The team also led 2 school trips to the museum and then the sports centre at Blantyre. Fraser and the boys also managed to find the time to install solar lighting in the Standard 8 class, Head Teacher's office, staff room and newly converted library. This will make a huge difference for the senior pupils allowing them to study after dark.

The entire group got an opportunity to visit some of the people we know in the surrounding area and to see first

hand the poverty that most people in Malawi live in.

Each Sunday we visited a different church where our young people experienced the enthusiasm and depth of faith that the Christian Malawians have.

Over the next few months we will include in Quest the reports that the young people in the team have written. I would just like to thank everyone who supported the fundraising efforts of the Malawi 11 team, helping not only subsidise their trip but also provide the means for us to fund all the projects we were involved with while there.

Sheila

Team Member Reports

Jennie

I had been looking forward to going to Malawi since the first group went in 2007, but even 4 years of waiting couldn't have prepared me for the experience. Life there is so different that it is almost overwhelming for us. The Malawian people have so little but they are so faithful and hardworking that it really puts us to shame. The trip was definitely not without its challenges and a lot of it was quite difficult, but playing with, and hugging the kids made all the hard work worth it. This experience is one I will never regret nor forget.

Rachel

Seeing the poverty first-hand was shocking, but also inspiring as the Malawians have so much faith. Some parts of the trip were difficult but I found the Malawians so kind and welcoming which made me feel more at home. One highlight from the trip was teaching some of the girls a dance with Adele. We were very impressed with their enthusiasm and it helped us to build relationships with them. Malawi is a country nothing like any others I have visited before and I would be keen to go back!

Donna

What Malawi meant to me? Well I can say that it is definitely something I'm not going to forget. It made me see many things about myself that I never knew were there; it made me realise that you can always find the positives of situations back home, as the situations are probably nothing compared to things they deal with. It made me appreciate so much from home especially my mum, as I realised how much she does for me. Also it generally just made me think about the way I live my life as they have to work so hard for everything they've got and to be perfectly honest I'm pretty lazy yet have way more than what they have. It was also a good opportunity for me to discover more about my faith, and be able to see it used in their lives. I know for a fact that it is something that will stay with me throughout my life, and I'm so glad I got the chance to do it.

Starter Packs

Just a wee note to remind everyone that Starter Packs is, as always, still in need of essential household items - kitchen utensils and equipment, towels, curtains, bedding, cleaning fluids and equipment etc. If you think your towels are too old and tatty, think again, as even they can be used as rags

for cleaning up new homes. The list goes on and on. Someone who has been homeless has need of everything. Starter Packs have been really grateful for the church's assistance in the past and appreciate all the help they can get. There is a container at the dump where anyone can leave donations at anytime. It is usually locked so you need to ask staff there for access.

Many thanks.

Clerk's Corner

First Forty Focus

You will have seen from previous editions of Quest that there was a decision taken to engage the services of a professional researcher to look at all aspects of our work with those in the church up to the age of 40 (or around this!).

This process has now begun and our minister and Youth Co-ordinator have already had their interviews. In addition, the young people who have just embarked on University and College courses were interviewed. The Mother and Toddler Group also provided a rich source of information for researcher Neil Pratt.

Now we are ready to move to the next stage of the work. In the week which ends 23rd October, Rainbows, Brownies, Guides all sections of the BBs, Sunday Club, other relevant groups and the Leadership Group will all take part in the research.

Now those of you who are over 40 will be thinking that you have no part in this – not so! After morning worship on 23rd October, which is the celebration of Communion, you will all be asked to fill in a questionnaire before you leave. Your views are most important, so we will not serve you any teas or coffees until you have recorded your views! This will not take up much of your time, but will contribute greatly to the analysis of the data which we will get after all the research has been completed. Neil will be on hand to explain all that is necessary. The whole exercise is extremely important to the continuing vision of St Andrew's Church.

Opportunities from Angus Presbytery Education Group

The Presbytery offers a wide range of training sessions and before finalising the programme for this year, congregations are asked to indicate which sessions would be of interest to their members.

The programme includes:

Pastoral visiting – for everyone with a pastoral visiting role

Bereavement and funeral taking – two sessions for those who wish to help with visiting the bereaved and leading funeral services. Members may attend both or only the first course.

Working with young people – an opportunity for leaders in Sunday Schools and youth groups to share their experiences and be updated about new initiatives.

Leading worship – a series of 4-6 sessions on aspects of leading worship

Food Hygiene – a six hour course for all those working in church kitchens run by Angus Council's Environmental health Service. This course is a full day or three evenings and there is a charge.

If you are interested in any of the above please hand your name into the office as soon as possible.

The Big Day Out

(A report by Linda McDonald)

"Big Day Out" was what it was called, and that's what it was – a lively, engaging and very encouraging day full of variety and interest. Angus Presbytery ran this 2-venue event at St Andrew's and Old & Abbey churches on Saturday 17th September, drawing together people from many different churches across Angus to take part in a smorgasbord of inspiring workshops. We came away buzzing with enthusiasm and new ideas, having met new people and forged new links.

The Big Day Out began with lively worship led by our own praise band, and there was another chance to sing together in the afternoon with the Wild Goose Resource leaders, who taught songs that we used in the closing worship and showed us useful ways of teaching new music to congregations. We caught the infectious enthusiasm of Albert Bogle, minister extraordinaire from Bo'ness, who was the opening speaker. His church uses multimedia technology to extend the mission and ministry of their congregation – something that we at St Andrew's will be doing more of in the coming year too. He encouraged us to think of ourselves as a gospel community – people with a shared history of how God has rescued us and works in our lives, and who want to share their story with others.

We spread out across the two churches for the rest of the day to join our choice of workshops, and to meet and min-

gle with our fellow Christians over lunch and visiting the two exhibitions. One exhibition showcased the work and witness of a number of congregations across the presbytery; the other brought together a variety of Christian organisations who serve the church and the wider world. Many useful conversations flowed in these meeting places – it was hard to tear yourself away to go to the next workshop!

If you missed this day, you missed a treat – it was a well-organised and richly varied event and a real eye-opener for many people! The team who planned and ran it, the people who led the workshops, and the 'behind the scenes' team who kept us fed and watered and helped us find our way around, all deserve a big pat on the back. God is doing great things through so many different churches and organisations, and we certainly learned from each other and enjoyed celebrating together. When another Big Day Out comes around, make sure you're part of it!

ANOTHER ARK

For the church's next Act of Random Kindness it has been decided to express to the staff of the nursing homes in our community our gratitude for the wonderful work they do. To say 'thank you' we would like to deliver platters of home baking to as many nursing homes as possible. To do this requires volunteers to bake cakes/traybakes/shortbread, etc. If you would like to help please give your name to Alison in the office or to Noela Watson. The ARK is planned for the last Sunday in October.

Guild News

Some Guild members attended Carmylie Guild's opening night on 13th September. Entertainment was by the Inchcape Ceilidh band, Ruth Black, Alison Hart & Alison Mc Donald. It was a lovely start to the Guild calendar, followed the next evening with our Dedication and Communion Service for Guilds from Angus East. This year it was held in Old & St. Andrews Montrose. It was good again to catch up with other guild members on these evenings.

Our own first meeting of our session 2011-12 was on 19th September when Mar-

tin led us in our Dedication and Communion Service. During the social time which followed we enjoyed snacks and delicious cakes, courtesy of Joyce, Margaret and Shona. Most of the evening was spent on getting the new syllabus out, reports on the Annual Meeting and just catching up with everyone's news.

Our meetings in October are the 3rd and the 17th. Firstly we will have a talk on the Year of the Light and secondly our Topic Night – Let's talk about... thanking God for his creation. We will also have a sales table that evening.

Please feel free to join with us; you will get a warm welcome, 7.30 in the small halls. Doris Bowie

Our Daily Bread Graces for the table

In the June edition of Quest we asked for readers to send in the grace prayers that are used in the St Andrew's family households to give thanks for our food. Only three contributions arrived – hopefully more of us than that remember to thank God for our food each day!

From Jane Miller:

My father used to teach in a prep school and this was the favourite grace because it is so short and the boys were eager to get at the food! It was also sometimes sung which lengthened the time!

Benedictus, benedicat. Amen. (Translation from Latin: The blessed one blesses.)

From Judy Spink:

I remember well two graces that we used to SING at summer camp when I was a teenager! I still like them very much and am pleased to be able to share them.

*We thank you Lord for Jesus Christ
and for the blood He shed,*

*We thank you for His risen life,
and for our daily bread.*

*For health and strength and daily bread
we praise your name O Lord.*

From Linda McDonald:

My mother taught us this grace, which she learned from her father, and I still use it myself.

*For what we are about to receive,
may the Lord make us truly grateful,
and mindful of the needs of others.*

Other grace prayers you might like to use:

*For every cup and plateful,
Please make us truly grateful
Forgive us when we're wasteful,
For we're all God's family.*

*You who multiplied loaves and fishes
and converted water to wine,
O Lord, come to our table
as guest and giver, to dine.*

*In a world where so many are hungry,
may we eat this food with humble hearts;
in a world where so many are lonely,
May we share this friendship with joyful
hearts.*

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Sunday 2
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 9
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 16
11 am - Worship Service;
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 23
11 am - Worship Service inc.
Celebration of
Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
inc. Celebration of
Holy Communion

Sunday 30
11 am - Worship Service inc.
Harvest Thanksgiving
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 13
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 20
11 am - Worship Service;
main service followed by
short celebration
of Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 27
11 am - Worship Service;
1st Sunday in Advent, inc.
All-age Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

**N.B. As well as the services
above there is the following:**

◆ **A 40 minute service every
Wednesday morning at
10.30am.**

Let there be light!

In the darker months we're all heading for the light switches more. Energy saving bulbs are a must now that the traditional style bulbs are being phased out. You may wonder if it's true that you use more energy to turn lights on and off than to leave them running. According to the Energy Saving Trust, switching on an energy saving bulb only uses the same amount of power as leaving it on for a minute or two. Turning the bulb on and off repeatedly may shorten its life, but normal household use won't cause any problems. In fact, Energy Saving Recommended bulbs are tested through 1,000s of cycles of switching.

And if you're still using traditional bulbs, remember to switch them off every time you leave a room unoccupied. In the UK alone we waste an incredible £165 million a year by leaving lights on unnecessarily.

Energy saving halogen lights are now available, as well as compact fluorescent bulbs that can be used with dimmer switches, so if you haven't swapped all your old bulbs yet, keep an eye on the shops for an ever-increasing range of energy saving types of bulbs. The cost of energy saving bulbs is also beginning to fall as bulb manufacturers increase their output and benefit from the economies of scale. So make sure you switch off and save this winter!

Food For Thought

Which Way for Scottish Agriculture? (From the Church of Scotland Website)

How should Scottish agriculture develop in the twenty first century and what contribution can churches and their congregations play? The Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland is looking at this question and will prepare a report for the General Assembly in 2012.

There are a number of important questions.

- ◇ The supermarkets play a huge role in the development of Scottish agriculture. Do they use this power wisely? Do they help or hinder the development of Scottish agriculture?
- ◇ Some farms in Scotland are getting larger and more commercial while other farmers are going out of business. Is it inevitable that Scottish farms will become larger and more capital intensive?
- ◇ Where will the next generation of Scottish farmers come from? Is the industry open to anyone or is it to become closed to new entrants?
- ◇ Is organic agriculture the way forward or is it a niche market for the wealthy? How can we ensure that people living in poverty have access to good food?
- ◇ Are GM crops a blessing or a calamity? How should we respond in Scotland to the challenge GM crops pose?

Questions for Discussion

Most people in Britain buy food in supermarkets

conveniently washed, prepared, pre-packed or already processed or precooked. Some people are lucky enough to grow their own food in a garden or allotment but relatively few people in Britain now work on farms or are part of a farming community. Yet we are all dependent on farmers for our most basic needs.

For these reasons we are asking congregations the following questions.

1. Think about where your food comes from and how it is produced. Share this information within the group.
2. Do you grow any of your own food? Do you know where the food you buy in a shop comes from?
3. Supermarkets now have a huge influence over the way we shop and eat and over UK agriculture. What does this mean for you as a Christian called to care for creation?
4. Has your congregation or group any connections to farming? If you are in a town or city consider any links to farms nearby or to other food producers.
5. What can you or your church do to help ensure that good food is available to all, not just the affluent?
6. Are good food and organic food the same thing or should we be more critical of such claims? Do organic foods have any merit in scripture? Should we welcome GM crops as a gift from God?
7. The Jewish and Islamic faiths both make special dietary demands of believers and kosher or halal food must be produced to a special standard. Should Christians likewise be more careful of what they eat?

Living Buildings

Once again our buildings have been well used, this time for the *Big Day Out* event. From our own point of view, it was also a day through which we were able to showcase our buildings and our ability to stage such events. It was gratifying, therefore, that so many of those who came took the time to comment positively on our facilities and on the way in which they had been welcomed and looked after during the day. Through our Events Team, we supplied stewards throughout the day who were on hand to guide people from place to place and to help with all things practical, and we had hostesses who ensured that coffee was on tap and available at all times.

Though this was a church event, we're seeing an in-

creasing number of outside bodies – including departments of Angus Council – looking to hire our facilities for conferences, training days, public consultations etc. This is to be welcomed. There's nothing worse than under-used buildings. But beyond that, it's a wonderful way in which we can exemplify what is meant by the *Welcome* part of our three-fold *Welcome-Worship-Witness* mission statement.

However, we can't do it without the wonderful dedication of those who volunteer when such events are on – sometimes meaning that they have to be there early in the morning and sometimes late into the evening! Who knows what impact there might be of someone experiencing the warmth of our welcome. Let's continue to offer it so that all those who come over our threshold will see for themselves just who the people of St. Andrew's Church are.

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God put U in the name of His Son..

And each time U pray, you'll see it's trUe,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stone rolled away, the gold trUmpet blew,
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,

But it all starts with U.
Will U pass it on?



The playground built by our Malawi 2011 team



Naomi Dunphy in Malawi



Andrew Fair and Struan Smith playing a pants prank!
Cally Smith, Cailin Smith, Hannah Robb and Heather(!)



The ETs are Graeme Hamilton, Cailin Smith and Hannah Robb

Youth Future

Sheila Dunphy led another very successful youth weekend away which was clearly enjoyed by all. Charis Bowie assisted and here is a quote from her email -

The story behind the cups is that we had to wait for pudding on the Saturday and amused ourselves playing with plastic cups... a cup clapping game, blowing one cup into another, and attaching them to our faces. We at the youth group are easily amused!

I'm sure Sheila has said that the weekend was really really good. Probably goes down as one of my favourites ever and I have been on LOADS!!! Hopefully this group is the start of the 'new' Youth Group. Definitely a positive step :-)

Charis



Presbytery Big Day Out

St Andrew's and Old & Abbey churches played host to this event which was very well attended and very successful. You can read a full report on page 5.



Albert Bogle from Bo'ness addresses the large 'Big Day Out' gathering.