



December 2011

# Reaching Further Into Our Community

As we were recently able to announce in Church, the great news is that we have secured the lease for the former retail unit at 7a Fisheracre (formerly the Con Amor charity shop.) Our purpose in pursuing this is that we might further develop our outreach work to the community. This will, of course, include, among among things, our Havilah project.

Havilah is now at the point where we need to provide a wider range of services to the guys and girls who visit us. There are some who need a more supportive atmosphere to promote their recovery, over and above the present drop-in. This will entail the formation of more groups and services and the new space available to us at Fisheracre will make this much more achievable.



But this is just the tip of the iceberg, and the vision of the Church in the heart of the community, and addressing the real needs present in our town, is one that is almost limitless in its potential. We believe that God will bless this work as we come together in unity to establish signposts to the Kingdom in the world.



**'Big Nige' (Neil Grant) and Robert Matthew having a smashing time of it!**

In the meantime, there is an enormous amount of work to be undertaken before this building becomes the beautiful meeting place we envisage. And the good news is that anyone can help! It is easy to think that your ability to contribute to this work would be ineffectual. This could not be further from the truth. No contribution is too small (which Jesus reinforces through the story of the "widow's mite"). Most importantly everyone can contribute through their prayers. There are also opportunities to give of your time through helping with the

refurbishment, or you might be short on time but able to help financially or you might know someone who would be able to help. There is no offering too big or too small for this project! So please, in the first instance, be prayerful as to what you might be able to do, then - we'd love you to act on it!



**HAPPY 20TH birthday to 'The Gang' with some of their friends.**

Our Coffee Morning has provided fellowship for 20 years, not to mention the same number of thousands of pounds that have been raised for church funds!



**Remembrance Sunday**

A beautiful display by the Flower Club



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9 am to noon**MINISTER**

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**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Parish Records****November 2011****Baptisms** - Duncan Roberts**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Colin Macnab, Eric Laing**IMPORTANT DATES****FEBRUARY EDITION**

(Note - there is NO January Edition)

**Please note that DEADLINE dates must mean exactly that. Information that needs to be Word Processed should be handed in to the office by the first date and not to the Editor.**

Friday 20th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th January (Word-Processed file)

**The Declaration**

What does it take to transform a church with about twenty people attending into a church of 1,000? That's the revolution that Dave Richards has witnessed and the great news is that Dave is coming to be the keynote speaker at our men's conference on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

For further information on this special day, please contact Keith Scott (879615) or Robert Matthew (876008) or the Church Office.

**Christmas Cards**

Every New Year a large number of Christmas cards have to be disposed of as they are left lying on various surfaces around the church. We have no scheme for cards to be delivered to recipients and sometimes it is impossible to know who they are for if there is just a first name given.

**If you cannot pass a card on personally, please do not leave it lying in the hope it will be passed on - it is much more likely that it will be recycled.**

**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 820736)

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.**

## Street Pastors

I heard about Street Pastors a few years ago at the National Prayer Breakfast for Wales when the speaker told us about the work of Street Pastors in Manchester. I remember thinking "I wish we had that in Arbroath!" So, when Martin mentioned there was going to be a meeting about setting up Street Pastors in Arbroath I was raring to go! It has taken quite a few months of training before we actually got on the streets but the main aim is **listening; caring; helping**. We are not there to preach but obviously if someone asks why we do what we do then the opportunity is there.

I must admit I think my heart was ahead of my head! I knew we would meet up at 9.30 on a Saturday night to get organised and for prayer, walk the streets, passing all the potential 'trouble spots', back around midnight for a quick break and then back out on the streets until at least 3 am and usually back home by quarter to four Sunday morning. But I don't think it actually hit me that I would be walking or standing around for about five hours until I felt it (my back ached) !!! We go out as a team of four, two on each side of the street and whatever we do we need to keep near enough to each other so we can see what's going on. Apart from talking to folk, we also pick up bottles and tumblers as they can be potential weapons. We hand out flip-flops for the girls who have given up trying to walk in their really high heels, water, 'spikies' to prevent their bottles of drink being 'spiked' and foil blankets - which we used for the first time last Saturday.

I have met many lovely people when I've been on 'duty' and I would like to tell you about a few memorable ones so that you get a flavour of what happens. My first time out I met up with a couple of guys, chatting to one in particular as he came from North Wales not far from where I came from. He and his friend were Marines, just in their early twenties. He wanted to know what Street Pastors was about and eventually started talking about God. He said that he knew Jesus died and came alive and some people saw him later but what did Jesus do after? Did he get married, become a teacher? He really wanted to know. I spent some time explaining and then said I'd need to get on but would probably meet up with him later somewhere else. He gave

me a hug and his pal who was from Newcastle and had been quiet all this time, asked why he wasn't getting a hug. So I turned to hug him and ended up in a bear hug! After a wee while I said he needed to let me go as the others were waiting - no response - I tried again and this time a muffled voice said "do you know how long it's been since I've hugged my Mam?" What could I say?? So I let him hug me a bit longer - what a privilege. I met up with my Welsh friend later on in the morning. We discussed the Feeding of the 5000 and he decided Jesus had the right idea, as sharing wine with 5000 meant no one had too much to drink and therefore there was no trouble! He'd mixed the story a bit but what he also said was that he preferred having discussions with me than being out drinking but there was nothing else to do in Arbroath and I'm sure there must be others like him - is there anything we can do??

The majority of folk we meet are just out for a good time but it's so sad to see those who are worse for wear. They pile out of De Vito's onto the road and cars have big problems passing. The Police try to move them on but I've noticed the crowd respond better if we walk with them to the pavement. Sometimes there are fights - mainly started because girls fight. Their boyfriends try to separate them and before long the boys are fighting and their pals join in. I didn't know stuff like this happened in Arbroath!!!

One night I met a local lad and after a chat about why I was out etc. I said it would be lovely if he came to church. He said he played football on Sunday mornings; I said he could come at night and have his tea! He said the church wouldn't want him smelling of alcohol, as he played in a pub team and the pub laid on lunch. I said we wouldn't bother about that and he'd be welcome. He's not been yet but I'm still praying.

There are so many more encounters I could share but I'd better stop. We need more Street Pastors! There are only 8 of us - two teams of 4, so presently we can only be out alternate weeks and only on Saturdays. We would like there to be Street Pastors out every weekend on Friday and Saturday, but at present it isn't possible. We're praying for more volunteers - could you be one of them?

Gaynor Scott

On behalf of Street Pastors, Arbroath

### The Bible In 50 Words

God made, Adam bit,  
Noah arked, Abraham split,  
Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled,  
bush talked, Moses balked,  
Pharaoh plagued, people walked,  
sea divided, tablets guided,  
promise landed,  
Saul freaked, David peeked,  
prophets warned, Jesus born,  
God walked, love talked,  
anger crucified, hope died,  
Love rose, Spirit flamed,  
Word spread, God remained.

### Evening Worship

We've been delighted to see our evening worship - which only started in April of this year - becoming more and more established.

Numbers attending have been fairly steady but, on the last two Sundays, we've welcomed well over 100 worshippers into the sanctuary. The majority of those have been coming to eat first, at the specially prepared meal served from 6pm in the large hall. For the provision of that meal, we are hugely grateful to Doris, the Fellowship Core Group, and the many

others who volunteer in the kitchen on a rota basis.

But whether coming along to the meal or not, everyone has been appreciating the different style of worship that is possible in the evening. If you've never been to evening worship, why not give it a try? Services on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of December will be held in OBs on the Westport then, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, back in the Church itself. There will be no evening services on Christmas Day or on New Year's Day but we'll be back on track on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Why not think about coming to the evening worship to kick off your 2012?

## Clerk's Corner

### The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service

New legislation is now in place to ensure a safe Church for us all. This means safeguarding children and 'adults at risk' (also known as child protection and adult protection).

Here at St Andrew's, the panel that ensures we meet all the requirements of the regulations consists of the Minister, Session Clerk and the Safeguarding Coordinator, Eleanor Mands. We have begun the complex process of record-keeping and information-sharing which is required.

**As a first step towards this, we would like to alert you to an important element: It will not be possible for anyone to volunteer for an organisation and begin working within one, without first going through a formal ap-**

**plication process.** As this can take several weeks, you will see that this has a direct effect on the recruitment of new volunteers in that their expertise cannot be used immediately.

If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Scheme, please get in touch with Eleanor on 01382 477318. She will be informing us all about further aspects of the legislation in the coming months.

### Events Team

From the beginning of 2012, the arrangements for the Events Team will be made from the Church office. Thank you to all of you who have so willingly responded to requests to act as stewards at the many events in the last two years and who will continue with this very important work. Any volunteers to add to the list will be very welcome.

## Every Day with Jesus – The One Year Bible

Those who embarked on the challenge of reading the Bible over a year are now nearing the end of their marathon. Below, some of them have shared their experiences. Due to constraints of space it has not been possible to include everything which was submitted.

'I found the arrangement of the Old and New Testament chapters a good method of reading through the Bible and really appreciated Selwyn Hughes' daily devotionals. Just when you think that Jeremiah and Lamentations can't get any more depressing you find his *compassions never fail, they are new every morning, great is your faithfulness*'.

'I'm afraid I have fallen by the wayside – I fell behind when on holiday, found it difficult to catch up especially when I got bogged down in the heavy stuff of Isaiah'.

'Reading enabled me to gain a better understanding and to focus daily on the Lord. I used to find the Old Testament a struggle but reading it from the beginning has made it a lot clearer'.

'I have always found it difficult to equate the God of the Old Testament with the loving, caring God shown in Jesus Christ. I'm still puzzled but I'm certain that is where the leap of faith comes in and I find my faith stronger than ever.'

'Reading the Bible on a daily basis and exploring some stories which really were new to me along with those I have known since childhood has opened my eyes to the might and majesty of our Lord, caring for his people and yet being let down time after time. His wrath is awesome, His love

everlasting'.

'Some of the verses were very appropriate; others were hard going and difficult to understand'.

'Sometimes I found I was having to play catch up and do to or three days at once, but I found it very helpful to read the Old Testament consecutively'.

'I did not like jumping from Old to New testaments and reading little bits of Psalms and Proverbs so I gave up early on. I plan to try again and read consecutively from Genesis through to Revelation'.

'Sometimes the challenge of the length of the readings and the impact of the message are together too much to cope with emotionally and spiritually. However, the Selwyn Hughes comments and prayers offer a real balance and focus to help one's understanding immeasurably'.

'I found the Old Testament a bit repetitive and some of the books were more like a ledger. On the other hand, I found it a very rewarding read which provided an inner warmth each day.'

'Reading the bible in a year enabled me to gain a better understanding of the bible and to focus daily on the Lord. It's the first time I have stayed committed to a personal study and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I used to find the Old Testament a struggle, but reading it from the beginning has now made it a lot clearer, so much so that I'm planning to read it all again next year to try and capture the bits I didn't fully understand first time round.'

## 7th Arbroath B.B. Report

The year has just passed so quickly and here we are again almost at the end of the year. We would like to thank all who supported our Coffee Morning on 29th of October. We raised £430 for our funds. This has now helped us to pay part of our B.B. dues to Headquarters. In with one hand and out with the other!

We are still doing ok in each section, the strongest being the Company Section. We have had a number of new recruits in the Anchor Section. Our programme in each section is very varied and the boys are enjoying the chal-

lenges set out each week.

We had a Halloween Party and a lot of different characters showed up. Anchor Boy winner was Tom Christieson dressed as The Joker and runner up was Kyle Denton as a skeleton. Junior winner was Josh Gall as Jack Sparrow.

Our outing to the local Panto at the Abbey Theatre is on 15th of December and it is "Nessie the Panto". A great night out is always guaranteed. A few tickets remain and if you wish to go along with us please let us know. The cost is £7 a ticket. This is our last meeting of the year and we restart on 12th of January, at 6pm.

Wilma H. Ewart. Captain

## Harvest Offering

Members will be glad to hear that the sum of almost £1,000 was given through the gift offering on the day of our Harvest Thanksgiving service. This money will make a real difference in terms of the ongoing relief work in the Horn of Africa, where millions have been displaced and are living

in the most basic conditions in primitive transit camps.

It is important that we are able to respond to these 'one-off' situations. However, it's even more important that we understand that our Christian responsibilities to the developing world are ongoing. That's why our work in Malawi will continue to be at the centre of what we do in this regard.

### Prayer Corner

Heavenly Father,

At this time of Advent, as we prepare for Christmas, help us in all the excitement and busyness of these days to find time to think about the real meaning of Christmas:-

Of your great love for your creation, our world and all mankind;

Of the coming into the world of the promised Redeemer;

Of the wonder of the Word made flesh.

May we be ready on Christmas day to join the Church throughout the world in praise and worship of you, our eternal God of Love. Amen.

Father, we pray for all those who, through fear and persecution, cannot celebrate openly the birth of your dear Son, Jesus. Grant them, we pray, the comfort and the peace which is beyond our understanding. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

### Fairtrade at St Andrew's Church

Our organisations within the church have been using Fairtrade products for more than two years now. We had the Oyster Craft shop on the Westport and we have also had regular Fairtrade stalls after the Sunday morning service. A stall was held on 27th November with crafts from Created and food from local shops. We are going to fill in our application form for status as a Fairtrade Church soon.

Alice Dewar, Mary Reid and Jane Stewart attended a meeting with Martin Rhodes, Director of Scotland Fair Trade Forum, in October. It is his aim that Scotland becomes a Fair Trade Nation in 2012. These three church members are part of a steering group called Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group that want to see Arbroath attain Fairtrade status and to inform people where they can buy and support businesses that use Fairtrade goods in the town. We hope everyone will buy one Fairtrade product and this will help the producer. Fairtrade means trade that is fair, not a handout but a help up to people who will help themselves. In the local shops you can buy bananas, tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits, chocolate and wine. When you are shopping could you put one Fairtrade product in your trolley. Every little purchase helps.

Thank you from Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group.

### Malawi Alternative Gift Catalogue

As usual we are offering you an opportunity to buy a gift that is a bit like buy one and get one free! By buying an alternative gift you don't only give a gift to your friend or relative here but you will be giving a gift to a child in Malawi!

You can buy some medicine, school uniform, school textbooks, mosquito net, a meal for 70 children, bike ..... and even a bore-hole! Check out our leaflet which can be picked up at the church office or from me after Church on a Sunday. This year you can choose from 12 cards which have this year been professionally printed.

#### Malawi Fundraisers

Watch out for the following fundraisers in the New Year:

**20th January – Ready Steady Cook**

**12th February – Soup & Pudding Lunch after Sunday morning Service**

**March – Quiz Night**

**April – Murder Mystery**

## More Malawi Team Reports

### Jill

Going to Malawi and being part of the 2011 Team has been a great opportunity. The trip was really good and although parts were tough it was a great experience overall. It has made me more grateful for everything I have and especially more grateful to my Mum & Dad.

The trip means a lot to me as it has changed the way I look at things now and it has also changed some of my habits since I've come home.

### Adele

Sitting on Modesta's doorstep just talking to her, I felt the most contented that I had in a long time. It shocked me when I realised this because I have so much here in Scotland but it took a trip to Africa, where it was all stripped away, for me to be really content. Malawi has taught me that all my material possessions don't matter so much when you can have God in your life instead. The fundraising was hard work, the trip definitely had its difficulties but when you have a little African child sitting on your knee looking at you with the biggest grin on their face, it makes it all worthwhile.

### Jack

My experience in Malawi was the most amazing thing I have done in my life so far. The trip has taught me many things about myself. I was sometimes not nice to my Mum, Gran and even my brother and I have realised that family is important and should stay and stick together and try not to argue in the hardest situations. I think the trip has also showed how selfish I am and made me grateful for all the stuff I have – I moaned that my x-Box was broken but the people there only cared about living, having food and someone or something to play with. I realised that there was a nice 'Mr Newth' after all.

The best times were seeing the kids and doing fun stuff with them - also getting an amazing reaction to my pipes! The main thing that gave me a wonderful but unbelievable feeling was how even though the Malawians are living in this situation with hardly any food, no healthcare and hardly any wealth, their faith is so strong in the Lord. They pray for life and the people we met would even pray for us. I think the trip has given me a different way of thinking, taught me to be grateful and given me a better relationship with God.

## Guild News

Our guild evening of the 31st October was our Project Night. This was held in the church sanctuary and, to begin our meeting, Shona sang 'Where 'Ere You Walk' accompanied by Jane Miller. Our speaker was Rev. John Arnold from Blairgowrie. The project the Guild is supporting this year is 'A Place for Hope' which is an initiative to transform people's lives through the way we act and behave in managing and resolving our differences in society. It seeks to address the hurt of the Church's internal conflict. Beyond this, it aspires to the dream that the Church will once again be a peacemaker and a healer in a broken world.

On the 14th we welcomed Brian Anderson who gave us an outline of the work he had done during his time in the navy and of the different competitions he had been involved in, where he was able to show off the wonderful talent he has in cake making and their decoration. All the while he and his assistant, Sarah Martin, busied themselves making intricate leaves and twigs, etc., to decorate the top of a Christmas cake. He gave us some handy hints as we sat agog as the cake developed. Needless to say since

Brian is such a perfectionist and does nothing by halves, we ran out of time but it was such a super evening and the most well attended of our session so far. Thank you to Brian and Sarah for coming along and we are already looking forward to a return visit.

During the weekend of 19th and 20th, we had a busy weekend by visiting our Guild Link Partners at Christ's Kirk, Glenrothes, and leading Sunday Club as part of our activities for Guild Week. The trip to Glenrothes was most enjoyable, with a time of worship, a presentation of Christ's Kirk background and a lovely meal. Friendships were rekindled and gifts exchanged. We gave them an ornament of the Bell Rock Lighthouse and they presented us with a lovely cross stitch. Sunday Club followed our topic - God's creation - and comprised of a quiz and some choruses followed by cake and juice. To close Guild Week we held a soup and pudding lunch in the church halls on Saturday, 26th November.

On the 28th November, our talk is Best Foot Forward, when therapist Leonie will give a talk on caring for your feet and demonstrate a pedicure and reflexology. Our final meeting of 2011 is our Christmas party on 12th December.

## Relationships

January sees the beginning of two new programmes - one to do with mums and their children, the other concerned with the relationship that we share with our '*significant other!*'... that is, if we are in that kind of relationship at all.

### Mum & Me

This new group is going to meet on Tuesday mornings and is being supported through our pastoral care system, the Nurture Core Group and The Guild. The programme will be a much more extensive one than what we're used to at Parents and Toddlers. Mums will have time with their children, time to relax when the children are being cared for in the crèche and learning and sharing times when they will have opportunity to reflect on the challenges and joys of being a mum! The requirement for attending is that you must have at least one child under the age of five.

### Love, Actually

This course, which is required of those get-

ting married at St. Andrew's and highly recommended for others, offers couples the opportunity to reflect on what life-sharing is all about. While it might be just what the doctor ordered for those who are struggling, it's intended to be equally rewarding for those who are sailing along and for the vast majority who are somewhere in the middle!

Beginning on January 25th and running for six weeks - including a candlelit meal for two in the middle! - the learning that takes place is bound to be matched by the fun and laughter! Several couples will host the course and will share some of their own experiences - not necessarily their expertise but certainly their wisdom based on coming through all of the ups and downs that every couple experiences at one time or another.

So, what is love, actually? And might this course be the best way for you start 2012!

You can register for *Love, Actually* at the Church Office anytime now and certainly should do so in advance of the course beginning (25<sup>th</sup> January 2012.)

## LOOKING AHEAD

### DECEMBER

**Sunday 4**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
2nd Sunday in Advent  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship (in OBs)

**Sunday 11**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
3rd Sunday in Advent  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship (in OBs)

**Sunday 18**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
4th Sunday in Advent  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

**Saturday 24**  
6.30 pm - Nativity and  
Christingle Service  
11.15 pm - Traditional  
Watchnight Service

**Sunday 25**  
11 am - Christmas Day  
Worship Service;  
suitable for all ages

**Wednesday 28**  
6.30 pm - Service of  
Memorial and Thanksgiving

### JANUARY

**Sunday 1**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 8**  
11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

**Sunday 15**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
main service followed by  
short celebration  
of Communion  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

**Sunday 22**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

**Sunday 29**  
11 am - Worship Service;  
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  
10.30 am.

## Adoption Sunday

Members of the *Permanence Team* of Angus Council were our guests at the beginning of November. They came to share in our Sunday morning worship to inform us of the

needs that exist in Angus to find permanent family experiences for the many children for whom families are being sought. As part of their visit, our children planted winter flowers and bulbs - enough for all the 'waiting-to-be-adopted' children in Angus.

## Fairtrade and Eco Corner

### A great partnership

Here at St Andrew's we're working towards recognition as both an eco-congregation and a Fairtrade Church, and there are regular items in Quest about both. You might think that looking out for our neighbours and looking out for our planet are two separate activities, but in fact there is a lot of crossover between them.

One example of this is how coffee farmers are struggling with climate change. In Southern Peru, for example, increased rainfall in recent years has made the fruit fall from the tree too early and makes it hard for farmers to dry their beans. However, in northern Peru there is now a longer harvest season. At first farmers felt this would be good, but they are now facing unpredictable weather patterns, making it hard to protect and harvest their coffee. Fairtrade International's producer service unit works with producers on climate change adaptation programmes, but farmers who are selling to normal commercial buyers have no such support and have to do the best they can on their own.

If you don't already use a Fairtrade brand of coffee, make December the month you pick one off the supermarket shelf and try it out. If you're already drinking Fairtrade coffee, how about buying a jar of your favourite one for a friend, neighbour or workmate? You might convert them to a new lifetime habit, and in doing so, you're doing your bit for Fairtrade coffee producers and for the environment, because Fairtrade producers are committed to planet-friendly farming practices.

## Malawi 2012

As you all know, since 2007 we've run three month-long trips to Malawi. There, our teams have undertaken a variety of work projects at Namisu village and have developed our residences and day-care centres at Thyolo and Kambalongo.

To date, these teams have been made up of groups of our young people – and what a fantastic job they've done! Already, early planning is taking place for their next trip, in the summer of 2013.

Now, for the first time, we are putting together a trip which is designed for adult members of the congregation. How exciting!

Our work in Malawi rightly belongs to the whole congregation, but because of the huge amount of fund-raising work that our young people have undertaken, and because they are the ones who have visited, the impression that many have is that it's a youth project. On the contrary, we're all in on it and we are all responsible for it!

To that end, this trip is for congregation members so that more of us might see for ourselves the work that has, and is, being done in our name. The emphasis, therefore, will be on fact-finding and on grasping the vision for how St. Andrew's can continue to support this life-saving, life-changing mission work.

We have agreed with Aquaid in principle that this trip will go ahead, with the proposed time being around about the beginning of June 2012. It will be a short-stay trip of around nine days in all, with a week in Malawi and two days of travelling back and forward. Most of the time will be spent staying at and visiting the projects that we are involved with. The cost will be up to £1,200, the majority of that sum being the air fare. Those travelling will be responsible for their own funding. We are fortunate that Naomi Dunphy will still be in Malawi at that time, as her gap year draws to its end, and she will act as our local host. There is also the possibility that Becky will travel with the group to act as guide and interpreter etc.

Obviously, the details are sketchy at this stage. However, we would like to meet with ANY member of the congregation who is interested in finding out more about becoming part of the team. Even if you are unsure about being able to go but have an inkling that this might be for you, we would be delighted for you to register an interest. In the first instance, you should hand in a note to the Church Office. Thereafter, a meeting will be held for all interested members when details will be much fuller.

Could this be your 'chance of a lifetime'?

## Afternoon Alpha

Our two autumn *Alpha* courses are now finished and, as usual, we are able to report that, for a good number of those who participated, the course proved to be hugely beneficial and the whole experience to be a positive one. For some, it was about learning more about the Christian faith. For others, it was about having an opportunity to take a decisive step in terms of their commitment to following Jesus. For others still, building friendships and being prayed for was what mattered most.

Assuming that there are enough people interested, we hope to begin a new group early in the new year. Watch this space for more details.

By taking part, you will learn more about Christian faith and have the opportunity to discuss this with others. Here

are a few comments from some of the folk who come to the Afternoon Alpha group:

"If we have a problem we can discuss it as a group and help each other out. It's a good way to get to know each other - it's educational and we have a laugh."

"I've found the people very nice and the course has been very enjoyable."

"It has been very good. I have enjoyed it and found it a big help."

"I'm amazed how God has worked in the group. The group has been really good and very helpful. It is a chance to meet new people and enjoy home baking."

"We have been learning through fellowship. We have all gelled as a group and we look forward to Wednesdays. Wednesday is our uplift day".

## Prayer Sunday

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November, we shared in a special service of prayer – when, instead of the usual format, we highlighted and prayed for a variety of projects and causes which we support, either as a congregation or through various of our members.

Mike Rennie spoke passionately about his ‘Buggies and Bikes’ project. Along with various other volunteers, and under the oversight of OBs, Mike works with teenage boys introducing them to the mechanical intricacies of off-road buggies and motorbikes. But all the while, the project is about relationship-building with these young lads, trying to ensure that they stay ‘on the right track’ in life.

Sue Pritchard led prayers for the Suffering Church – for Christians, that is, who are being persecuted on behalf of their faith. The congregation will seek to show its support for such Christians through its Christmas offering this year.

Lawrence Davie offered a presentation on what we need to do to transform the building that we have newly acquired at 7a Fisheracre. This building will be the spearhead for our community outreach work – those parts of our work which are primarily aimed at addressing the real needs of our parish and town. This will become the site for the *Havilah* drop-in but beyond that, there is no shortage of ideas for what might be developed.

As this was a special Sunday for focussing on our nation’s prisons, Jim and Tracey McLeod were highlighted as being our appointed prison visitors. They visit young men in

Perth prison on a fairly regular basis, trying to ensure that proper support is in place for the time of their release – the best way of trying to ensure that these men don’t make an instant return to prison. As part of this section, Linda McDonald led prayers for the victims of crime.

Last but not least, Elizabeth Cunningham (Old & Abbey Church) and Gaynor Scott offered a presentation on the work of Arbroath *Street Pastors*. This project is about putting Christians on the streets at the weekends and having them work alongside the Police and other agencies to ensure that young people are as safe as possible as they make their way home from pubs and clubs etc. (See Gaynor’s piece elsewhere in this edition of QUEST for further insight.)

As we did on that special Sunday, please continue to pray for these individuals, groups and projects who, each in their own way, strive to make real their Christian faith out in the world where it matters most.



**Mike Rennie who set up the ‘Bikes and Buggies’ project**

### Book Review - The Hiding Place, Corrie ten Boom

This book is a true story based on the account of Corrie and her sister’s incarceration in a Dutch prison and subsequently a German Concentration camp in World War II. The story begins with Corrie’s recollection of family life in Haarlem with charming stories about her parents and siblings. This was a devout family whose daily readings and prayers instilled a love of God and the bible as children and which Corrie and her sister Betsie relied on in more troubling times.

When Holland is occupied Corrie is pivotal in hiding Jewish people in a special room in her house and getting ration cards so people could be moved through the underground network.

When the house is raided, the carefully planned drills to hide their guests work and although the soldiers never found ‘The Hiding Place’ Corrie and the rest of the family

are arrested for stealing ration cards.

The book goes on to describe the terrible conditions in prison and how important smuggling a bible into the camps was. Their faith was tested many times but throughout, the answer always came from God.

This is a truly inspirational book which challenges forgiveness. How do they forgive the atrocities they witnessed and experienced? Betsie always found it in her heart to forgive and reminded Corrie several times how Jesus suffered and forgave his tormentors. Corrie found this a challenge throughout but always listened to her sister and put her trust in God.

The next bookstall is Sunday 4th December. There will be books for adults and children available as well as Christmas cards, calendars and smaller items that would make good stocking fillers. We can’t carry large multiple copies of books but are very happy to take orders.

Eleanor Mands - Nurture Group



### Naomi’s Update (Summary)

This month saw me start working in the clinic in the village. It’s really good and it’s very interesting. This month has also seen the end of my teaching standard 6 and 7 which was actually quite sad, but I still have my sports classes and so I have not lost everything. We have had two deaths which is really sad. The first was a teacher which is a big blow as she

was really good and such a nice lady. Then, less than a week later, one of the kids from the Dawn Centre died. He was only 3 but at the same time he couldn’t move or talk or actually do anything so I am not really sure how I feel about it as, being a Christian, I’m sure he is now up in heaven running and chattering away - so it’s kind of a weird one.

Lots of love

Naomi. x