



# Grateful Thanks For Our Man Of God



At the end of January a significant milestone was reached in the life of St Andrew's Church when Martin completed 20 years of service in Arbroath. Perhaps we should say that Martin and Elaine together have served for twenty years, because they have always presented themselves as a double act. This has been a tremendous bonus for us, and where else do you find that a wife is also married to her husband's job!

When you appoint a minister, you pray that with God's grace you will make the right choice - and the right choice was certainly made for St Andrew's. We are truly blessed that he is still here because other churches, on the search for an inspired preacher, are likely to make approaches. This has happened to Martin, but in this month's 'Minister's Letter' he tells us why he feels that St Andrew's is still the right place for him.

Building on what went before, we have seen so many

developments in our congregational life and, under his guidance and exhortation, we have learned to be a more welcoming, inclusive, more tolerant, pastorally sensitive and loving family, developing our ability to share God's word with others. All of these aspects stem from his skill in preaching which reaches out to challenge us all. When appropriate, a sense of humour is used as a tool to reinforce points, technology is harnessed to focus attention, a range of styles of worship is presented to generate wide interest and, most important of all, the word of God kept to the fore in all matters.

Keeping a balance between work and home life must sometimes be very difficult because of the hours worked which, especially in the evenings, impinge on family life. This is especially true as Callum, Andrew and Fraser are at the stage when the family 'taxi' seems to be needed constantly!

We give thanks to God for the Fair family and wish His richest blessing on them.



The Jean Glen Legacy  
Pictured above are the new double-glazed windows which have 'modernised' the frontage and received much positive comment.



Under Martin's leadership, we continue to rejoice in welcoming new members - pictured here are, from left to right, Kevin Trebilcock, Margaret Mullet, Mina Soutar, Una Stewart, Margaret Lawson, Dawn Reid, Bill Lawson



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**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Parish Records****December/January 2011/12****Baptisms** - None**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Jim Bruce, Marion Borland,  
Kathleen Skea, Joe McGreavey**IMPORTANT DATES****MARCH EDITION**

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

Friday 17th February (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 21st February (Word-Processed file)

**Annual Stated Meeting**

Every congregation of the Church of Scotland is required to hold an Annual Meeting by the end of March in each year. Accordingly, our **Annual Meeting will take place following worship on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

All members and friends of the congregation are invited - and **ENCOURAGED!** – to attend.

**Parking and Insurance**

**It is a condition of our insurance that the whole of the 'double-yellow lined' frontage to the church is left clear for emergency vehicles (Fire Tenders and Ambulances).**

If members park on these lines then, in the event of a fire, **our insurance could be deemed to be invalid.** Please therefore ensure that you do not park on double yellow lines. Thank you.

**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.**

# Martin Fair

February 2012

Dear friends,

To be frank, on the evening of my Ordination (28<sup>th</sup> January 1992) I didn't imagine for a moment that I'd still be here twenty years later!! In as much as anyone can know, I imagined myself to be more *flighty* and that I'd be desperate for a fresh challenge after, say, six or seven years.

That that hasn't proved to be the case is a surprise to me, even now – but not even remotely a disappointment. I've enjoyed the most fulfilling twenty years imaginable and all the challenges that I might have looked for have been found right here, in this congregation and community!

Back then, at the beginning of 1992, none of us could have foreseen that the congregation would have become so involved in mission in Malawi or, on our own doorstep, among those struggling with addiction etc. through *Havilah*. And did any of us imagine the dramatic refurbishing of our buildings that marked our fiftieth anniversary? And with church attendance in general decline, would any of us have been prepared to bet that we'd be running evening services and midweek services alongside the traditional morning service?

But my greatest sense of gratitude comes from the sense of privilege that is mine to have been called to minister among such wonderful people. Sadly, we've had to say *farewell* to many wonderful brothers and sisters who were lost to us throughout that period. I rejoice, though, when I consider their witness and that they are now *home*. Equally so, I've rejoiced as God has brought new people to us to take up the baton – and that he continues to do so. If ever it was true that the Church is the people, not the building, then it's true at St. Andrew's.

Who knows what the next twenty years holds – other than my eventual retirement (unless we're so short of ministers by then that we're not allowed to retire!) Whatever, we'll go at it with enthusiasm and commitment and with a sure sense that in God's way of working, what is to come will always surpass what has been.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to record publicly my '*beyond words*' thanks to Elaine who has never been anything other than totally supportive and enormously encouraging. That we have been together in this is what, for me, makes every moment of it worthwhile.

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

[martin.fair@sky.com](mailto:martin.fair@sky.com)

## Associate Minister Post

When the Kirk Session decided that it would be appropriate for St Andrew's Church to have an Associate Minister, arrangements were put in place to ensure that the process would be carried out efficiently and well. A job description was drawn up and included all the essential and desirable qualities that we would expect for such a post. For advertising, time was spent researching appropriate internet sites and several of these were used along with the Church of Scotland sources. A very comprehensive information pack about St Andrew's was also made available to those who enquired.

We received a large number of applications - from all over the world! - but many were not suitable. Nevertheless, we eventually had a short list of four good candidates who were invited to a selection day on Saturday 21st January which was designed to give the candidates an opportunity to present their skills in relevant situations.

The day began with a group of members praying for guidance for all those involved, and this was followed by devotions. Then, with members of the Kirk Session, Leadership Group and Ministry Team in attendance, each candidate gave a five minute presentation entitled 'The Church:

Dead or Alive?' and, at the end of the day, they each chose a biblical character for a five minute presentation in Messy Church style at which the Sunday Club staff, parents and children were present. In between, each candidate had a formal interview responding to questions related to the job description. They also met with members during lunch.

The interviewing panel consisting of the Minister, Session Clerk, Pat Mill from the Leadership Group and Scott Anderson, Finance and Admin Core Group Leader were the only ones who saw all aspects of the process. Throughout the day, each candidate displayed strengths and on the whole acquitted themselves well. It was clear that the deliberations of the interviewing panel would be lengthy. After meeting for two hours at the end of the day, and again after morning worship the following day, the panel came to the unanimous decision that there would be no appointment.

Our sympathies lie with those four people with their strong desire to serve God and who will be very disappointed. We wish them well in their search for the right post for them and wish God's blessing on each of them.

Our leaders will now have to reconsider what the way forward might be for us in appointing an additional member of staff. Your prayers are sought for this process.

## Malawi Update

On 19th December Fraser, Becky and I headed out to Malawi. Going there is so exciting for us as it now feels a bit like we are going home as we have so many friends there. But this time was especially exciting as we were going to visit Naomi whom we hadn't seen for 5 months. When we saw her she looked so well and so happy. She is so obviously loving her time out there which anyone who saw her when she came home for the week – she had to come back for an interview at University – will have noticed too.

Our 3 weeks flew in with us catching up with friends – something we often struggle to do as we are normally busy with projects – and checking up on our projects.

Kambilonjo – We handed over Christmas presents, food, fizz and sweets. It was so good to see the children still getting loads of fun from our playpark and the teachers making good use of the murals on the walls of the Daycare. We got to meet the 11 children who had just recently moved into the Residence and were enjoying the lovely decor!

Thyolo – There too we handed over presents, food fizz and sweets. We also handed over the little packages of stickers, photos etc that those of you who are sponsoring children had sent. How good it was as ever to see the joy on their faces at getting a little something. We also saw the start of the build of our extension at Thyolo. This will house another store, a new office for Christina (her old one had become a store about a year ago) and a library. We also managed to buy some books for the library for when it is finished.

How exciting too to visit the new library at Namisu that we had helped with. Fraser and Jack had put solar power in this, the Standard 8 classroom and the staff room. We had also paid for the bookcases, desks and special windows. It is looking great and is now open to the general public as well. In the evenings it was great to pass the Standard 8 classroom in the dark and see the students studying with lights on!

Naomi is helping out at the clinic and it is so good to see another project that we were involved in developing being put to such good use. I took a little baby along who was

born on Christmas Day about a couple of hundred yards from where we were staying. He was premature and weighed just 1.9kg. – we got to name him. We called him David and pray that he will be as successful as the other David at defeating any giants that he will meet in the days ahead. Ethel is keeping a close eye on him as the days ahead will be a challenge.

During the middle week we had an orphan house each night for dinner. They were so excited to have a special dinner, fizz and to watch 'The Nativity' on the big screen on the wall at the Guest House using our own little mini cinema - thanks to the church for letting us take out the projector with us. None of them had ever seen a film before and to watch their faces was a real treat!

I could go on for pages telling you about the people and situations that we saw. The need is great and some of the things we saw would break your heart but I just want to share how much we as a church are making a huge difference to the lives of so many in Malawi. We were so encouraged to see the progress that is being made at our centres and to see the long term difference the projects that the young people have undertaken have made. We are also so proud to be part of a church that has a vision not only to reach out into own community but to make a difference in the lives of children at the other side of the world. Let's keep up the good work and if you are considering going out on the fact finding trip to Malawi next summer, go for it!

## Malawi Fundraisers

Thanks to all who supported our Ready Steady Cook event. We had a great night with Martin taking on our mystery guest – Elaine! Great fun was had by all and we raised almost £500 into the bargain!

Coming next:

**12th February**

**Soup & Pudding Lunch after Sunday morning Service**

**2nd March**

**Quiz Night to be held at St Mary's Church**

**April – Murder Mystery**

Also, please remember that we continue to collect old printer cartridges, mobile phones and foreign coins.

## St Andrew's Church Has Fairtrade Status

The church obtained Fairtrade status in December. (See picture on back page.) This was gained after years of hard work from particular members and the congregation of the church as a whole. It is an added bonus for Arbroath which now has three churches with this status. This will help with the town's application for Fairtrade status as 50% of the churches in the town must use Fairtrade goods when catering for social events.

There will be no Fairtrade stall in February. Edith Fraser will have her Created (Tear fund) goods at the Fairtrade Coffee Morning on the 3rd March in St Andrew's Church. This event will involve people from other churches, Arbroath High pupils and local businesses. I hope members of the congregation will support the coffee morning.

Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group now has four church members on the committee. They have made new links with schools interested in Fairtrade. There has to be 30% of our schools using Fairtrade products. They hope that in the coming months they will be able to fill in Arbroath's application for Fairtrade Town status. Our church and people in the community have made simple steps, like swapping their tea to Fairtrade. Have you taken a Fairtrade step?

**FAIRTRADE 2012**

**'Take a Step in 2012' begins in  
Fairtrade Fortnight from  
27th February – 11th March, 2012**

## Clerk's Corner

### We can all help – we must all help

You will have read elsewhere that there was no appointment made to the post of Associate Minister after the selection day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. This now means that the planned for extension to ministerial work will not be possible. It is likely that there will be a considerable amount of time taken to decide what the future will be in terms of an additional member of staff. In the meantime it will be up

to all of us to ensure that Martin is not overburdened by requests which could be directed elsewhere. We have an efficient Core Group system which deals with all areas of congregational life – these have been detailed in recent Quests.

So what can we all do? If you need some information or want to raise a matter, you can enquire from Alison at the office or ask the Session Clerk. Both of these people will be able to pass on your requests to the appropriate person, and if this happens to be Martin, then that is what will happen.

## Prayer Corner

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3: 16.)*

What Love! God's Love  
That will not let us go.  
How wonderful, how marvellous  
That He should love us so!

What Love! God's Love,  
He made us and He cares,  
When we pour out our hearts to Him  
He listens to our prayers.

What Love! God's Love,  
He's ready when we call,  
He'll hear us and provide for us,  
And lift us when we fall.

What Love! God's Love,  
His only Son He gave.  
Now all who will believe in Him  
Can triumph o'er the grave.

What Love! God's Love,  
His Spirit He has given.  
He'll lead us and inspire us,  
And point the way to heaven.

May Love, God's Love  
Be with us evermore,  
The King of all creation  
We'll worship and adore!

Thank you, Lord, that you first loved us  
and gave your Son to be our Saviour.  
Help us to love you more, to love our  
neighbours as we love ourselves, and to  
Make the most of the freedom we enjoy  
to share your Gospel of Love. Amen.

## Jehovah's Witnesses at a glance

Jehovah's Witnesses are members of a *Christian-based* religious movement.

The denomination was founded in the USA towards the end of the 19th century, under the leadership of Charles Taze Russell. The headquarters of the movement is in New York.

There are about 6.9 million active Witnesses in 235 countries in the world (2007), including 1 million in the USA and 130,000 in the UK.

Members of the movement are probably best known for their door-to-door evangelical work; *witnessing* from house to house, offering Bible literature and recruiting and converting people to *the truth*.

Although Christian-based, the group believes that the traditional Christian Churches have deviated from the true teachings of the Bible, and do not work in full harmony with God.

The traditional Christian Churches, for their part, do not regard the movement as a mainstream Christian denomination because it rejects the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, which it regards as both irrational and unbiblical.

Jehovah's Witnesses claim to base their beliefs only on the text of the Bible and ignore "mere human speculations or religious creeds." They believe that the Bible is the Word of God and consider its 66 books to be divinely inspired and historically accurate.

Members reject the sinful values of the secular world and maintain a degree of separation from non-believers - they are "in the world" but not "of the world". But unlike the members of more extreme separatist movements, Witnesses both live and work among the secular community and send their children to secular schools but they discourage participation in university education for its own sake. They typically disapprove of the 'rat race' that is rife in contemporary society, and view earthly aspirations as being of much less importance than spiritual concerns: it is far preferable to work for Jehovah's kingdom than for material gain.

They also refuse military service, voting in elections, and taking part in most religious festivals and secular celebrations, like birthdays. In countries with compulsory national service most Witnesses will accept civilian service as an alternative to military service. Certain civic obligations, such as jury service, are seen as a matter for individual decision according to the dictates of conscience.

Witnesses do not celebrate Christmas or Easter because they believe that these festivals are based on (or massively contaminated by) pagan customs and religions. They point out that Jesus did not ask his followers to mark his birthday.

The church is strongly millennial and believes that humanity is now in the 'last days' and that the final battle between good and evil will happen soon.

Martin Fair

## Storage Space

The old adage, 'If there is an empty cupboard, someone will quickly fill it' is never more true than in a Church! This creates problems when we need to temporarily store items such as coke cans for Seafest, medicines for Malawi, empty lemonade bottles etc.....

When Havilah moves to our new premises, space will be freed up. The Fabric Group has therefore decided that, to assist our Church Officer in keeping our premises tidy, some of that space will be reserved as 'temporary' storage space. Therefore, if you see an empty space, do not assume that you can simply start using it. If you feel you need new storage space then please discuss it with Janis and Alison.

## Guild News

Our guild is in full swing again after our Christmas break. We had a lovely party at our last meeting of 2011 with Laura Taylor keeping us 'on our toes' with her selection of music.

Our first meeting of 2012 was 'An Audience with May Smith.' As most of you know May has had a very interesting life and she related many parts of it, from childhood right through to today, with a selection of photographs. She was suitably dressed in her African dress from her time in Kenya. We were given the chance to ask questions, just like the T.V. show, some serious and others which led to another funny story from May. It was a delightful evening and

very well attended.

The 23rd of January we had an open night and were entertained by the Carnoustie Traditionals. This was a return visit for them but again their music and funny anecdotes made a superb evening. Being the nearest Guild Night to Burns, our fare was stovies, shortie and cloutie dumpling. We had quite a few guests which was lovely and hopefully they will join us again.

Our next meeting is the 6th of February and will be our theme night and then on the 20th we have another St Andrew's celebrity, Sheila Stewart. We are very much looking forward to both these evenings and would be delighted to have others come and join us. The Guild is open to men and women so why not give one of these evenings a go. A warm welcome awaits you.

### Eco Corner

We hear a lot about reducing energy use in the home, but not so much about reducing water use. However, saving water is very eco-friendly, even though Scotland isn't short of water by any means! Being careful with water use is important because it requires high energy use to collect water, to purify it to drinking quality then to pipe it into our homes. The less we use, the less energy we consume. So don't be a water waster! One big source of wasted water is running a hot water tap; we waste many litres of high-energy water letting it run down the plughole until the

water heats up. Why not keep a couple of jugs handy by the sink and fill these with the not-hot-enough water? You can use the water for cooking, tea and coffee making, watering your house plants, cleaning – the list is long. You'll be surprised how many jugfuls you can divert from going needlessly down the drain every day.

As you stand at the sink and watch the jug filling, it's a good opportunity to give thanks for Jesus, the Living Water who satisfies our thirst for God. Linking our daily activities with a mindfulness of God's goodness to us is an important aspect of being part of an eco-congregation.

### Book Review

#### 'Dancer off her Feet' by Julie Sheldon

I was asked as part of the Nurture Group, to read and review this book. I finished the book on the same day I did my Sunday Club lesson. That day's lesson was from 2 Kings 20 and the story of Hezekiah. The aim of the lesson was to find out that God can be trusted. The author of this book had the greatest trust ever in God despite suffering from a debilitating illness.

'Dancer off her Feet' is a true story and is recommended reading for The Alpha Course. Julie is married with two young children and led a very active and physical life – she had been a ballet dancer but also enjoyed singing and playing the piano. She enjoyed going on yearly skiing holidays, playing tennis and running around with her children and dogs. She suffered many injuries and illnesses before eventually being diagnosed with the neurological disease Dystonia. Her life changed dramatically as she was now crippled and in a wheelchair, enduring fierce muscle spasms daily. She suffered great pain and yearned to be a proper mother and wife again. She continually read her Bible with the psalms being a great comfort to her. She speaks about God's protection and love, and that He gave her courage and faith. She felt her 'real hope lay in the Lord' One day,

when in intensive care, Canon Jim Glennon prayed for her. Jim is an Australian Anglican minister with a world-wide ministry of healing. Very soon after, Julie started to make small steps to recovery with major setbacks along the way until she was free of Dystonia.

This book is an inspiring story which is well worth reading. As I was reading my initial thoughts were how can one person go through and suffer so much and yet still have a faithful trust and belief in God? The main aspect for me was the power of prayer. Everybody and everyone continually prayed for Julie, her family and all the medical professionals who were treating her. It really made me think and realise how important prayer is in living a Christian life. It may well have inspired me to go along to the once a month prayer meetings!!

The Nurture Group organise the bookstall on the first Sunday of every month. (Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February being the first of 2012)

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### FEBRUARY

##### Sunday 5

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 12

11 am - All-age Worship Service, suitable for the whole family!  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 19

11 am - Worship Service, with special guest, The Rev. John Chalmers; main service followed by short celebration of Communion  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Saturday 26

11 am - Worship Service  
4.30pm - Messy Church  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### MARCH

##### Sunday 4

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 11

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 18

11 am - Worship Service, including Celebration of Communion  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 25

11 am - Worship Service;  
4.30pm - Messy Church  
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.

## Malawi 2012

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.

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?'

**To save time, and the cost of making copies, the minute of last year's Annual Stated Meeting is given below. This year's meeting will be held on Sunday 4th March.**

The Annual Stated meeting was held after Morning Worship in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2011 and was constituted with prayer.

**Moderator:** Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

**Sederunt:** 110 members of the congregation were in attendance.

The minute of the Annual Stated Meeting held in St Andrew's Church on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 was approved on the motion of D Wright and A McSkimming.

**Finance Report:** Before presenting his final report after thirty two years as treasurer of St Andrew's Church, Derek Scott paid tribute to the constant support he had received from his wife Isobel.

He indicated that the accounts had been scrutinised by the Kirk Session and the Finance and Administration Core Group. He then went on to present a shortened version of the accounts and indicated that the full version was available for all those interested. He also asked the congregation to note the detail provided in the Achievements and Performance section where the Moderator had outlined the congregation's commitment in many directions, but in particular to the Havilah Ministry, the Malawi Partnership, the

Alpha Courses and the successful embedding of the new organisational structures.

Derek then indicated that there had been a total income of £170,664 and expenditure of £153,564. The resultant surplus of £17,431 had been transferred to the Refurbishment Fund. Detail of the movement in Funds was given and the congregation were delighted to hear that to date, with funds in hand to meet the current payments due, the sum still to be raised has now been reduced £37,115. He thanked the congregation for their commitment to making his years of being treasurer so fulfilling.

**Moderator's Comments:** The Rev Martin Fair thanked the treasurer for his qualities of integrity and humility combined with his real ability in his post. He indicated the depth of faith shown is the kind of service that makes a church. Martin called on us to be inspired by this level of service and to think of what we all can do for our Lord and Church so that the Kingdom would be further established here. We were encouraged to look to God's blessing in 2011 and beyond.

The Deputy Session Clerk, Joan Hainsworth, thanked Martin for his leadership in all aspects of Church life and for increasing our understanding through inspired teaching, biblical study, explanation and personal challenge. God's blessing was sought for all the Fair family.

The meeting closed with the benediction.

## THE BIG SING

No, we did not join Aled Jones in his Songs of Praise "Big Sing" event at the Albert Hall, but in the run up to Christmas a large group of us sang with enthusiasm and gusto at the Lunan Court Care Home in Albert Street.

We were very grateful to the Care Manager who had worked behind the scenes and ensured that nearly all the patients on the ground floor medical block, as well as some of their nurses and carers, were seated and ready for our visit. Several patients from the first floor dementia unit were escorted down in the lift and took their places with their fellow patients.

The Rev. Alastair Keedie, a retired minister from Dundee and who later served for a time in the United Free Church in Arbroath, guided along the proceedings while Mrs. Jean Scott used her musical abilities on the keyboard to keep us all in tune.

We sang many of the well known carols and as we enjoyed singing them, it seemed that our listeners appreciated being able to join in. There was a certain reticence when the elderly folk were asked to choose carols but many were able to sing without looking at their word sheets. At the end of the service Alastair and several of our group went around and spoke to staff and patients and were happy to hear many expressions of pleasure at our visit.

What of any future involvement at Lunan Court? Unfortunately the present Care Manager has been off sick for almost a month and at the time of writing, was not yet back. Her secretary assured me that our request to conduct a monthly service was in her "in tray" and that we would be hearing from her. So, please pray for a positive reply to our request. It would seem that although some ministers visit individual patients, there is no corporate expression of worship in the Home.

Sue Pritchard



## Ready Steady Cook

After the success of the first time, we eagerly looked forward to this year's event. Reappearing for the red corner again was Martin Fair looking somewhat subdued as he nervously awaited the announcement of who his mystery opponent was to be. As Anthony Worrall Thomson pulled out at the last minute(!), Elaine Fair valiantly stepped into the breach. Immediately Martin's face brightened because he clearly considered that this would not provide any serious competition for him. Indeed, he made many attempts to undermine the confidence of the ladies with sexist phrases like - 'you women overcook your vegetables' or 'you women have no idea how to use seasoning'. This, from a man who had to read instructions on the packet to find out what polenta is! His assistant, Tom, provided the ingredients, the main course being a large piece of steak and vegetables and, for

the sweet, a shop bought meringue base and lychees. Elaine's assistant, Donna, provided chicken and vegetables for the main course and brandy baskets with fruit for the sweet. Battle commenced with a scramble for the additional ingredients provided and soon there was the smell of sizzling oil permeating the hall. Elaine almost cost us the entire refurbishment when the flames from her frying pan gave a new meaning to the word flambé! Martin assured the audience that the whole thing was easy and that he would produce a dish which was a feast for the eye and a delight for the tongue. Elaine on the other hand quietly and confidently (if somewhat red in the face from the heat) applied herself to the task in which her main course required skilful combining of layers of cooked ingredients. Becky Dunphy again proved to be an able commentator. At the final vote Elaine was the winner by a huge majority and, surprise, surprise, Martin was humbled yet again! JM.



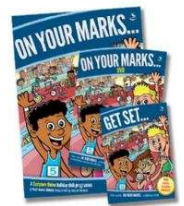
December - As always, the charming innocence of the children delighted us during their presentation of the Nativity play.

## Holiday Club

This year, the children's holiday club has a sporting theme and is called 'On Your Marks'. It will run from Monday 2nd until Friday 6th April, from 10am - 12noon each morning. Full details will be published in due course but, as always, the club will be open to all primary school children and the rock-solid guarantee is that

everyone who comes will have a great time with fun, fun, fun all the way!

*On Your Marks* works well in this, the Olympic year, with its combination of sporty challenges and key stories from the life of Jesus, and will be enjoyed by church and non-church children alike.



December - After years of hard work, Fairtrade status has been gained by St Andrew's Church. Pictured are Alice Dewar, Mary Reid and Alison Davie



October - After a large branch had fallen into a neighbour's property, Royal Oak Tree Services felled the oversized trees in the manse garden - fortunately before the onset of winter gales!