



## Successful Launch Of Mum and Me

This new group, led by Gaynor Scott and Kim Marr, is intended to offer support to Mums and little ones from birth to pre-school in a supported and protective environment. In the first week, four mums and their children had an enjoyable time and, quite clearly, the word soon spread. In the following weeks the number of Mums rose to ten and then twelve.

The opportunity is there to enjoy the company of others, make new friends and learn new skills. Mums have time to chat and discuss issues and concerns about bringing up chil-

dren and help and advice with these aspects is available. There is also an opportunity to learn crafts which include sewing, baking, card-making and much more, with occasional pampering possible! The children enjoy their own supervised programmes before having lunch together.

The group which welcomes both church members and members of the community meets on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am for a 10am start and finishes after lunch at 1pm.

### Your Church Needs YOU!

Great progress is being made with our Fisheracre property, but much still has to be done. Can you clean, paint etc? Then please give your name to Karen Reaney.



Insulation being installed in the roof space



Being stripped down before building up again

"I just thought this piece might come in handy for the manse extension!"

New walls and ceiling taking shape



### On Your Marks

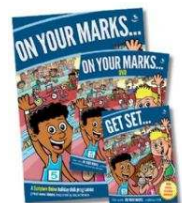
Everything is now being put in place for our annual Holiday Club for primary-aged children which, as always, will run during the first week of the Easter holidays, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> April, from 10am until 12noon each morning.

We now have folks in their mid-twenties who still speak fondly of their holiday club experiences. Just recently, two young women came to the Church to enquire about weddings – their previous experiences of St. Andrew's being fun-filled holiday clubs many years ago! Most children will remember only SOME of what is taught but they'll remember LOTS of what they experience – the fun and the games and the fact that they were welcomed and loved.

We hope and pray that this present generation of children will enjoy our clubs in the same way and that for many of them, these weeks will prove to be formative.

As always, we'll need lots of volunteers. We need front-line workers to lead the children each day, and behind-the-scenes people to take care of kitchen duties and such like. If you're interested in getting involved you need to speak to the minister NOW to ensure that, if required, disclosure checks can be completed in good time.

Please start praying for the success of our club. Titled **On Your Marks**, it will be ideal for this Olympic year and will offer the children lots of hilarious fun together with the challenge to start out on the race of life, following Jesus.



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**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Parish Records****February 2012****Baptisms** - None**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Charlotte Caird**IMPORTANT DATES****APRIL 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 16th March (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th March (Word-Processed file)

**Bicycle Racks**

The Fabric Core Group, and others, continue to work hard at maintaining our premises. In this instance, thanks to our Church Officer, Janis Clark, and her husband Ian, and among the many other improvements they have made, we now have bicycle racks positioned outside just opposite our new halls noticeboard.

So, please do not bring bicycles inside where they present a safety hazard as well as causing damage. Bring a padlock and keep your bicycle safe in the racks!

**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

March 2012

Dear friends,

Elsewhere in this edition of QUEST you can read a brief, initial response to the *worship survey* that was conducted on the Sundays at the end of January and beginning of February. To reiterate what is said at the beginning of that article, a big 'thank you' to those of you who took the time to complete the survey. I have personally spent quite a chunk of time wading through the forms and reflecting on the initial findings. Much of what comes through is very positive and most of what is more critical is offered in a very constructive way.

One person, who preferred to remain anonymous, said that '*old people's views should be taken into account as well as young peoples views.*' Well, given that only three under-16s completed the form and only another 27 under-forties, it is self-evident that there aren't THAT many young people to listen to! Or to put it another way, 65% of those who responded were over 55 years of age and as many as 33% over the age of 70. By definition, then, we were listening to older people's views!!

And of course, the views of older people are of real importance. But I want to suggest to you that there is something more important to worry about and that is that we have so few young people to listen to! This is the case throughout most of the Church in Scotland today and, though we, as a congregation, have a more healthy age profile than most, we, too, are very much *older* as a congregation. Anyone who thinks that that's not something to be concerned about should take a *wake up* pill. Unless a congregation is constantly reaching the next generation with the Gospel, its future cannot be assumed. At this time, the disconnect between the Christian Church in Scotland and the young people of the nation is as severe as it ever has been.

So, I for one am happy to listen to the views of older people. Of course we want to know what older people think! Those who have spent most of their lives within our congregations deserve, at the very least, to be listened to. But we need to pay supreme attention to what our young people are saying – the much smaller number of younger people that we have within the congregation. Listening to their views is critical if we are to even begin to address the challenge of those missing generations. Maybe the average congregation is devoid of younger people because their voices are never taken seriously. We need to ensure that that cannot be said of St. Andrew's Church.

Let me finish with this. To my mind, St. Andrew's Church *works* because it tries its best to be a real community in which ALL people are welcomed and valued. We don't do '*them and us*' at St. Andrew's. We're in it together. As your minister, I'm committed to ensuring that that continues to be the case. At the same time, I'm determined that we do everything we can to ensure a healthy future for the congregation which will demand, as it always has, that all of us remain open to change and development. So whether we're younger or older members matters not half as much as our commitment to seeing the congregation grow and flourish in its ministry and mission – in its service to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. That's something we can all sign up to!

God bless,

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

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

## Evening Worship

Our evening services started on Easter Day last year, some nine months ago. In some ways, we were experimenting and seeing if it was possible to swim against the tide. There was a day when almost every church would hold an evening service; now hardly any do. Would it be possible, we wondered, to start an evening worship time?

Well, on Sunday past (19<sup>th</sup> February) we had over eighty people at our evening worship which is extremely heartening for what was just a *normal* Sunday evening. But it's about more than numbers. Our Sunday evening worship leaders, Michael, Dave and Carol Ann, have really grown into their role. Their leading of our praise is becoming more and more sensitive and the quality of the band *sound* is get-

ting better all the time. Similarly, the messages have been strong and relevant – practical for the living of the Christian life. And that the worship comes after an evening meal is proving to be so valuable. We have fellowship round the table then worship together – it's a great combination.

There are no prizes for coming to church twice on a Sunday; you don't get extra points! That's not what it's about. But evening worship is different from morning worship. The mood is different and we can do things in ways which would be harder to achieve in the morning. Why not give it a try? Or, perhaps you know someone who might be interested in church. Sunday evening worship might just prove to be the easiest way in for them.

See you there soon.



## Malawi Update

(Summarised with permission)

December was a super busy month as just after my last report my family came out to visit me which was really nice but meant my usually busy but laid back schedule was completely over run - with my mum and sister around it's not possible for anyone to be laid back! We were zooming round everywhere, although zooming doesn't really fit in Malawi. I'm not too sure how my sister and mum manage in Malawi so well because they are complete opposites to everyone here - you would think they would have an allergic reaction or something, or maybe it's more like magnets - opposites attract.

I think the highlight of the 3 weeks was having all the kids round to eat at the house. For a week we brought each of the boarding houses to eat with us on the night I would usually have prayed and eaten with them. We gave them rice and chicken which they only get on Christmas day so it was obviously a huge treat as we just doubled the amount of times they eat rice and chicken in a year which is crazy considering how much we would eat it at home. My Mum and Dad had also borrowed a projector which we used to show them the DVD 'The Nativity' which they thought was amazing as they had never seen a film before never mind on the wall. They were really cute!

I was then back in Scotland for one week in January for a Uni interview. It was good to see everyone and especially as it was one of my friend's birthdays that week. But I really missed everyone here and it felt like I was gone for ages. - Not sure how I'm going to manage when I actually leave. I can't actually bear to think about it just now.

This month we have had our first win at football which probably shouldn't have been counted as we did field a secondary pupil who was home on holiday that day. The drive back was not the most enjoyable as the lorry was completely full of children so I was sitting on the side. Unfortunately every time we went round a corner all the ones standing up fell into us. This meant it was hard enough to stay on the truck but add to that the fact that the edge I was sitting on kept unhooking and falling down! At this point five of us had to lunge forward or hope someone standing would catch us! Great fun travelling Malawian style!

This month has had many changes of staff. While I was

away the house father of the older boys' house moved out and is now working in an administrative role but in his place we received a lovely family who are so nice! I love going to that house now as the house mother always informs me how wonderful I am and how much they love me! In another house the mother became just a cook as she is needed to stay at her home now. The new house mother is one of my neighbours who is super nice so I am sad that the old one left, although I still see her every day, but I am super happy with the one who has come in her place.

The saddest change was Robert Mambea, who was in charge of all the schooling but did a lot more than that, has decided to go back to college and get a degree. It all happened so quickly - one Sunday he was here and by the next Sunday he was gone. We had a really nice leaving party thing on the Saturday for him which was really sweet. Some of the older kids were sad as he has been here for ages and really knew them. In the evening we had a video as a treat for the kids. It was Samson and Delilah which I thought was a slightly random one to choose but the kids loved it. Even the older ones were totally absorbed in it so much so that we were surprised when it was finished to realise that it was half 10. My favourite part was when Samson was fighting the lion and Felicita, who was sitting on my knee got scared and burrowed right into me - it would be cute if she was one of the wee ones but since she is 14 not quite so cute!

The worst thing of this month was that I got really sick a couple of weeks ago. Ethel, the nurse thought I had malaria because of the symptoms. It turned out that it was just because I had fallen and cut my toe which then got infected. Unfortunately I then picked my scabs from the fall and also scratched my mosquito bites. The flies went from one to the other and spread the infection so I ended up with massive holes in my legs and feet. I had a really big one on my right foot which caused my whole foot to swell up and then made me sick. Everyone always gets me into trouble for picking my scabs- now I know why!

Anyway all in all its been a good month and I hope that you are all doing well and enjoying the cold as seriously right now I would love to be sitting in some snow and ice as it's so unbelievably hot!

Naomi.

## Eco-driving is Faith-filled Driving

With spring in the air we'll be out and about more, so if you own a car, turn your eco-focus this month on your use of it. When Jesus was asked "What is the greatest commandment", he answered with two, and so our eco-driving "10 commandments" starts with the two most important.

◇ Get out of the car - reduce the number of journeys you make, especially short ones where you can walk or use public transport instead

◇ Share your car - share a ride and split the cost, or even share ownership and reduce the number of cars on the road

Following these two "big ones", see what changes you can make in your faithful stewardship of your car by following the rest of the "commandments":

◇ Accelerate and brake gently - safer as well as fuel-efficient!

◇ Get into high gears as early as possible (but not by accelerating fast!)

◇ Don't stop if you can help it - roll towards queues, never rush to join them

◇ Go easy on the air con - reduce your CO2 emissions

◇ Keep those tyres correctly inflated - more CO2 saved

◇ Ditch the roof rack - reduce the drag when you don't need it

◇ Close your windows on the motorway - reduce drag

◇ Clean junk out of the boot - save the picnic rug and the wellies for the weekend

## Prayer Box

From 8th April 2012 the Nurture Group will provide a Prayer Box to be situated in the vestibule for anyone to pop in a note about a concern or anxiety they would like prayer for – whether for themselves, family, friends or a particular situation. This may be anonymous if desired. There will be a memo pad and pens available beside the box.

The box will be emptied only by the prayer co-ordinators, Anne Matthew and Judy Spink after each service. The prayer requests will therefore not be left in the box for any length of time so that those who are praying can start as soon as possible.

If you would like to know more, please speak to the prayer co-ordinators, Judy Spink and Anne Matthew, or to Lorna Searle or Gaynor Scott (Nurture Group).

## Malawi Fundraisers

Thanks to all who supported our Soup & Pudding Lunch after the morning service on 12th February. **We raised £347.50.** Our Quiz night on 2nd March will be over by the time you read this and, hopefully, it will have provided lots of fun.

**Coming next:**

**April – Murder Mystery**

**(This has been very popular in the past so watch out for more information and then book early!)**

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

## Repent O Scottish Sinner.....

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid and, because his price was so low, he got the job.

So, he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up

the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with water... Well, Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint off from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the grave-stones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke saying - "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

## Ask Theophilus

I read this verse in Jeremiah (5:9) recently and wondered if a God of love could ever say such a thing?

"Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD; and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?"

### Theophilus answers:

Often in the Bible the language used expresses how human beings might feel about something, rather than how God would feel. Jeremiah speaks in this way very often. So we have to try and understand what lies behind these words that the prophet is putting into God's mouth, so to speak. I think Jeremiah is saying something like this.

The people in his day had forsaken the worship of God and had taken on worship of idols along with many depraved practices. The context makes that very clear.

Jeremiah is saying that God cannot just ignore such infidelity; he calls it "adultery", meaning of course spiritual adultery. So his theme is judgment - the inevitable response from a holy God who cannot ever condone any kind of sin.

However, Jeremiah's message is that when and if the people repented they would, by their repentance, judge themselves and so would receive God's forgiveness. In other words, true repentance is always a kind of "judgment". When we genuinely turn away from what is wrong, we judge ourselves. Then the door is opened to God's pardon.

Alas, Jeremiah's contemporaries stubbornly refused to repent and turn back to God. No other alternative remained than judgment which ultimately came on the nation in the form of seventy years of exile in Babylon.

**Have you a question for Theophilus? Hand it in and get his answer in the next issue of Quest.**

## Women's Refuge

Last year we had such a generous response to our appeal for toiletries that we were able to deliver 47 bags of toiletries to the Women's Refuge. The gifts were much appreciated. We would like to do the same again this year!

To achieve this, we are appealing for donations of toiletries - unwanted gifts or hotel toiletries are perfect. Any donation can be handed into the office or left in the box in the vestibule of the church on a Sunday throughout this month.

Thank you.

## Guild News

Our February meetings have been very well attended and we have had some new ladies join us which is just great.

Our meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> was our theme night – What does the Lord require of you – To walk humbly with our God. We had a drama, poetry and a few hymns, thankfully, accompanied by Mhairi Duncan. One tune was quite unfamiliar but we got there in the end!! We discussed how the disciples must have felt as Jesus washed their feet and how he calls us all to serve as he did.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> February we had a change of guest since our planned speaker Sheila Stewart was unable to be with us. (Sheila's evening will be forwarded to the start of the next session). However, we were extremely delighted to have another Mrs Stewart step into the breach, when Una came to give us her talk of her days in the Land Army. What a great evening this was and her delightful stories had us laughing as she remi-

nised of her younger days in Cornwall and then in various locations around Montrose through the war years. She brought some memorabilia and her framed certificate of recognition for her Land Army days (66 years late) signed by Gordon Brown, then Prime Minister. Thank you Una once again.

Our next Guild meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> March is 'Footprints' as we continue with our theme and it will be based on the poem by Margaret Fishback Powers. We will then visit the MacKay's Jam Factory on the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will then only have 2 Guild meetings left for April and our coffee morning (look out for those tickets!!) on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

We have had an update on the amounts raised for the projects for Years 2009-2012 which now total £623,773.95. The total for the project we are supporting this year, A Place for Hope, is £73,887.37. These are magnificent amounts and Guilds are thanked for their dedication and commitment to all 6 projects. The new ones for the next 3 years will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

## Where I've Been

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on

physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

Someone I know has been in Continent, but doesn't remember what country it was in. It's an age thing.

## Thank You

I sat in tears last Sunday (12th) as we rejoiced and gave thanks for the wonderful opportunity Harris has been given to play Billy Elliot in London. We had so much help and support during Lindsey's illness, but I most especially want to thank those who did so much for Harris during that time. Firstly, my thanks to Martin, Elaine and the boys who welcomed him into their home where he stayed for weeks on end. I only heard later about the fun, games and mischief that they enjoyed. Indeed, I think that's when he first ditched the shy, quiet wee boy. Sorry, Elaine and Martin, but very grateful thanks.

Soon after Wilma Nicolson joined us here at St Andrew's, she took the Beattie family under her wing, in particular, Harris. She met him from school twice a week, took him to her home, where they did school homework, played games, had tea and took Bobby for walks. Just normal, everyday things, but when you're the youngest of five, growing up in a busy household, how special these times were. Thank you, Wilma, so much.

Many years ago all our Sunday School (as it was then) children were linked with an adult member of the congregation who would pray for them. I learnt on Sunday that Margaret Stibbles has been praying for Harris all these years. Thank you, Margaret, for your faithfulness. Margaret also faithfully drove Lindsey to all her Monday chemo sessions at a particularly stressful time for herself.

My final thanks go to Ruth Martin. Since she first became aware of Lindsey's illness, never a Wednesday passed but a lovely home cooked meal was delivered to the Beattie household. When I was cooking for the family, how I loved Thursdays!

I am greatly blessed to belong to a large and loving family. How greatly blessed I am also to belong to the Church family that is St Andrew's.

**Sheila Stewart**

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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

### APRIL

#### Sunday 1

11 am - Worship Service,  
Palm Sunday  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Thursday 6th

7.30 pm - Maundy Thursday  
Worship  
(with our Old & Abbey friends)

#### Sunday 8

8 am - Sunrise Service,  
outdoors at Arbroath Abbey,  
followed by breakfast  
11 am - Easter Sunday  
Celebration, for all the family -  
with all-age Communion  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 15

11 am - Worship Service,  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 22

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Saturday 29

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.



## Clerk's Corner

### Information Gathering

Keeping up with information about the skills of the members of St Andrew's Church can be a tricky job and needs constant revision. One of you mentioned in the congregational survey carried out at the end of morning service at the end of January, that you hoped that more use would be made of it than the previous one. Presumably the 'previous' one being referred to was the Skills and Services Audit which allowed individuals to indicate where they might offer service to all the organisations and structures that make up St Andrew's. This was introduced around three years ago. The opportunity to fill this in continues to be offered to new members and where some of you missed filling it in, you may have been approached individually for the information. Copies of all the responses are made available to any organisation seeking to recruit new helpers. Most recent uses of it have included the search for additional members for the welcome teams, the cleaning teams, catering teams, gardening skills, and those with skills in communication.

Some of the sections on the form were filled in by so

many people that it was not possible to use all of you. However, if you want to re-emphasise your willingness to undertake a task, please let me know and I will ensure that your name is passed to the appropriate person.

### Aesthetic Matters

When we returned to the church after refurbishment, a small committee was formed to discuss the use of the various artefacts which were previously in various position within the sanctuary. It was agreed, that to maintain the new cleanly beautiful lines of the church and to avoid the 'cluttering' effect (our architect's word) of too many objects, that there should be a definite approach. This approach would mean that no objects would be on permanent display and all suitable items would appear *in season*. You will have noticed that the banners were in place for the Christmas period and again on the anniversary of Jean Glen's death. You will be able to enjoy their beauty at the other appropriate times which have been identified. The work of the Flower Club will also be in evidence at special occasions in addition to their weekly displays. Other artefacts have also appeared recently and will continue to do so at the appropriate times.

## Worship Survey

Those of you who were in Sunday worship on the last Sunday of January or at the beginning of February would have had opportunity to complete our two-page worship survey. First of all, thanks to all those who took the time to do so. We've received more than two hundred completed forms which means that we can confidently say that the findings are representative of those who regularly attend worship at St. Andrew's.

Our purpose was to *take the temperature* of the congregation in relation to worship – to see what you were thinking and feeling about our worship programme and the styles we adopt etc. Undoubtedly, we'll be able to make some changes based on what we've heard and specifically in relation to some of the particular additional comments that were made. It's always good to be able to tweak things here and there and, to that end, we're always open to good suggestions.

Sometimes, though, with the best will in the world it's difficult to accommodate what everyone wants. For example, one person commented that, in relation to the monthly communions, one parent is excluded from coming because their children have to be seen to. But much as it would be nice to say that we'd look after the children for the duration of communion as well, we already ask a lot of our Sunday Club leaders who look after everyone's children every week already! So in this case perhaps we have to accept that parents need to take it turn about.

Beyond that, we need to consider percentages and proportions. Someone commented that they hoped we would make use of the findings. Well, certainly, we aim to do just that. We continue to make regular use of the skills audit that we conducted a few years back and will pay similarly close attention to this one. But of course it's impossible to 'respond' to every individual taste or leaning.

\* Take for instance the question of when our Sunday

morning services should be held. Though a few people said that they would prefer an earlier start time (14 in all) 92% of respondents said that they wanted us to stick with 11am. In such cases, clearly we need to listen to what the overwhelming majority are saying. It would be crazy to change our start time because a few people wanted it.

- \* A brief glance at the responses in regard to music shows equally clear patterns. 82% of those who responded said that they felt the balance between traditional and modern praise at the morning service was 'about right.' 10% felt that it was too traditional and 8% thought that it leaned too heavily towards the contemporary. Clearly this kind of finding suggests that, while not everyone will be happy, in the main most people think we're getting it right more often than not! With music being a subject likely to ignite heated passions, 82% is, in fact, an amazingly high percentage of satisfied members! The 8% and the 10% of 'others' almost cancel each other out with only a very slight leaning towards wanting a more modern slant.
- \* Other findings are somewhat more nuanced. We asked what people thought about the length of the morning service which, as you know, is generally around seventy-five minutes. This time, the returns were more spread – at least in one particular direction. 74% said that they thought it was 'about right,' only 1% said they thought it should be shorter and 24% said that they wouldn't mind if the service was longer. Now that's not to say that we'll do anything about that, immediately or at all, but 24% of the worshipping congregation is a significant number and, therefore, proper consideration needs to be given to what they have said.

Once we've had a chance to properly '*crunch the numbers*' we'll use QUEST to share all of the findings of the survey. Thanks, in the meantime, to the Worship Core Group who prepared the questionnaire, to Alison Davie who did much of the setting up and to Karen Reaney who did most of the mind-numbingly boring work of entering the data!!

### The Lord's Prayer

Over the last weeks, we've been focussing on The Lord's Prayer, recognising that our children have never learned it as older generations once did. There's little merit in empty ritual and meaningless repetition but, after all, this is the prayer that Jesus gave us! Can we afford to ignore it? Well done to all of those children who managed to learn it

by heart. It will stand them in good stead. But, as was proposed on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, why don't we all take hold of it anew and build it into our daily routine?

In recent years, there's been a resurgence in use of the prayer with Christians the world over committing to saying the prayer every day at 12noon. Why don't you see if you can build that into your daily schedule? It only takes a minute or two but might make a big difference in your day.



### Take A Step For Fairtrade Fortnight

Using and promoting Fairtrade is something that happens all year round, but particularly during Fairtrade Fortnight each year. In 2012 the Fortnight is 27 Feb-11 Mar, and marks the beginning of a big campaign called "Take a Step". With our new status as a Fairtrade Church, it would be great to see lots of St Andrew's folk take one more step forward in supporting Fairtrade. Your step could be large or small, the first one you've ever taken or the hundredth, but every step counts - each of us can do one more thing to help producers to work their way out of poverty and benefit from a more equal and just world trade system.

Here are a few ideas – or you can think up one of your own!

- Buying a Fairtrade chocolate Easter egg
- Inviting a friend out for a Fairtrade coffee
- Telling your friends on Facebook about your favourite Fairtrade product
- Buying Fairtrade tea bags when it's your turn at work
- Asking your hairdresser to offer you Fairtrade drinks
- Joining the Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group, aiming to make Arbroath a Fairtrade Town

Every step counts towards our total of 1.5 million steps we're hoping to achieve by the end of 2012 – one step for every farmer and worker in the Fairtrade system. Help us to count the steps by registering yours at <http://step.fairtrade.org.uk/>, or tell Mary Reid about it here at church.

### Garden Progress

Shown below are the new bicycle racks and the Glenview garden where we will place a seat with a memorial

plaque to Jean Glen. In the West garden, the old oil tank has been removed and replaced by a small patio area with new paths leading to the side, cellar, and rear garden. Another seat,

with plaque, will replace the older bench seen here, and turf will be laid in the spring. Paths to the sheds in the rear garden, and around that area, are also now nearing completion.

