

Workplace Chaplains

It was a great delight to us to welcome the various workplace chaplains from around Angus and Dundee to our evening service on 18th November 2012. During the service, we were able to learn about their work and to dedicate them to God's service.



Of particular note is that we have three of our own members currently serving - in a voluntary capacity - as workplace chaplains!

Robert Matthew serves at Tesco while Joan Hainsworth operates at Morrisons and Gaynor Scott within various of the departments of Angus Council.

Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland was formerly known as Industrial Chaplaincy and, most certainly, it had a *heavy industry* feel to it. Chaplains were generally posted in ship-

yards, steel works and the like. But with the much-changed nature of the economy of modern-day Scotland, so the service has adapted and chaplains are as often serving within the service sector as in factories and they are just as likely to be female as male! Beyond that, many of them - such as our own - serve as volunteers.

We rejoice that here is another example of members of St. Andrew's getting OUT OF THE BUILDING and into the world, where people are! God bless them in their work.



May Smith led the congregation in prayers for Christ's Kirk, Glenrothes, where we have a connection between our Guilds.

Guild Week

Is the Guild for 'Oldies'? Not the one at St Andrew's. In all that they do they show such enthusiasm, combined with a passion for all that the Guild represents. In our 'Guild Sunday' service they demonstrated variety, with the experience and wisdom of May Smith's prayer, the youthful exuberance of Elise Bowie in leading an excellent children's address, an 'action song' team and dancing and singing. Well done ladies!



Doris Bowie, Joyce McPherson, Marion Gallacher, Shona Kemp, Margaret Stibles and Gaynor Scott, led the action singing for 'The Perfect Ten'.

CONTACTS

CHURCH OFFICE : 431135

ADMINISTRATOR

Lesley McColgan

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri
9 am to noon

MINISTER

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

MINISTER EMERITUS

David Searle : 872794

SESSION CLERK

Jane Miller : 875235

TREASURER

Susan Godsall : 430862

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

Ian Robertson : 877519

CHURCH OFFICER

Janis Clark : 878594

PASTORAL CARE

CO-ORDINATOR

Kim Marr : 430505

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

HAVILAH PROJECT

WORKER

Tracey McLeod : 434088

ORGANIST

Jane Miller : 875235

FABRIC CONVENOR

Ray Reaney : 07803 235418

SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

SAFEGUARDING

CO-ORDINATOR

Eleanor Mands : 01382 477318

FLOWER CONVENOR

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS

Judy Spink : 872395

Anne Matthew : 876008

SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

ADMINISTRATOR and BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Lesley McColgan : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

November 2012

Baptisms - None

Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Ella Watson (formerly a member of St Andrew's),
John Kucharski,
Ina Teviotdale,
Bob Hastie

CHRISTMAS BOOKSTALL

The next bookstall on the 9th of December will have a range of Christmas items including cards, advent calendars, calendars and gift ideas.

Why not shop in comfort and be organised? We look forward to your custom.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY EDITION (NO January Edition)

Handwritten articles should be handed in to the office by the first date and not to the Editor.

Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent directly to the Editor by the second date.

Please avoid embedding articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 18th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd January (Word-Processed file)

Men's Group Christmas Meal

Great speaker

Former Tayside Police Inspector

David Logan

Minister of St Margaret's Church, Forfar

Community Spirit - 7a Fisheracre December 10th, 7 for 7:30pm

Eastern Fusion Buffet Meal

Cost £8.50 due by 02/12/12 to Church office or

Robert Matthew 01241 876008

Why not bring a friend along.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Organisations will alert members when groups resume after the holidays or 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

7.30 to 9.00 pm – Youth Group

9.00 pm – Senior Youth Group

Monday to Friday - 11.00 am – Havilah : Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088)

MONDAY

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 – Margaret Stibbles (434075)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993)

TUESDAY

9.30 am – 1.00 pm - Mum and Me - K Marr (430505) and G Scott (879615)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

6.15 pm – Brownies – Rosie Hill (07977 790528)

7.30 pm – Guides - Rosie Hill (07977 790528)

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

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Martin Fair

December 2012

Dear friends,

By the time you're reading this we'll be on about week 7 or 8 of our journey through **The Story** and heading towards our first break, for our Advent and Christmas celebrations. We'll pick up where we left off on the 13th January 2013 and will run continuously through until stopping briefly again at Easter time following which it will be a straight run through to the end of **The Story** in June.

Speaking for myself, I am very much enjoying the material of **The Story** - the sections of scripture that are selected in our books and the material used by our children, teens and home groups etc. I'm hoping that you, likewise, are enjoying it and learning from it. You'll certainly be getting the most out of it if you are reading for yourself or as part of a group over and above what we cover on Sunday mornings. Either way, hopefully you'll be getting a better understanding, for example, of how the events and characters of the Bible all fit together. Most of us are perhaps familiar with the story of Joseph but it's good to see how that particular story flows out of the story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and how following it, there is the story of Moses, the Exodus from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea etc.

And in this vein, we'll continue ALL THE WAY through the Old Testament and the New Testament until arriving at our final destination in the book of Revelation.

My hope and prayer is that, for all of us, this journey through **The Story** will prove to be much more than a journey of historical interest. It's no bad thing for us to learn about what happened long ago - about how God was at work in the lives of the ancients etc. But if that's all that it is then we will have seriously missed the point! This is OUR story, too! As we read page by page, we're presented with opportunities to see ourselves and to come to realise that God is still active in our lives today! The God who was with Joseph as he languished in prison will be with us through our lowest times. The God who empowered Moses for a task that he believed to be beyond him will use and equip us! And the God who provided for his people in the wilderness will surely provide for our needs as well.

So let it become YOUR Story, the story of what God is doing in your life. And through all of us, let it be a testimony to the whole world that God is not confined to the pages of history!

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish that for all of you, there will be time during the Advent and Christmas season for making room for Jesus in THE INN of your life.

With God's blessing,

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

martin.fair@sky.com

Clerk's Corner

Catering Team

Because of our flexible and comfortable premises, lets to outside organisations are increasing rapidly and this is also due, in no small measure, to the wonderful food that Doris Bowie and her team can provide. Indeed, the groups hiring our premises receive a real bargain when they ask for food to be supplied and yet, at the same time, this still adds significantly to the profit that we receive – thanks to the enormous hard work of the catering team who freely give many hours of their time.

Events Team

It is heartening to be able to tell you that four more people have joined the Events Team. This is a very busy time for them as there are several bookings by outside organisations taking place up till the end of the year. It is so encouraging when we hear such positive comments made about the beauty of our sanctuary and gallery and the welcome that is extended. Sometimes there are several things happening at the same time. One morning last month, the Mother and Toddler Group in the Main Hall, the Persecuted Christians Group in the Session Room and an Angus Council Training all day event in the Small Halls, managed to

dovetail their arrangements, especially round the catering side of things. This was achieved through everyone being willing to work together. There will be other occasions when this will happen so thank you to all those of you who cheerfully enable it to be possible.

Quest

Thank you to all of you who make a donation for Quest to your Contact Team visitor who delivers the magazine. This money helps to offset the cost of the printing, carried out in Brechin, which is in the region of £250 per month. We collect 625 copies each month so you can work out how much each copy costs. At the moment we are not covering the cost of this through your donations and would be grateful if any additional members were able to contribute to this.

Life and Work

From January 2013, the cost of Life and Work will rise from £1.80 to £2 per copy. Because there is no Quest in January, those of you who receive this magazine will get both the January and February editions delivered together. You will be able to adjust your contribution at this time. Thank you.

Cleaning team

Still seeking additional volunteers!

Youth Group

Friday 26th October saw the Youth Group heading to Lunan Bay in the dark. We sledged down the big sand dune, cooked sausages on an open fire and played with a light-up football and light-up Frisbee. What a surprise to be out there when it was snowing! When the snow cleared we were all amazed at the beautiful starry sky. For Alanah it was the best trip she had been on so far because 'it was in the dark.'

Quite a few loved our trip to Battlefield last year; Re-

becca commented that she enjoyed it because it was fun and we had to work together as a team.' But for most, the reason they liked their favourite trip was as Andrew said about the camping 'everybody got along together'. Interestingly, although they all say that they enjoy Youth Group because it's fun, most agree with Cailin's comment - 'Everyone is different and everyone gets along'.

As the youth leader I find the enthusiasm and care amongst this group of young people to be really encouraging. As a church we have been really blessed over the years with the young people that have been part of our youth scene and no less today than before.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

The Bible uses some long words that I don't understand. One of them is 'sanctification'; 'sanctify' is similar. What do these words really mean?

Theophilus answers :

Both of these words are about what the Bible calls 'holiness'. The original Hebrew word from which they both come had a double meaning: (1) 'set apart' (2) 'brightness'. God was called 'holy' because he was mysterious, almighty and eternal, therefore he was 'set apart' from mere mortals. His 'holiness' was like the dazzling brightness of the mid-day sun, which naked human eyes cannot gaze at without being almost blinded.

To 'sanctify' things (e.g. furnishings in the temple) or persons (e.g. the priests who served in the temple) meant 'to set them apart for God'. Ceremonies of purifying were used for this purpose, so that those objects and persons who were

being set apart were now holy, cleansed from anything sinful or profane.

This process of 'setting apart' to be holy was known as 'sanctification'. In the New Testament (and also in the OT) the word came to have two clear meanings: 'set apart to belong to God' and 'purified so that you started becoming like God'. Of course, in this life no human being can ever become dazzlingly holy like God.

The word 'saints' simply means 'holy ones' and all true believers are holy in the sense that we now belong to God. But the Christian life demands more: it must be a long daily process of becoming like God. Think of 'sanctification', therefore, as (1) belonging to Christ and (2) each day becoming increasingly like Christ. For that we need the constant help of the Holy Spirit. The letters on Martin's wristband, w.w.j.d. ('What would Jesus do?') should be the motto of us all.

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

Malawi Update

Thanks to all those who sponsor a child at St Andrew's Daycare at Thyolo - we have just sent 130 Christmas Cards containing a small gift to all the children at the centre. Money has also been sent to buy them new clothes as well as food so that they can have a Christmas Party. The children at Kambilonjo will also receive a gift and a Christmas Party.

We have just sent a further £10,000 from our recent fundraising activities. This is towards our new projects at Thyolo. As you may have read, we have recently employed a new teacher. Government schools in Malawi are only open in the mornings so our children who are at school return to the daycare in the afternoons. The new teacher, Modesta, is now giving them further studies in the afternoons which will give them the best opportunity to achieve good grades in their Standard 8 exams and so hopefully allow them to progress to Secondary Education and be selected for the best schools possible. To make the teaching easier we felt that it would be best to have an extra classroom. We also want to build two houses for our administrator and teacher. The cost of both of these will be approximately £18,000 which is what our present fundraising is aiming towards.

Malawi Fundraising

Soup Lunch

We will be holding a Soup Lunch after the morning service on Sunday 16th December.

Alternative Gift Catalogue

Please remember our Alternative Gift Catalogue. For as little as £5 you can give someone a gift that will help a child at one of our centres in Malawi whether it be a School Uniform, Medicine, School Textbooks or lots of other things. Or maybe you could ask someone to give you one of these gifts rather than receive something you don't really need! These are available at the end of each service.

Malawi Calendars

The team that was out in Malawi in June of this year have put some of their photos together to make a lovely 2013 calendar. Cost is £5.

Looking Ahead to 2013:

Friday 18th January – Ready, Steady, Cook – Church Hall
February – Beetle Drive, Soup Lunch
March – Murder Mystery
April – Quiz Night, Soup Lunch
May – St Andrew's Got Talent
June – Coffee Morning.

Could anyone who is willing to act in our DIY Murder Mystery please speak to Sheila.

Holiday Club

It may seem like an age away but already plans are in place for our Holiday Club for next year which, this time around, is going to be called, *Space Academy*! This will be the 22nd year in a row without interruption that we've offered such a club for children during the Easter school holidays and, without exception, these clubs have been highly successful - both in terms of offering a great fun experience for the children and in terms of introducing them to the truths of the Christian faith. We have people in our church today whose first introduction to Jesus was through one or other of our holiday clubs.

As always, we will be assembling a team to lead the club. We're always looking for fresh faces to join the team and, assuming that you have been through the necessary 'protection of children' procedures, we'd love to hear from

you! (If you haven't been cleared but would like to be involved, we need to hear from you at the earliest opportunity to give us time to run through the process.)

But over and above team members, we need people who will:

- ◇ Pray for the success of the club - for enough provisions, for a strong team, for smooth running and for children to respond to the message etc.
- ◇ Put their hand in their pocket and make a donation towards the running costs
- ◇ Provide craft materials - bought new and scavenged! To that end, we will be providing a list of required craft materials early in the new year

So, preparations are under way. Soon there will be the countdown and then there will be 'Lift-off!'

THANK YOU

Havilah is now open five days a week since the church has opened its Community Spirit building. Through this increase in opening times we have seen a marked increase in the number of people who come in each day. Of course this is what was hoped for all along! However, the increase has resulted in our front line volunteers and soup makers being asked to contribute more than they had previously. So, we would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved and to all who help, even in small ways, in making the Havilah project work.

This commitment to making Havilah succeed is a sign that God is at the heart of the work. It is written in 1 Corinthians (3:7-9) "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service."

It is God's will that the church works in unity, with each of us playing our part to make His plans unfold in the world. As in so much that the church does, this unity is evident through our Havilah work. So, again, we would like to say a great big thank you to each and everyone who has played their part.

"IT COULDN'T HAPPEN HERE"

Thus spoke the crowd on hearing of Christians being persecuted for their faith in many parts of the world. The above sentence was spoken assertively in a small drama held in the church on what was set apart by many UK churches as Suffering Church Sunday. However, as the world situation became clearer, one person at least began to be visibly concerned and hesitantly changed her words to "Thank God it could not happen to us."

Could it? Maybe not but..read on.

President Obama and Prime Minister Cameron spoke up at a recent UN meeting about atrocities committed by both sides of the Syrian conflict, but no mention was made of the 2.3 m. Christians who have been deliberately targeted by the rebels since the beginning of the fighting. Chancellor Angela Merkel, at a meeting of the German Protestant church, was opposed by the Green party when she said that "Christianity is the most persecuted religion worldwide." After Islamist militants took over 2/3rds of Mali, French President Francois Hollande warned that what is happening in Mali poses a threat to the entire African continent and also for Europe.

What about the UK?

On the 10th September 2012, Councillor Christina Summers was dismissed from the Green group over her views on same sex marriage. In the same month, 4 cases went

before the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Four British nationals were accused of wearing crosses whilst at work and refusing to carry out duties which appeared to condone same sex marriages. When a customer wanted to buy a Children's Bible at a Marks and Spencer Branch, the Muslim cashier refused to handle it, saying it was unclean so she asked another worker to serve the customer. A porter at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital was suspended after asking some Muslims to remove a cloth covering a crucifix in a prayer room used by all faiths.

Lest the impression should be given that it is only Muslims who want to eradicate Christianity, in many parts of the world Hindus and Buddhists follow the same path. In closing let me quote this from a Nottingham Post reporter: "When visiting a Church of England school, the last thing I expected to see was a Hindu shrine, set up next to a line of Islam prayer mats and facing the Sikh book of worship." The school called this "offering the pupils interactive religious experiences."

So do we have an answer to "It couldn't happen to us"? It could, so what can we do? Keep abreast of world news; know God's Word and its teachings; hold fast to our faith in Jesus; uphold in prayer those who suffer for their faith and be ready to "give to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you..." 1 Peter 3 v15.

Sue Pritchard

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TURN £1 INTO £1.25?

In this day and age, wouldn't we all like to be able to do just **THAT!** Well, for a great many of us, it **CAN** be done, and at **NO EXTRA COST** to ourselves! For each Gift Aid donation to St Andrew's Church, we can reclaim a further quarter back. Examples: 25p in every £1 donated, £2.50 in every £10, £5 in every £20 - and this can be done on your normal offerings.

So, how does it work?

Well, first you need to be paying either Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, and the amount of tax that you pay in a year has to be at least as much as the amount being reclaimed in a year.

If that is the case, then all you need to do next is to fill up an easy Gift Aid Declaration form which you can get from our Church office. As soon as our Treasurer has received your completed form then she will be able to start reclaiming on your tax payments - and it may even be possible to reclaim tax from previous years! Also, there is no contribution too small on which to reclaim tax - as long as we hold a form and you pay tax.

Once you have looked at the form, if you are unsure of your own tax payments, or not sure about what to fill in, then you are most welcome to contact Susan God-sall, Treasurer, on 01241 430862 for assistance.

7th Arbroath B.B.

The Officers and Boys would like to thank you all for supporting our fundraising Coffee Morning. We raised £450 which will help to pay our Capitation Fees. We were grateful to Kirsten Hammond for also running the Body Shop stall and giving up her time to help us in our fundraiser.

We held our Halloween party and we had some Fancy Dress to judge and prizes were awarded to Anchor Section: 1st - Dracula - Lewis Robb and 2nd - Grim Reaper - Jamie Low. Junior Section: 1st - Dracula - Thom Christieson, 2nd - Skeleton - Lewis Stephenson.

Company section had a movie night in the Gallery area with Pop-Corn.

The awards will shortly be given out for the first half of the session and we will fin-

Guild News

Michael Marr, a member of our local lifeboat crew and congregation, gave us a talk showing actually footage from on board the Duncan Ferguson and Inchcape boats. We really felt we were on the fast rescue and lifeboats racing out to a 'shout' and felt a little seasick into the bargain!!

Dr Martin Hepworth entertained us with his extensive knowledge and film clips of entertainers Laurel and Hardy. I can say that the members were rolling in their seats with laughter.

I am writing this article after the morning service where the Guild were the singers in the Praise band, read, danced and our youngest member, Elise, presented the children's address. There were 17 members participating in the service. This is the start of Guild Week and we are sharing in other events all week, culminating with our High Tea, which we are hosting on Saturday as our main fund raising event.

We only have one meeting on the 10th December, our party, in the church halls at 7pm. This will be a D.I.Y. party?!

We begin our first meeting of the New Year on the 7th January with a talk by Sue Pritchard on her life in Senegal, then on the 21st January 'Get out your dancing shoes for an evening of country dancing'.

The Guild wishes you all God's blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

ish off the year with a visit to the Panto at the Abbey Theatre.

We have appointed a new B.B. Officer to the Company. Craig Paton attended a Youth Leader Training course in November in Dundee. Craig has come up the ranks over the years and is one of our Queen's Men. We wish him well in his appointment as an Officer of the 7th Arbroath.

We would like to extend Season's Greeting to all our Church family and friends.

From All Officers at 7th Arbroath B.B.

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

**Every Sunday Evening,
a service at 6.30 pm
(but see December for exceptions.)**

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

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

Sunday 2

**11 am - Worship Service;
First Sunday in Advent and
All-age Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship**

Sunday 9

**11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
(in Community Spirit)**

Sunday 16

**11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
(in Community Spirit)**

Sunday 23

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

Monday 24

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

Tuesday 25th

**10.30 am - Christmas Day
Service for the whole family**

Thursday 27th

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

Sunday 30

**11 am - Worship Service;
Seeing out the old year**

JANUARY

Sunday 6

**11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
(continues throughout
January and February)**

Sunday 13

**10.50 am - Worship Service
Resumption of our journey
through The Story**

Sunday 20

**11 am - Worship Service;
Main service followed by
short celebration
of Communion**

Sunday 27

**11 am - Worship Service;
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH**

FEBRUARY

Sunday 3

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 10

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 17

**11 am - Worship Service;
Main service followed
by short celebration
of Communion**

Sunday 24

**11 am - Worship Service;
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH**

Fairtrade Festivities

Have a fair and festive Christmas this year by using a range of Fairtrade food and gifts. There are now more than 4,500 Fairtrade certified products available in the UK, making it easier than ever to spread some joy and give hope to farming families and craft co-operatives in developing countries across the world. From clothing to cosmetics, body butters to brazil nuts and footballs to fudge, there are lots of Fairtrade products and gifts designed especially for Christmas, so you can make this one the fairest of them all.

Countdown to Christmas: Children will love to count down the days to Christmas with a Fairtrade chocolate advent calendar from Divine Chocolate, the Fairtrade chocolate company 45% owned by cocoa farmers. It's not just kids who enjoy this tradition – my workmates now look forward to taking turns to open the doors of the calendar that I put up in the office!

Get the message out: Christmas cards from Fairtrade organisations not only help the producers, but also raise awareness of Fairtrade. Beautiful Christmas decorations and nativity scenes can not only grace your home but could also be a talking point in your workplace.

Gifts that give twice: There's something for every member of the family in the range of Fairtrade gift collections in the Created catalogue from Tearfund and the Traidcraft catalogue. Both companies offer online, phone and mail order shopping and you can be assured of handcrafted quality and ethical values in every item. Fairtrade cosmetics are available from Boots too.

Get the party started: You'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to making your drinks party Fairtrade. Fairtrade reds, whites and bubbles are available from all the Arbroath supermarkets and Fairtrade soft drinks and juices are also on hand for the designated drivers!

Festive food: Stock up on Fairtrade nuts, dried fruits and chocolates, and use Fairtrade baking ingredients for figgy pudding, fruit cake or your favourite Christmas desserts. By using Fairtrade ingredients you can be assured your Christmas dinner is helping some of the poorest communities in the world, like the Mountain Fruits farmers in the Karakoram Mountains in northern Pakistan, who produce dried apricots. Fairtrade premiums have enabled farmers to pay for school fees, build a new school and a community centre, as well as improving the quality of their production. Sher Ghazi, Chief Executive of Mountain Fruits, says: 'Getting a Fairtrade deal for apricot farmers in these remote valleys is a lifeline.'

Food Parcel Service

Earlier in the autumn, the Food Parcel Service asked for a Bumper Harvest of gifts. The shelves were almost empty.

What a response! Not only the Old & Abbey and St Andrew's, but many other churches and organisations in and around Arbroath have given us food. We can now look forward to being able to supply all those who are referred to us well into next year. At a time of financial difficulty, this is a

remarkable response.

What is more, the Colvill Charity, which was established long ago to care for the poor of Arbroath and district, has, out of the blue, sent us a cheque for £750 to help pay for those items that are frequently in short supply, like milk, sugar and biscuits, and to top up the shelves in lean times. Normally, these costs are met by the Old & Abbey and St Andrew's. Now, they will be covered for the next two years.

Andrew H Dawson

Stuck for a Christmas present idea? Give them a habit!

We hear a lot about bad habits on the news these days – drug taking, binge drinking, shopaholics and the like – but not so much about good habits.

Learning to save up for something you really want is a great habit to get into, for a few reasons: it's fun to look forward to it, you enjoy it more when you get it, and you avoid going into debt to pay for it.

If you're thinking of giving a cash present to someone this Christmas, give a double gift by encouraging their savings habit at the same time. Children and young people who receive cash at Christmas often have the best intentions of putting it towards a "big ticket" item, but the cash in hand can get frittered away on small spending. Giving them a personalised Gift-4-Savings voucher from Angus Credit Union instead of just cash could be the first step in helping them save for their goal.

How does it work?

- You deposit the money in your credit union account and receive the voucher – if you're not already a member of Angus Credit Union, it's easy to join and there are no fees.

- At Christmas you give the voucher to your loved one.
- When they present the voucher at the Angus Credit Union shop they will get a credit union savings account and the money will be transferred from your account to theirs.

Each Gift-4-Savings voucher is personalised for you; vouchers can be for any amount and you can choose the picture for the front of the voucher from a range of images, or provide one of your own.

You can use these Gift-4-Savings vouchers for any occasion, not just Christmas. If you want to help out with wedding expenses, university costs, a big trip or moving house, a voucher and a savings account could be the encouragement the person needs to put aside a bit each week or month to achieve their goal.

Gift-4-Savings vouchers are available from the Angus Credit Union shop at 242 High St, open 10am-4pm Mon-Fri. You can also order a voucher by phoning 01241 874477. Not only will you be giving a gift and a savings habit to your loved one, but you will also be supporting the valuable community work of Angus Credit Union – three good turns in one action!

This is Christmas giving at its best!



We are blessed with the talents of those who can assist in worship and in presenting 'The Message' in different ways - Top: 'Joseph' Sunday, with Gregor Milne as Joseph and Tim Mineard as 'Elvis' Pharaoh, with David Walker, Robert Matthew, Ken Miller and David McColgan. Middle: 'Remembrance Sunday' when Jane Miller played the organ by remote control! The picture also shows the wonderfully evocative wreath created by our flower club.

Bottom left: 'Persecuted Christians' Sunday, when a large group provided a drama with excellent impact.

Bottom right: 'Guild' Sunday when, during the offering, Doris Bowie danced gracefully to "I will offer up my life" which was beautifully sung by Shona Kemp (Guild President).

