

Au Revoir - Not Goodbye!

Martin Fair writes:

That David and Lorna Searle have been to St. Andrew's Church a *gift from God* over these last years (since their 'retirement') is beyond question. Their commitment to the life of our congregation - in worship and prayer, witness and service - has been startling. Often, retired ministry couples sit in the back row and grumble about *how things used to be!* But that was never their way. The very opposite was true.



ing life. No more travel abroad; I was in Arbroath to stay put and spend time with Lorna as for the previous ten years I had been very much an absent husband visiting places as far away as Australia, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Korea and the States. More, the buck no longer stopped with me. I was just the assistant, and obviously Martin had very much the heavier end of the load.

But what a great boss to have! He treated me as an

My own debt to them is enormous. They have supported and encouraged me at every turn and have always been available to me when there was something that needed talking over. It's amazing how helpful it can be to discuss things with people who walked that way before you.

The good news is that David and Lorna will only be on the far side of Dundee and, therefore, there is every chance that we'll be able to keep up with them, and them with us. But it is right at this point, as they move from Arbroath, that we record our gratitude to them - and to God for bringing them into our family. May he continue to richly bless them in all the days to come.

And David Reflects

After forty-two years in the ministry I retired on 31st August 2003. Or did I? Hardly! St Andrew's Church had been looking for a part-time assistant minister and I'd sent a tentative enquiry to the church office. So it transpired that the next day after my 'retirement' I started work as Martin's colleague here in St Andrew's on 1st September 2003.

It would be quite wrong to say, 'So - out of the frying pan, into the fire!' My last appointment in Edinburgh had been an unusual one, very stressful with at least an eighty hour week and much travel, both within the UK and abroad. I was now looking forward to a quiet life for a few months at least.

But the five years spent working with Martin Fair were some of the happiest and most congenial in my entire work-

equal and our friendship deepened over the months until we were more like brothers than working colleagues. His consideration for both Lorna and myself was 100% Christian. In our relationship he exemplified the 'fruit of the Spirit' which are the theme of our present series of evening services. I'll quote them at the end of this article.

Our brains in our sixties and seventies are not quite as retentive as in our thirties and forties! So it did take me several months to get to know all your names. And how kind and accepting you have been to us both. However, there was a dark shadow that fell over our home during the third of those five years. Lorna needed major surgery. For some months it was a daunting time for us both as four different consultants assured her that she had less than a year to live. I'll never forget the call from Ninewells two days after her cancer operation. The charge nurse phoned to say that she was dangerously ill and that I should come at once. I called Martin to ask for his prayers. But when I arrived she was back in the theatre and I was sent away and told to return in about six hours.

When I returned, there was Martin, alone in the ward's day room, bowed in prayer. He'd been there an hour, waiting for me to come back; he stayed a further half hour. I cannot express what his support and presence meant to me at that awful time. Never in my life had I known outside our family circle such loving, deep concern for us both.

/ Needless to say, the consultants had got it wrong.....

(Continued on back page)

CONTACTS**CHURCH OFFICE : 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

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9 am to noon**MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev Stuart Irvin, BD

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David Searle, MA

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Jane Miller : 875235

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Candace Laing : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

February 2013

Baptisms - None**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Hilda Madge, James Macgregor**IMPORTANT DATES****APRIL 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 22nd March (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 26th March (Word-Processed file)

**Malawi
Fundraising****Friday 15th March
Murder Mystery**7pm in the Church Hall.
Cost of ticket £12.

This is a great night of fun and entertainment as you have to try and help solve the murder that has taken place. Your ticket also includes a 3 course meal.

Book Recycle!

After the church service on Sunday, 24th March, there will be a second hand Christian book table. This is an opportunity to recycle books that have been read and are just sitting on book shelves!

Please hand in any books you wish to recycle either before the sale or bring along on the 24th March. All money raised will be donated to Malawi.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Organisations will alert members when groups resume after 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 – Shona Kemp (878526)

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

March 2013

Dear friends,

In Matthew 6:6, Jesus advises his disciples: *'When you pray, go into your room and close the door.'* Clearly, then, there are times and occasions when praying should be a private business. And, equally importantly, prayer should never be a *showy* affair.

But throughout the remainder of the New Testament, particularly in Acts where the life of the early church is described, prayer was something that the first Christians did *together*.

It's with that in mind that we have various options in our congregational life for praying together. To put it this way: if it was good enough for the early Christians then why not for us!!

- 1) Sunday morning, 10.30am. This is a time when we pray specifically for the upcoming service and for those who are going to be leading. Our ministers and musicians etc. very much appreciate this prayerful support of their endeavours.
- 2) Thursday evening, 7-8pm. This is a time when we pray for our congregation, for our community and for our country, as well as for wider world situations and such other matters as crop up from time to time.

For many folks who have never experienced corporate prayer, there can be a nervousness associated with such gatherings – *'What would I say?'* *'I wouldn't have the words,'* *'Other people are more eloquent than me,'* etc. etc. Be reassured that no-one is forced to pray out loud if they're not comfortable to do so and, more importantly, that God is more interested in heartfelt sentiments than in grammar and eloquence!

So why not get involved in the shared prayer life of the church? Even if you can only manage from time to time, your presence would be much appreciated by those who gather regularly.

With God's blessing,

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

martin.fair@sky.com

Thank You

I would like to take the opportunity to say a big thank you for the welcome that you have shown to Lynne and me as we have settled into life in Arbroath. People have been so kind in showing us both practical and spiritual support – from helping with boxes to sharing encouraging words – it has all really helped us to feel at home here at St Andrew's.

We're starting to get to know our way about and look forward to trying Peppo's chip shop since it comes with a recommendation! I'm still getting there with names and faces but I'm glad that people keep reminding me who they are. I look forward to getting to know you all more as we journey together over the years ahead.

Every Blessing in Christ –

Stuart Irvin, Associate Minister.

Valerie Allan - Minister of Old and Abbey

Dear Martin, Jane, members of the Kirk Session, and congregation of St Andrew's,

Thank you so very much for the flowers you gave me on my final Sunday at the Old and Abbey Church. I was really touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity.

It has been an absolute pleasure working with all of you during my years in Arbroath. We have shared many special worship services and memorable activities. You have always been extremely friendly and welcoming to both me

and the members of the Old and Abbey church. We could not wish for better friends and neighbours. Thank you for everything.

These are exciting times for you in your church. As we each follow God's call into new ministries, may I assure you of my prayers as I know you will hold me in yours.

May God richly bless all those you minister with and to. With grateful thanks and best wishes,

Yours in Christ,

Valerie

Safeguarding

Children and Photographs

Many of you who are involved with work with children and vulnerable adults have undertaken training in the Church of Scotland Safeguarding Scheme. We are now ensuring that we are following the advice about the use of photographs of children. The publication of these on notice boards, the church magazine and the website etc., will not

now include the names of any children.

At the beginning of the new Sunday Club session in August 2013, parents will be asked to give their written consent for the use of photographs. Once given, the permission remains in place until the child reaches the age of eighteen unless a parent wishes to revoke this.

In the meantime, if any parent does not wish a photograph of their child to be displayed in any of these places, they should contact our Safeguarding Officer Eleanor Mands – 01382 477318.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

In the Lord's Prayer (the older form) Jesus teaches us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation", but in the Letter of James it says, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God', for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one." (James 1:13). Is this a contradiction?

Theophilus answers :

There is a very important principle tucked away in this excellent question. Both in the OT Hebrew and in the NT Greek the same word is used for 'trial' and 'temptation'. We might be inclined to think that was rather silly and ask why ever didn't the Hebrew and Greek languages use two different words, because surely 'trials' and 'temptations' are two quite different experiences. But they are not: the same experience can be either a trial or a temptation, or

even both!

The difference between them is where they come from. Trials are allowed by God to test us and to refine our faith. The OT has a daring metaphor which depicts God as a silversmith, refining the precious metal as he removes the dross from the molten liquid (Malachi 3:3). On the other hand, temptations come from the evil one who seeks to exploit our weaknesses and sinful human nature and lead us into sin (see James 1:14).

Therefore the difference between these two experiences, which we all have, is that when God allows trials in our lives it is in order to draw us *upwards* to himself; but when Satan tempts us it is to draw us *downwards* away from the Father. That means the version of the Lord's Prayer we use in St Andrew's Church, 'Save us from the time of trial' is the better translation by far.

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

Cell - Congregation - Celebration

It has been written - very wisely - that the rounded Christian life involves participation with other Christians on three levels.

Firstly, there is the cell - or, as we might call it, the small group. Just as Jesus gathered about him a small group of followers, with whom he was able to share intimately, so it is good to belong to a small group of folks with whom we can travel through all of the twists and turns of life. There are benefits to be had by being with a cell, a small group, that can never be got from being part of a congregation alone.

But it is equally important to belong to a medium-sized body - a congregation! Being in a cell is unlikely to be sufficient in terms of living out the whole of the Christian life. At times, there is strength in numbers. Collectively, two or three hundred people can achieve things which a group of eight or nine could never envisage. And being part of a bigger community demands of us that we learn to get along with and accept other people, whose views differ from ours, in ways which can be avoided by joining a small group made up only of those with whom we have everything in common.

Finally, there is the celebration. On this level, we join together with hundreds, even thousands of others for special occasions. As part of such gatherings, there is a level of excitement and *buzz* which is hard to generate in either a cell or congregation. Now these celebrations tend to be anonymous and non-demanding of us but they can be great fun and can serve as high points along the way, through which we are encouraged and inspired for the next steps of the journey. Celebrations can never replace what is found in cells and congregations but, none-the-less, it is good to stand on the mountain top from time to time - and to do so with a great crowd of fellow believers.

Of course, at St. Andrew's there are plenty of options for belonging to small groups, and gathering as part of a congregation can be done on Sunday mornings and evenings and on Wednesdays.

The good news is that, coming up this May, there are two celebration-type events for you to be involved in -

The first is BIG DAY OUT 2, being organised by the Presbytery of Angus. This is a follow-up to the similar event held in 2011. Hosted by ourselves and Old & Abbey Church, and taking place on Saturday 4th May, this event will feature music and worship led by both Fischy Music from Edinburgh and the excellent band from St. Peter's Free Church in Dundee, together with a range of speakers and seminar leaders drawn from across Scotland.

The keynote speaker is the excellent Kenny Borthwick, minister of Holy Trinity Church, Wester Hailes, Edinburgh and the seminar leaders include the following:

- Scott Burton, from Perth, speaking about the link between spirituality and his love for kayaking and white water rafting
- Barbara Macfarlane, from Dundee, speaking about her work as a Parish Nurse
- Heart 2 Heart from Callander, a support organisation for those who have been through separation and divorce
- David Robertson, minister at the Free Church in Dundee, speaking about his role as a defender of the Christian faith in the public debating arena
- Ruben Addis, Scottish organiser of Messy Church
- Sandy Scrimgeour, regional coordinator of Street Pastors

With lunch provided and teas and coffees available throughout the day, Big Day Out 2 promises to be a superbly inspiring day - right on our doorstep! Online and in-person booking will be available soon; watch for details.

Then, on Sunday 19th May, another celebration event - this one for the whole church across the whole country! Heart & Soul 2013 is the follow on from the event which lots of St. Andrew's members attended last year in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. With some 6-7000 people there last year, this really was a big-time event and wonderful to be part of! Princes Street Gardens is, again, the location and in keeping with last year, Heart & Soul 2013 will comprise main stage musical acts with a whole host of fringe events, optional seminary and attractions for all ages. Best of all, Heart & Soul 2013 is a free event! We will be running a bus (or two) as we did last year meaning that it will be possible to be at church in Arbroath in the morning and celebrating in Edinburgh in the afternoon!

What a great month May is going to be!

Calling All Children

P7 Pupils from some of our local primary schools will be coming to the church to enjoy *The Easter Code* during the last week of term this March. But our **Holiday Club**, which will run during the first week in April, from 10am-12noon every morning, is open to ALL primary-aged children from across the whole town. This year, the club is entitled *Space Academy* and along with lots of space-related fun and games, the stories and teaching will concentrate on Daniel. We'll be hoping for anything up to one hundred

children to come to the club and, if past experience is anything to go by, the majority of children who will come will be from beyond the usual reach of the church. What a wonderful opportunity, therefore, for introducing a new generation of children to the much-loved biblical accounts. And, equally so, what a wonderful opportunity to welcome children into our buildings and to offer them a warm and welcoming impression of what *church* is all about!

Please pray for the work of *The Easter Code* and the Holiday Club and take hold of one or other of the upcoming opportunities to support this work.

STARTER PACKS

I decided to visit the new premises for the Starter Packs group which is now located at the old Ladyloan School. The group led by Annie Clark made me most welcome and after the customary coffee she introduced me to her group of volunteers for that day. She appraised me of their steady progress throughout the years (10 now) and how busy they are kept with providing any needy people who have been recommended to them by the appropriate agencies e.g. Social Work dept.

Each family who needs help go through a list of requirements for their abode on a designed tick list and the group then proceed to assemble the pack required which is individual to each needy family.

No discrimination is made between each group and they try hard to be able to ensure that each group are looked after sensitively. A Starter pack could contain many items like covers, sheets, blankets, duvets, pillows etc. for beds, kitchen utensils, crockery including many plates, cups, saucers, mugs, cutlery, pots and pans, microwave ovens, soft furnishings like curtains, cushions, covers for chairs and settees etc. They no longer are able to supply larger items like cookers, and washing machines due to transport and electrical check procedures which they do not have available at this time.

They cater for the needs throughout the county of Angus

and have on occasion cooperated with a similar group in Dundee.

They are very organised in their collection process in gathering all available goods required for recycling back to the needy but are always trying to improve the process throughout the County boundaries. Possibly you have noticed the Starter Pack container based at the local recycling centre. Another store room is filled with all sorts of materials which might be used with Arts and Crafts.

On average they deal with about 300-350 referrals every year which makes their total for their 10 years at about 3000. The client base is extremely varied but has included a 92 year old lady, ex forces people, children who have been left with children, and many others. They attract many volunteers from differing sources including students from the Colleges, Community Service, visitors to Arbroath, people from the Eastern European countries, visiting Americans and even from China!

Right now they have shortages in the store for bedding for single beds and cots including sheets and duvet covers so if you have some available please contact them and they will be uplifted.

Annie Clark does a great job with Starter Packs, and she would welcome visitors, and would organise talks to any group wishing to hear more about their work.

A C M - Service Core Group

ECO-CHURCH - THE USED STAMP PROJECT

Throughout the years, a considerable number of members of our St Andrew's Church Family have individually harvested stamps and donated them to various charities who then sell them on to raise valuable income for particular projects.

In 2011, it was decided to try to extend and grow the the quantity of stamps by centralising donations into one single church project as yet another aspect of our commitment to recycling used items to good effect and for the benefit of others.

The first appeal met with a positive response and a considerable quantity of used stamps was sent off to the Church of Scotland's World Mission Stamp Project early in 2011. The money raised through overall sales of stamps helped fund the Girls' Hostel and St Columba's Religious Training Centre in Pakistan in 2011. (In a previous year, funds went to support an agricultural project in a 45,000 strong Palestinian refugee centre in southern Lebanon.) The grand total reached throughout Scotland in each of these previous years was £3700 and £2479 respectively.

The end of 2012 saw a massive increase in stamp dona-

tions at St Andrew's Church as the word spread. The post-Christmas period has proved to be the best time for members of the Service Core Group to collate and sort through a year's donations due to the peak in Christmas mail.

Thanks to the amazing response over these last twelve months, in 2013 we have been able to forward stamps, weighing in at a grand total of 1.4 kg (3lbs 4 ozs), to the following charities : The Church of Scotland World Mission; Mercy Ships UK; and Leprosy Mission Scotland.

Foreign stamps generate greater revenue so these are separated out before sending off.

It also helps if stamps are trimmed prior to being donated leaving a margin of at least half a centimetre (or quarter of an inch.) This helps to reduce the postage costs and also helps the recipient organisations as the stamps are sold on by weight.

And another thing! We can add to the above project by collecting used postcards. These can be batched up and forwarded to Leprosy Mission Scotland.

So, a big thank you to everyone who has so carefully - and so generously - supported this modest little project over the last two years - with such amazing results. 1.4 kilos is an awful lot of stamps!

HELP PLEASE!!!

Can we all help please? I'm sure that we can. So, here are some **DON'Ts** and **DOs** for helping with the smooth running of our Church Office -

DON'T use the office as a store cupboard!

We have a cupboard in the small halls to which you should directly take cartridges, stamps, toiletries etc. (**Don't post these items through our letterboxes either** - that still means our office staff have to act as 'message boys' - which is unnecessarily time consuming.)

DO return CDs directly to the returns box in the side corridor.

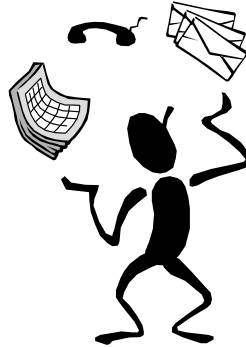
Before announcing any additional work which will involve the office, **DO check with the Session Clerk** that it is acceptable.

DO book rooms for meetings. External bookings could be compromised if we do not know that a church group is intending to meet in the same location.

DO post Quest returns through either of our letterboxes, rather than handing them in at the office. (63 interruptions uses up a lot of time!)

DO expect to have to wait if photocopying, tickets etc., are not wholly the work of St Andrew's.

Finally - DO REMEMBER that what is as little as a few minutes to each of many people can mean an hour, or even much more, to the one person!!!



Guild News

On Monday 4th March we continue with our theme for this session "A faith to Proclaim" when we are to have an evening featuring Noah, including readings and a film.

Monday the 18th March is an open evening when all are welcome to join us along with invited Guilds and our guest speaker will be Mr Archie Bathgate who will talk on our second Guild project for the year "Comfort Rwanda".

It's the time of year for the collection and counting of the Guild boxes. They should be returned by Sunday 17th March. These can be handed into the office or collected - contact Shona Kemp 878526 or Joyce McPherson.

Forthcoming event - Annual Coffee Morning on Saturday 20th April 2013.

Book Review

Faith under Fire by Andrew White

Canon Andrew White is the vicar of St George's Church in Baghdad (commonly known as The Vicar of Baghdad). His book begins by telling us about his early years training as a medic at St Thomas Hospital before his calling to study theology at Ridley Hall Cambridge. He developed an interest in Judaism and his involvement with the International Council of Christians and Jews helped him develop skills in reconciliation which is a major part of his work today.

His first post was at St Mark's in Battersea where he met his wife and also became a local councillor. At the young age of 33 he took up a post as Director of International Ministry at Coventry Cathedral. After periods of ill health, when he was student, he was diagnosed as having Multiple Sclerosis whilst at Coventry.

In 2005 he took up his post in Baghdad. Andrew tells us about the dangers and joys of working in St George's Church which is under constant military guard. He recounts the persecution of those who become Christians, but it is clear throughout the book, that Faith, Hope and Love are at the core of this ministry. Andrew begins each church service with the phrase 'God is here and His Holy Spirit is here'; he believes this phrase sums up his understanding of 'Faith under Fire'. Andrew has no regrets that he is called to serve the fire but wishes his people didn't have to live in such circumstances. He says that in one day in Iraq they can experience 'Good Friday moments' and 'Easter Sunday moments', darkness being obliterated by light.

This book is by an extraordinary man in extraordinary circumstances and describes how his Faith is indestructible. His love of God and his people shines through.

Copies of this book will be available at the next bookstall on the 10th March. Price £8.99.

Eleanor Mands

LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH

Sunday 3

11 am - Worship Service; with traditional Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 10

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 17

11 am - Worship Service; Main service followed by short Celebration of Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 24

11 am - Worship Service; Palm Sunday Special with Sacrament of Baptism and Welcome of New Members
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Thursday 28

6.30 pm - Maundy Thursday service

Friday 29

6.30 pm - Good Friday Service

Sunday 31

8 am - Sunrise Service
11 am - Easter Day Family Celebration, with all-age Communion
6.30 pm - Resurrection Evening Praise Special

APRIL

Sunday 7

9.30 am - Monthly Traditional Service (brand new!)
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 17

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 21

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

Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service; inc. Sacrament of Baptism
4 pm - 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.

Havilah

When it comes to the work of Havilah, most often we write about the guys and girls that are planning to head off to residential rehab, what their plans are, the secular agencies we work with etc. etc. But the reality is that while a rehab programme works for some, for the majority recovery takes place IN the community - and Havilah plays a huge part in that process. It's easy for all of us, even those involved day to day, to think of Havilah as just a place for a cuppy and a chat. In thinking that, we are only scratching the surface of the good work that is achieved through Havilah.

We have really come to understand the value of Havilah as a haven, and that it lends routine and purpose to people's lives - giving them a safe space where they feel comfortable enough to start on the scary road of change. Havilah helps people to make genuinely life-changing decisions. Havilah helps people to break into the monotony of having nothing to do, giving purpose where there was none, a reason to be motivated where there wasn't any. This helps to develop the individual's belief that change is possible and that they are capable of achieving this change. Along with this is our belief that folks deserve the same mercy and forgiveness we have received from Jesus "not seven times, but seventy-seven times" (Matthew 18:22) allowing them to have slips and upsets along the way without making them feel defeated.

This is what some of the folks that come to Havilah think of the place:

I have been coming to Havilah for five months and at that time I was quite bad on drugs. Since coming to Havilah the help I got has really helped me to change my life. It's a safe place to come and when I'm there I feel quite relaxed. I have used drugs for the past nine or ten years and am currently on a methadone programme but I was using drugs on top of this. Since coming to Havilah I have stopped taking drugs and have been sticking to my methadone programme. I have been to church which I really enjoyed and it was something I never thought I'd do. Havilah has become part of my daily routine and there is always someone to talk to. When I'm struggling, the safety, relaxed atmosphere and having someone to talk to keeps my thoughts away from using drugs. I have also reconnected with my family as they have seen a big change in me.

I have been coming to Havilah for three years and initially came in for a cuppy and something to eat but I just didn't really like it. In time however hunger got the better

of me and I came back for food and it was a safe place away from the police. As time went on I realised that it was more than the food and protection from the police that kept me coming back. I realised that I was feeling able to talk to the volunteers without being looked down on and judged; I was treated as an equal. When Havilah was at the church I didn't feel as comfortable as I do in Community Sprit and it is since moving there that I have been more able to talk to volunteers about my problems. I have come to understand that Havilah is so much more than just coming in for a cuppy. It's a place that I know I will always be accepted by folk who are always there to listen and they genuinely care.

I have been coming to Havilah for a three and a bit years now. I started coming because I was told it was somewhere to go for a cuppy where you did not feel ashamed because of your drug use. I soon realised that the volunteers saw me the same way that they saw everyone else. I was just someone who had a problem that I was struggling to cope with. When I was younger I was really against drugs and was ashamed and disappointed with myself that I had got mixed up in them. Through the acceptance and safety I found at Havilah I came to realise that my drug problem could be fixed. Through coming to Havilah my confidence has really grown and I am now able to speak to the volunteers and other people and this has made me realise that more people are willing to listen to my problems and I now speak rather than using drugs. A cleaning job came up at Havilah and I have been trusted to do this. It is the first time I have been actually paid to work rather than volunteering. This has given me the confidence to apply for college and I'm now looking forward to the time when I will be in full-time employment. I don't think the volunteers realise how much it means to have someone actually listen to you and care about how life is for you - especially when your family isn't around to do this. The volunteers help you to see the past is behind you no matter how bad it is. I have started coming to church on a Sunday night and am really enjoying this and it feels good when people from the church recognise you and speak to you in the street.

As you can see, Havilah has become an oasis and life-line for so many people who are struggling to cope with the issues in their lives, giving a helping hand to get folks on the road to recovery. It is great to see that St Andrew's church has the vision to see and the drive to commit to the very work Jesus commissioned for the church before he ascended to His Father's right hand.

Go Bananas for Fairtrade Fortnight!

Here's an easy banana bread recipe that you can try out to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

Ingredients

4 very ripe Fairtrade bananas, mashed
115g margarine, melted
125g Fairtrade honey
2 eggs
1 tsp Fairtrade vanilla essence

1 pot yogurt
½ tsp salt
1 tsp Fairtrade cinnamon
Generous handful of porridge oats
250g self-raising flour
100g Fairtrade raisins
100g Fairtrade dried apricots, chopped
100g Fairtrade brazil nuts, crushed
Sprinkle of Fairtrade demerara sugar

Method

Combine bananas, margarine, honey and eggs and beat well.
Add vanilla and yogurt and beat until

smooth and well blended.
Add salt, cinnamon, oats and flour and beat until combined.
Mix in raisins, apricots and brazil nuts.
Pour mix into a greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° for 45 mins to 1 hour.
Remove from the oven when a knife inserted into the bread comes out clean and the top springs back when lightly pressed.
Leave to cool and sprinkle with demerara sugar.

(Continued from page 1)

Needless to say, the consultants had got it wrong. Lorna is very much alive as those present at the recent 'Ready, Steady, Cook' would agree when they failed to hear one of my jokes on account of her wielding a heavy rolling pin—BANG! CRASH! WALLOP!—to reduce a packet of biscuits to tiny crumbs. (Another aspect of my wife, assumed by you all to be just a quiet, peaceful wee woman who wouldn't say 'Boo!' to a goose! You got it wrong, folks!)

So a heartfelt thank-you to a fellowship both of us have come to love and appreciate more than we can say. The funerals, weddings, baptisms and visits both in hospitals and your homes have all been an immense privilege. Add to that the opportunities I have had to attempt to open and

explain and apply God's Word to all our daily lives, and you have one immensely grateful 'auld mannie' who has learned from you just a little more of the fruit of the Spirit: 'Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control'. Dare I express the hope that mine has been a learning experience which you have all shared with me. May God grant it be so, and may his blessing on his people in St Andrew's Church constantly increase and abound, all to his glory!

PS Because we will miss you all so much, and because Grange, Errol is not too far away, we will be frequent visitors at St Andrew's. Like Frank Sinatra, we'll be hard to get rid of!

Ministry of Movies

APOSTLE PETER AND THE LAST SUPPER.

In the Assembly Hall at the Webster Theatre, High Street
(Large screen and comfy tiered cinema style seating)

Mon 25th March 2013

Doors Open 18.30 / Film starts 19.00
Tickets £5 include tea/coffee after film

Tickets can only be bought from the Webster Theatre Box Office, either in advance or on the night (if it does not sell out). **Buying in advance is advisable and preferred.**

This faith-based biblical story offers hope, forgiveness, prayer and the message that anything is possible. Relive the time Peter spent with Jesus, from the Great Commis-

sion to the life-changing Last Supper and the garden of Gethsemane. Set in Rome. AD 67.

Two Jailers at the ancient Mamertine Prison take custody of a famous criminal. He is Simon Peter of Galilee- apostle, disciple, and the personal friend of Jesus.

Condemned to death, the elderly Peter recounts his life as a simple fisherman who became one of the boldest figures in all of Christianity. As Peter prepares to depart this earthly life, he will make an unforgettable impression on his jailers through the saving power of the Gospel.



Gardening with God

As spring approaches and we delight in the appearance of snowdrops and crocuses, many of us will be turning our attention back to the care and development of our gardens. As an eco-congregation, let's be mindful of how we can care for creation while enjoying our gardening hobby.

Lawns look lovely, but they are big energy consumers in terms of mowing and watering – using a petrol lawnmower regularly can generate 36kg of CO2 in a year, and lawn sprinklers can use up to 1000 litres of water an hour. Producing lawn 'weed and feed' chemicals contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.

Unless your lawn is used as a play area, consider replacing some or all of it with low-maintenance planting. For smaller lawns, consider changing your petrol or electric mower for a manual one – you can get some exercise at the same time as saving energy!

Thinking of paving this year? Patios have a carbon price – a paved area of 25sqm has a one ton carbon footprint. The rising trend for paving over parts of gardens also reduces natural drainage. A sustainable alternative to tradi-

tional block paving is a permeable paving – an open grid that combines the practical benefits of a paved area with the environmental benefit of a natural grassed area.

Have you ever thought of starting your gardening season with a prayer to dedicate your garden? Here's one from a book called "To Garden with God" by Christine Sine:

God bless this garden through which your glory shines
May we see in its beauty the wonder of your love
God bless the soil, rich and teeming with life
May we see in its fertility the promise of new creation
God bless our toil as we dig deep to turn the soil
May we see in our labour your call to be good stewards
God bless each seed that takes root and grows
May we see in their flourishing the hope of transformation
God bless the rains that water our efforts to bring forth life
May we see in their constancy God's faithful care
God bless the harvest, abundant and bountiful in season
May we see in God's generosity our need to share
God bless this garden as You bless all creation with Your love
May we see in its glory Your awesome majesty
Amen

Women's Refuge

During 2012, we were again able to donate 50 bags of toiletries to the Women's Refuge. This was made possible because of the wonderful response to our appeal for toiletries last year. The staff of the Refuge

wrote expressing their gratitude and describing how much the gift of the toiletries meant to the women. Our aim is to donate another 50 bags in 2013.

After a discussion with staff at the Refuge, we have decided to provide each child that arrives with a gift of

children's bubble-bath. Attached to each bubble-bath container will be a card giving details of all activities for children at St. Andrew's Church. Thus we are appealing for donations of toiletries (unwanted gifts, hotel samples, etc.) or children's bubble-bath.