



April 2013

## New Members - A Day To Celebrate



Ian Spink, Tash Smith, Jennifer Lonie, David Sinclair, Sandy Kay, Neil Logan, Lynne Irvin, Stuart Irvin, Carla Ingram, Jacqueline Guest, Esse Falconer, Lance Green, Donna Duncan, Sandra Cargill, John Cargill, Anne Burnett, David Aitken. (Amanda Logan absent.)

We are never more delighted than when welcoming new members into the family of our congregation. And so it was with much joy that on Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March, we opened our arms to 18 men and women who are coming in to St. Andrew's Church at this time. In 21<sup>st</sup> century Scotland, decline in church attendance and membership is there for all to see – and should for all of us be a major cause for concern. There are LOTS of ways for people to leave church and so we need to rejoice when we witness traffic moving

in the other direction!

Even so, we are not doing much more than running to stand still. Yes, our church is reasonably healthy in terms of attendances but there are still plenty of seats unfilled! Ultimately our goal must be to see new members being welcomed as a regular feature of church life, rather than as an annual highlight. And for that to happen we will need to be purposeful and creative and conscious that mission is the very reason for our existence.



The 'Murder Mystery' thespians - Carol Ann Thain, Fiona Mineard, Tim Mineard, Mike Christie, Fraser Fair, Scott Anderson, Sheila Stewart, Lawrie Harris and Fiona Brown

### Murder Solved!

Well done to our fantastic Malawi team for yet another great night of food, entertainment and fund-raising! The Murder Mystery was very well supported with nearly all of the tables full and the kitchen team again doing a brilliant job in turning out a lovely three-course dinner – with plenty of choices to suit every taste. And as for the murder mystery itself? Top marks to all of our thespians who put on a great performance, leaving us holding our sides with laughter as we tried to solve the mystery and work out *whodunit*!

When you can have such a fun night AND raise over £1,000 towards our work in Malawi, then you really have found a winning formula. Every penny counts and as we have seen for ourselves, £1,000 goes a long way in an impoverished country such as Malawi very certainly is.

Thank you to all who made the night possible and to all who supported it.

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

Candace Laing

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

**MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

Rev Stuart Irvin, BD

**MINISTER EMERITUS**

David Searle, MA

**SESSION CLERK**

Jane Miller : 875235

**TREASURER**

Susan Godsall : 430862

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Ian Robertson : 877519

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark : 878594

**PASTORAL CARE**

Kim Marr : 430505

**YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR**

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
WORKER**

Tracey McLeod : 434088

**HAVILAH ADMINISTRATOR**

Karen Reaney : 434008

**ORGANIST**

Jane Miller : 875235

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Ray Reaney : 07803 235418

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Elaine Fair : 873238

**SAFEGUARDING**

Eleanor Mands : 01382 477318

**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

**PRAYER CO-ORDINATORS**

Judy Spink : 872395

Anne Matthew : 876008

**SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Norma Beattie : 873442

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Candace Laing : 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs**

Ken Miller : 875235

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Parish Records****March 2013****Baptisms** - Ashley and Liam Reid,  
Emily and Charlotte Park**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Anne Cargill, Stewart Low**IMPORTANT DATES****MAY 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 19th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd April (Word-Processed file)

## Christian Aid Week

The Christian Aid Coffee Morning will be held in Arbroath Town Mission on

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 10-12noon**St Andrews Church is responsible for the Fruit, flowers and vegetable stall.  
All donations will be greatly appreciated.

## CDs of Services

These are available for any housebound members who are unable to attend either Sunday or Wednesday services. If interested, please contact Ken Miller.

For all other members, please note that the weekly sermons go on our website and are therefore accessible for those who may miss some due to being on holidays etc.

## 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

April 2013

Dear friends,

As a brand new venture this year, we ran *Easter Code* on the Thursday and Friday of the week before Easter – an event especially for P7 children. We were delighted that almost 90 children attended, from both Hayshead and Ladyloan primary schools.

*Easter Code* came to life in Lanarkshire, an attempt by the school chaplains there to find an effective way of sharing Easter with local schools. And what a good attempt it was! The material is excellent and is a wonderful mix of learning and experiencing. Pupils leave afterwards with a much better understanding of what happened at Easter and why it is so important for Christians.

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone who supported the event financially and to the brilliant team which came together to deliver it on the two days over which it ran. We're grateful, too, to the two schools concerned that they jumped at the chance to attend! Hopefully *Easter Code* will become an annual event and that other schools will want to get involved in years to come.

And, the last piece of good news is that the team which produced *Easter Code* has produced a similar event for Christmas and our plan is to use that this coming December!

In an age when SO FEW children come to Sunday Club or know anything much about the Christian story, it is vital that we as a church work our hardest to engage with children in such new and creative ways as are available to us. Our efforts will not go unrewarded.

With God's blessing,

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

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

## CHURCH SERVICES of THE FUTURE

**Service commences : 11.00 am**

MINISTER: "Welcome to worship."

CONGREGATION: "Amen."

PASTOR: "Please turn on your tablets, laptops, netbooks, ipads, mobile phones and Kindle Bibles and read 1 Cor 13:13."

P-a-u-s-e .....

"And now, please switch on your Bluetooth to download the sermon. You can log on to the church WiFi using the password Lord909887."

P-a-u-s-e ....

"Now let us pray, committing this week into God's hands - please open your Prayer Apps, BBM, Twitter and Facebook accounts, and contribute your prayerful thoughts."

S-i-l-e-n-c-e .....

"As we take our Sunday offerings, please have your credit and debit cards ready."

(Ushers circulate mobile card swipe machines among the worshippers:

- \* Those who prefer to make electronic funds transfers, use the computers and laptops at the rear of the church.
- \* Those who prefer to use iPads, flip them open.
- \* Those who prefer telephone banking, take out mobile phones to transfer contributions to the church account.

The holy atmosphere of the Church becomes truly *electrified* as all the mobile phones, iPads, PCs and laptops beep and flicker.)

"And now, the final Blessing and Closing Announcements..."

1. This week's ministry cell meetings will be held on the various Facebook group pages where the usual group chatting takes place. Please log in and don't miss out.
2. Thursday's Bible Study will be held live on Skype at 1900hrs GMT. Please don't miss out.
3. You can follow your Pastor on Twitter this weekend for counseling and prayers.

Now go forth and spread the word using our wonderful modern communication systems – and have a nice week. Amen."

**Service ends : 11.15 am!**



## Heart & Soul 2013

100 folks from St. Andrew's Church travelled to Edinburgh last year for the fantastic *Heart & Soul* event held in Princes Street Gardens. The sky was blue, the sun shone brightly and the programme of entertainment, activities and exhibitions offered something for everyone to enjoy. To see thousands of people gathering to worship God and to proclaim the name of Jesus right in the heart of our capital city was truly inspiring!

The good news is that the national church is committed to running this event annually (coinciding with the General Assembly) and so *Heart & Soul 2013* will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, again in Princes Street Gardens. Our

morning service that day will be shortened and will begin at 10.30am to allow buses to leave Arbroath and arrive in Edinburgh in good time for the start of the festivities at 1.30pm. With our own David Kidd working at *Fishers* and with the manager there being so supportive of our events, we're in a position to offer places on the bus for the bargain price of £6. And, when you consider that *Heart & Soul* itself is entirely free (even the programme is free this year!) that adds up to a great day out at a fantastic price!

As last year, our own minister is heavily involved in planning *Heart & Soul* and, in particular, with the leading of the closing worship service. So why not get the date in your diary NOW and make it another day to remember – on tour with St. Andrew's Church!

## Malawi Update

Hi everyone,

We have several pieces of good news.

Modesta Matthews one of our recently qualified teachers has just received a government commission in a nearby neighbourhood, so will sadly be leaving us. She will return to help out when possible. This suits her as she got engaged last year and is preparing for her wedding in June.

Lilian Lapozo, one of our young high school graduates, who has been helping out with teaching and tutoring, has just recently been selected to teacher training college and so we will also lose her in March, however hopefully she will come back after her 2 year training course.

Christina Kunsauka our administrator who got married in 2011 has just had her first child- a baby girl, called Mirriam weighing 5.5lbs. Mirriam, Kiri and her husband Millward are all well, though Kiri says that she is crying a lot! Kiri was straight back into work after about 2 days! No maternity leave in Malawi! We are very lucky to have such a talented and dedicated administrator.

Our extension project is also taking shape with the new classroom nearly completed. With the loss of one teacher and the imminent loss of another, Kiri has been incredibly proactive and has already organised for two local government teachers to come and help teach in the afternoons to fill that gap. The extension should be finished in mid March this year, once the inside is completed. From Kiri's account 'the window frames are very beautiful, very, very beautiful.' Hopefully the rest is also just as beautiful!

The standard 8 children have been working very hard

and are expected to do well this year. Kiri and her staff are hopeful that many of them can be selected for national secondary schools and do very well. Additionally, the rest of the school have also been working hard both in the garden and at their vocational crafts of sewing, tailoring and knitting. Lilian, has been very good with the children, encouraging them to act out Bible stories and draw, skills that are often neglected in Malawi.

The harvest has been very poor this year with the centre only harvesting 63 bags of poor quality maize compared to the 75 bags last year and the 88 bags the year before. This year much of the harvest has been ruined by too much rain which is still falling even in late February which is very unusual in Malawi. This has caused the price of the maize to increase rapidly and will be very expensive this year. This means that in all probability the hunger season later this year will be even worse than last year, which was considered the worst for several years.

We have two new children added to our centre. A boy - 14 years old - Lymon Khembo (Std 8) and a 3 year old girl in the nursery called - Blessings Danken. Please pray that they will settle in well and that the care given to them will help them lots.

Kiri has also asked for prayer for the standard 7s who will next year be sitting their end of primary school exams. She feels that the Standard 7s are 'a little bit lazy' and may not do well in their exams, pray that they will learn well and work hard. Pray too for the local villagers throughout Malawi who have had their crops decimated by the rains and will struggle to feed their families.

Thanks for your continued support.

Becky

## Malawi Fundraising

**Sunday 7th April – Soup Lunch.** A great opportunity to enjoy some fellowship along with a warm bowl of soup and at the same time raise money for our work in Malawi. You can just turn up on the day and put in a donation.

**Saturday 27th April – Quiz Night** - £5 per head. This includes entry, light supper & musical performance by Bella Robb, last year's winner of St Andrews Got Talent.

**Friday 17th May – St Andrew's Got Talent.**

**Saturday 8th June – Coffee Morning.**

**St Andrew's Got Talent**

This was a great evening last year with a great selection of highly entertaining acts from both younger and older members of our congregation. We are now looking for people of all ages to take part this year. We would like to see as many different acts as possible so whatever your talent why not give your name to Sheila, start practising, have a great evening and help raise money for Malawi at the same time.

## Big Day Out 2

The Presbytery of Angus is once again holding its *Big Day Out* event, this year to take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, again within the premises of our own church and Old & Abbey. It promises to be a cracker of a day! Tickets are available now, costing £12, which covers all aspects of the day including a packed lunch.

The programme is packed full of speakers and seminars, covering a wide range of topics and featuring speakers and leaders drawn from all over Scotland. The keynote address is to be given by Kenny Borthwick, minister at Holy Trinity Church in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh. As well as being a fully-committed parish minister, Kenny travels widely across the country and beyond as a much-in-demand conference speaker and inspirational teacher. What a coup for us that he is coming to Angus!

For a full list of other speakers and seminars, visit [www.bigdayout.org](http://www.bigdayout.org) or pick up a leaflet from the Church Office. Among the many highlights, however, are the following:

- Seminars and worship led by the acclaimed *Fischy Music!*
- An interview with David Robertson, minister at St. Peter's Free Church, Dundee
- *Holy White Water* with Scott Burton from Perth
- An in-depth look at the *Heart 2 Heart* ministry – Christian support for people suffering relationship breakdown and divorce
- A session with Barbara Macfarlane of *Parish Nursing* from the Steeple Church, Dundee

Over and above the speaker and seminar programme, *Big Day Out* will include an exhibition featuring local and national groups and organisations which will offer an excellent insight into some of what happens in our communities and country in the name of the church and in tandem with others with whom alliances have been made.

With the *Big Day Out* taking place right on our own doorstep, this is too big a chance to miss. Date for the diary, NOW!

## Jesus 1 - Satan 0

Jesus and Satan were having an on-going argument about who was better on the computer. They had been going at it for days, and frankly God was tired of hearing all the bickering.

Finally fed up, God said, 'THAT'S IT! I have had enough. I am going to set up a test that will run for two hours, and from those results, I will judge who does the better job.'

So Satan and Jesus sat down at their keyboards and typed away.

They moused. They faxed. They e-mailed. They e-mailed with attachments. They downloaded. They did spreadsheets. They wrote reports. They created labels and cards. They created charts and graphs. They did some genealogy reports. They did every job known to man.

Jesus worked with heavenly efficiency and Satan was

faster than hell.

Then, ten minutes before their time was up, lightning suddenly flashed across the sky, thunder rolled, rain poured, and, of course, the power went off.

Satan stared at his blank screen and screamed every curse word known in the underworld. Jesus just sighed.

Finally the electricity came back on, and each of them restarted their computers.

Satan started searching frantically, screaming, 'It's gone! It's all GONE! I lost everything when the power went out!'

Meanwhile, Jesus quietly started printing out all of his files from the past two hours of work.

Satan observed this and became irate. 'Wait!' he screamed, 'That's not fair! He cheated! How come he has all his work and I don't have any?'

God just shrugged and said, 'JESUS SAVES.'

## Alpha Course

Our most recent *Alpha* course finished with the usual 'away day' which, this year, saw us travelling to the little country church at Dun – a perfect location for a day of reflection. Sadly, due to ill health, several of the group were unable to come to the 'away day' but those who did were unanimous in their view that it was a very special day indeed.

Following the completion of the course, one participant (not from St. Andrew's Church) wrote the following:

*Dear Martin,*

*Thank you so much for sharing and giving your time to do the Alpha course. I have received and taken away so much from the course itself, the people I have met and the love and commitment of St. Andrew's Church. I*

*have renewed my faith and now understand a lot more, looking at life in different and more fulfilling ways. Sharing God's love and taking time to consider different things has made me a more confident and productive person, helping my day to day living and coping with the difficult times that I face.*

*Please give my sincere thanks to Doris and her team for the wonderful food they provided and served faithfully during the weeks of the course. It was delicious – even better that someone else was cooking it for me!*

*May God bless you all.*

The next *Alpha* course will run between Easter and the summer – if there is sufficient interest. Might it be time for you to experience what this particular person found for herself? Launch details etc. will be published in our weekly bulletin and on our website.

## Waste not, Want not...

What can be done about the ever-growing quantity of rubbish we produce? Rising landfill charges and steeper commodity and energy prices are forcing us to revisit what we've thrown away. The Scottish government has recently commissioned a feasibility study of landfill mining – the first in Britain. Extractive mining is becoming more expensive and less productive – in contrast, landfill is easier to mine, more local to production facilities, and contains a cocktail of useful materials including metals, plastics, and materials that could be burned for energy production. It would also provide a revenue stream for councils and reduce the amount that has to be disposed of – forecasts are that Britain will have used up all its landfill capacity by 2018.

A project in Belgium starts this year which will see a partnership of various businesses process a 16 million tonne land-

fill site over the next 20 years. An estimated 45% of the volume can be recovered for recycling, while rubbish with a calorific value will be burned for power.

This processing of waste already happens in developing countries, in a different form. Many people make a living as pickers on urban dumps, removing every last scrap of usable plastic, metal or fabric. It's a miserable way of life and there's very little to celebrate about it, but what it demonstrates is that our landfill problem is a problem of affluence. Only the affluent can be routinely wasteful – may we not be among them! Let's make every effort to minimize our waste and recycle as much as we can, before our rubbish reaches a landfill. Let's also support by prayer and giving the work of Christian organizations in developing countries who work amongst the poorest of the poor, like the rubbish pickers.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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 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**

### MAY

**Sunday 5**  
**9.30 am - Monthly Traditional Service**  
**11 am - Worship Service;**  
**6.30 pm - Evening Worship**

**Sunday 12**  
**11 am - Worship Service**  
**6.30 pm - Evening Worship**

**Sunday 19**  
**10.30 am - Worship Service (N.B. Early start to allow for travel to Edinburgh for 'Heart & Soul 2013' event.)**  
**6.30 pm - Evening Worship**

**Sunday 26**  
**11 am - Worship Service;**  
**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.**

## Fairtrade Easter Egg Success

Thank you to everyone who decided to choose an egg with a difference this Easter – altogether St Andrew's folk purchased 60 eggs. They were a delicious chocolate treat, but these eggs have done more than tickle tastebuds:

1. They helped to spread the Easter message through the Bible verse on the pack and through the Easter story, activity poster and sticker set inside each pack
2. They helped cocoa and sugar farmers in developing countries to earn a fair price for their produce and to get access to international markets
3. They helped to provide the Fairtrade premium for these farmers' communities, which they can spend on necessities that we take for granted – like access to clean

water and medical care, schooling for their children, roads and other means of getting their goods to market

4. 15p from every egg supported the work of Traidcraft, a Fair Trade company dedicated to helping farmers and craft workers in developing countries to work their way out of poverty. If you don't think that sounds like much, the company that makes these eggs is expecting to donate £20,000 to Traidcraft!
5. 12 of the eggs were used as part of St Andrew's Easter outreach to Monarch's Rise, the new housing estate in our parish.

It might seem like a simple thing, buying a Fairtrade egg instead of one of the others, but each small action by each one of us builds up into a great force for good. So keep thinking Fairtrade whenever you shop!

## Guild News

March the 18<sup>th</sup> was a bitter cold night and the snow started at teatime. I think that this was the worst weather for a Guild meeting this year, but it was too late to cancel our speaker who had to travel from Dundee and would already be on route. It had promised to be an excellent night with Archie Bathgate the deputy rector of Arbroath Academy and his wife who had visited Rwanda and are returning this summer with some Academy pupils. They gave us some insight into life in Rwanda after the genocide where reconciliation is taking place between the persecutors and the persecuted. I think that those who made the effort to weather the storm were not disappointed. We had a most informative evening, learning about Rwanda, which is a very beautiful and luscious country growing pineapples, bananas, tea and coffee. "Comfort Rwanda", one of the

Guild Projects this year, is helping to support and build housing. The cost to build a house is £1000.

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April we have Look, See and Do - a light hearted night and a bit of fun including a bunny drive.

Our last meeting of the session is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April when we have our AGM.

The Guild boxes have been counted for the year and a staggering £950 was raised. We would like to thank everyone who had a box and have given so generously. We would also like to thank Susan Godsall and Bill Marshall who helped with the counting of the money. Anyone who would like a Guild box can collect one in the hall after the Sunday service during the month of April.

Our Annual Coffee Morning, "Guild Rocks", is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 10-12 noon, with all the usual stalls.



## John Wilson - My Story

Some time in April 2008 I came into St Andrews Church, a very broken man addicted to heroin and with my life in one big mess. I was looking for someone to sell drugs to but that day God was looking for me and put two people in my path. These people were filled with compassion and instead of banning me from the drop-in and phoning the police, they offered me help.

That day started a long road of preparation and nudging along with God orchestrating the transformation that my life was going to take. I went to Teen Challenge in November 2008 and began a long road to recovery and working things out in my life. It was there I met with the Lord Jesus in a big way! I had many stumbles and falls along the way and many attempts at trying to complete the programme. I finally graduated in 2010 and felt a strong calling upon my life. I knew with all my heart that I was to tell people about Jesus and it was the people-group that society often forgets about - my kind of people! addicts, prisoners, homeless people, broken people - that I was to work alongside.

I went to Teen Challenge School of Ministry in Wales for six months and in that time I was trained in evangelism and learned how to communicate the gospel in a simple but effective way. God blessed me with some great opportunities of preaching the gospel, doing outreach, doing rehab training, speaking in young offenders prisons, mission trips both in this country and overseas. Whilst there I said that I would aim to do one overseas mission a year and in 2012 I went over to Montenegro with a team from the church in Aberdeen.

In the period that followed, I tried several things - including starting my own business - but my sense was that these ventures were not really what God had in mind for me.

By this time, I had met my girlfriend, a great woman of God and she was running a women's project in Rotherham. I would visit and she would take me to the sister project called Lighthouse Homes, a 16-bed homelessness project, a kind of half-way house between rehab and a hostel; a place of change. After a long time of prayer and fasting, I decided to apply for a post as senior support worker and prison liaison worker at Lighthouse. I must say I felt well out of my depth as I read the job description, but God doesn't call the qualified, *he qualifies the called!*

I started in Rotherham in August 2012. I work with homeless people on a daily basis and go into prison every week to meet with prisoners and take the message of hope to them. I also offer pastoral care to around twenty guys and oversee the home moves that we have in and around Rotherham. Psalm 37 v 4 says, *'Delight in the lord and he will give you your hearts desires.'* This scripture has come to pass so many times in my life but recently God reminded me of this as he once again gave me my hearts desires.

Since I was a wee boy, I have always wanted to go out to Africa but without ever knowing why. A few weeks ago, my pastor announced that our church was going to start supporting a church-planting ministry in Freetown, Sierra Leone. My pastor asked me if I wanted to go out there in May with him and his wife to meet the pastors and teachers and to see what work we are going to do when we send a team out later in the year and to help with some preaching at crusades. I said I would love to go but I was speaking out in faith as I couldn't afford the thousand pounds at that short of notice! I started to pray: *'God, if you want me out there then you need to make a way for me!'*

I mentioned to one of our volunteers about the conversation I had with my pastor and asked her to pray about it. I couldn't believe her response! It turned out that she had been left a bit of money and had been asking God what to do with it. She felt strongly that it was to be used for mission but wasn't able to undertake such a mission herself. She had been praying for conformation and a sign that the money was to be used in mission and here I was sharing my heart about this work in Africa!

Needless to say she felt that she was to pay for my flights and I have been commissioned to go on this ten day trip. We fly out May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Day by day, I sense that God has been good to me. You see five years ago I was begging on the streets of Edinburgh; robbing and stealing with no hope or future. Today I am doing a job I love, living a life free from any kind of addiction and walking in freedom. People ask me if I would change my past I somehow I could turn back time? My answer is to say, 'No!' I have learnt some real-life lessons and God uses it today for his glory and to give other people from the same type of background hope for their lives. And it all started the day I walked in to *Havilah* at St. Andrew's Church, Arbroath.

(See John's picture on the back page.)

## Book Review

### Cross Roads by Wm Paul Young

I really don't want to give anything away about this book but Tony, the main character ends up in a coma in Intensive Care. While there he reflects on his life, how he has lived it and how his actions have affected others - and then God offers him the opportunity of putting things right! He has a choice to make and during this time of decision

making he begins to understand the challenges others have and how he can help - but he can only help one person. As we follow him through the book, what choice would we make and ultimately what choice will Tony make?

This is the second book by the author of the bestseller "The Shack". I wasn't tempted to read "The Shack" but was persuaded to read "Cross Roads" - and I'm so pleased I did, as it's a fantastic book. Every now and again you come across a book that you just can't put down until you know what's happened and this is one of those books.



**John Wilson :**  
The Youth Group  
display the nesting  
boxes they built



with the help of Ken Slater : A brave young lady helps Martin to spread the word!



## Clerk's Corner

Holy Week was a week of intense activity in the church. Hayshead Primary School held their end of term service one morning for the pupils and in the afternoon for their parents. The next day saw the beginning of the wonderful Easter Code experience for P7 pupils from two local schools. As well as the Midweek service, there were Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. All these events required planning and logistical arrangements and were fitted around the ongoing weekly activities.

You might think that all that was enough in the way of activity, but in addition we had two of the largest gatherings we have ever had when an external organisation uses our premises. Angus Council held two training sessions for a wide range of their staff, one on the Monday evening and the other all day on Tuesday. Both of these had 120 participants! Such events involve work from a range of committed people. Firstly all the arrangements have to be made through the office and then various teams such as the Catering Team and the Events Team are put in place. On the Monday evening, 120 people were in the Sanctuary, the Rainbows were in the main hall, a Zumba class was in the small halls and a support group in the Session Room. During this time, when serving teas in the gallery for the 120, we had the other three groups arriving or departing.

You might think that there was the potential for chaos here, but everything flowed well thanks to the work of these teams. On Tuesday, a meal was served in the main hall for 120 people and the mountain of sandwiches being prepared in the kitchen had to be seen to be believed. There was even the choice of four soups and some special dietary require-

ments were catered for. Well done to all those who gave up so much time to allow these events to run smoothly. Once again we had many comments about the beauty of our premises, about the facilities and suitability as a venue and how everyone was so well looked after and, of course, about the wonderful food!

These corporate events provide very useful income but, best of all, and just as with other events like the Hayshead service, more and more folks are crossing the threshold of our church and appreciating its value in the community.



**The Easter Code for P7**



**The Hayshead Primary School Service**



**The Angus Council Training Day**