



## Naomi's Brrrrrrraptism!

With summer supposedly here, a large group of St Andrew's members gathered near the Lifeboat station to support and witness the baptism of Naomi Dunphy. The weather was not unpleasant, but the sea must have been very cold indeed and, just as with her sister Becky, Naomi surfaced gasping for life! And new life she has!

It is so encouraging to see our young people growing in their faith and taking these steps towards a fulfilling life. Already, they have dedicated so much of their energies to the work in Malawi and elsewhere. Sheila and Fraser can rightly be very proud parents - well done to them all.



## FIVE QUEEN'S MEN

The 52nd Display and Awards Night of the 7th Arbroath BB took place in St. Andrew's Church Hall on Thursday 16th of May, when a warm welcome was extended to all by Captain Wilma Ewart. She introduced the Inspecting Officer, Rev Dr Martin Fair, BA, BD, D. Min. and his wife, Mrs Elaine Fair, who presented the Awards.

Opening worship was conducted by the Captain followed by the Inspection of the boys. Entertainment followed with the Anchor Boys reciting some Scottish poems, Junior Section boys along with some Anchor Boys did a musical band item, followed by a guitar recital by Rhys Cuthbert from the Company section. A Table Tennis tournament came to its conclusion when the final was won by Struan Smith against Fraser Fair. This led to a highly contested match between the Minister and Struan. The winner was Martin Fair!!

The boys then reformed and the awards to all sections were presented by Mrs Fair.

Mrs Sharon Jamieson, O.I.C Anchor Boys, gave a report on the boys' work and activities they had held over the year and announced Best Boy winner - Daniel Alexander.

Mrs Wilma Ewart, O.I.C. Junior Section, gave her report

for the year and announced the following winners:

- 1st year Best Boy - Tom Christison
- 2nd year Best Boy - Lewis Stephenson
- Marshall Trophy - Lewis Stephenson

Mr Michael Clark, O.I.C. Company Section, gave a report on the activities for the year and then announced the following awards:

- Attendance Trophy - Daniel Jamieson, Dale Taylor and Kieran Young
- Ewan Findlay Memorial Trophy - Daniel Jamieson
- Recruit shield - Josh Gall

The Highest Award of the Queen's Badge was made to five Boys - **Rhys Cuthbert, Dale Taylor, Aaron Findlay, Struan Smith and Cameron Spink**. A formal presentation will be made at the morning service on 2nd of June.

Rev. Fair in his closing remarks said how encouraging it was to see such well turned out boys and the historic recording of 5 Queen's Men in one year was a first for the company in its 52 year history. The work of the Officers in helping the boys to achieve their potential was especially acknowledged.

The Captain thanked all the Officers for their continued support, for the smooth running of each section, and the planning and execution of the programme which brings us to the Awards Night every year. Mrs Sheila Dunphy from OB's, was thanked for her work with the Queen's Badge Boys as they did their volunteering in the Oyster Bar, and she was presented with flowers and a cheque for the ongoing work there.

The evening closed with the Benediction.



**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**

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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****May 2013****Baptisms** - Kirsty Roberts, Naomi Dunphy**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Margaret Paterson**IMPORTANT DATES****SEPTEMBER 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 16th August (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 21st August (Word-Processed file)

**CDs of Services**

These are available for any household 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.

**NO JULY / AUGUST EDITIONS**

Please note that because the last Sunday of June falls on the 30th and the printers close in the week prior to that, submissions would have needed to be in by June 11th - barely two weeks away from now! Therefore, where we would normally only miss an August edition, for this year we are also missing a July edition.

**WATCH the Sunday Bulletins for information about when organisations recommence after the 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

June 2013

Dear friends,

Elsewhere in this edition of QUEST, you'll find a piece that I've written concerning the decision of the General Assembly in relation to those in same-sex relationships serving as ministers of The Church of Scotland. Though sexual orientation has never in itself been seen as a barrier to ordination, the question of sexual practice always has.

In a most unusual move, the business managers of the Assembly decided to give over a whole day to this particular debate. In the end, that proved to be what was needed with the debate going on well after normal 'closing time.'

The downside of this was that much of the other business of the Assembly ended up being squeezed into much shorter time frames. And so, for example, the presentation and discussion of **Mission** ended up being heard at the very end of an already overly-long session on the Tuesday with the result being that the Assembly Hall was barely half full to hear it and many of those who were still there had long since lost the will to live!

For my own part, this was the cause of much sadness and regret. I'm not one for making lots of speeches at the Assembly but on this occasion I felt that I had to get to my feet to ask the Assembly to consider well what the priorities of the Church really ought to be. In 21st Century secular Scotland, with membership of churches declining at an alarming rate, can we afford to have ANYTHING OTHER THAN MISSION as our absolute priority? And yet what does it say about the Church that we gave a whole day to discussing sexual relationships and less than an hour to mission!

In my speech I said that I longed for the day to come when people would be queuing up to hear the Church talking about its mission - as they had done to hear our debate on the status of gay people. I said that I longed for the day to come when the BBC would send news teams to cover reports of the mission of the Church as they had for our 'gay' debate.

In the whole of the Bible, there are only a handful of references to questions of homosexuality with, on the other hand, much of the New Testament given over to the sharing of the Gospel. That's not to say that the question of sexuality isn't important but it is to say that **IT IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING US RIGHT NOW!**

So I'm relieved that, for now at least, that particular subject can be put aside. Let our prayer be that the Church, locally and nationally, will now focus **ALL OF ITS ENERGIES** on the question of mission - and to the question of how best we are to engage with the people of Scotland as we seek to say and show, 'This is Jesus.'

God bless,

Martin

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

## From Child of God To Child of God To ....

As I write this the due date for baby Irvin is fast approaching and by this time it reaches you there may have been an arrival! Understandably both Lynne and I are really excited about this next chapter and look forward to starting out into family life. One of the aspects that I know I look forward to in particular is, in time, being able to share my own story and experience with our child as he/she grows.

As you know we've been looking at the story of what God has done in big terms as we've taken time to work through The Story. Something that has always struck me though is the individual stories that are seen along the way. This is seen in terms of the individual characters that we read about but there is also space for the story of how this news and message has had an impact on the lives of those who have heard it.

Recently I've been reading a book that addresses how we can encourage our young people as they grow and mature in

their faith. An emphasis that the writer presents is the importance of sharing the story and an area of this that resonated with me was the importance of being comfortable to share our own faith story as individual. Ivy Beckwith, who writes the book, stresses that we don't need to have fancy theological or church words to express our story; we just need to be able to talk in an open and honest way about the experience that we know. Perhaps that might be recalling a way that God has helped us in the past or speaking openly about how we have journeyed day to day.

As our child grows I look forward to telling him/her some of my story about different adventures and experiences - who knows, I may even be afforded that great parental privilege of telling embarrassing stories! It is my prayer though that I'll be just as comfortable to speak and share about what God has done in my life and how I've known and trusted him.

Please join me in sharing and passing on the story of what God has done in our lives.

Your friend  
Stuart Irvin

## General Assembly

The third week of May was, for me, spent in Edinburgh carrying out my duties as a commissioner at The General Assembly of The Church of Scotland - the annual gathering of the Church's ministers and representative elders. You would be amazed at how much debate and decision-making is squeezed into the week! We started each morning at 9.30 prompt and some days were still going at 7 o'clock in the evening! That's a long time to sit still, listening and reflecting and deliberating.

The Sunday of the week was marked by the Heart & Soul gathering which took place in the Princes Street Gardens. A crowd of between 5-6,000 gathered including two coach loads from our own church. And though the weather was much less pleasant than last year, that failed to dampen the spirits and everyone left very much lifted up at having been involved in such an event finishing up, as it did, with a time of inspirational worship.

On the Tuesday, during the presentation from the World Mission Council, the Assembly was delighted to welcome four great-great grandchildren of David Livingstone who had been invited especially to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth. How good it was to hear that they are all, themselves, involved in Africa-related work much as their famous forefather was! Also, but much more troubling, the Assembly welcomed representatives from the Protestant churches of Syria and of Pakistan. These delegates spoke powerfully of the troubles being faced by their respective nations and of the persecution being faced daily by the Christian minorities. Prayers were offered and guarantees of support given.

But despite all of the wonderful things that are being done in the name of the Church here in Scotland and overseas, it seemed that the only thing that REALLY mattered this year was the debate on whether or not the Church would accept those in same-sex relationships as ministers - at least, that's all that the media was interested in.

Following that debate, and upon getting back to my hotel room, I switched on the television to see what would be reported of the debate and the decision taken. I have to tell you that I was amazed at the way in which the BBC 'spun' the story, essentially to get a headline. The impression given was far from being an accurate representation of what was actually decided.

Allow me to summarise the conclusion that was reached and the process that was taken to get there. In 2011, the General Assembly appointed a Theological Commission and charged it with bringing a report to the 2013 Assembly. This they duly did. However, given that the Commission was made up of an equal number of 'traditionalists' and 'revisionists,' they found themselves unable to agree on a recommendation. So, they presented two - one that argued for the traditional view to be upheld and one that argued that it was time to admit gay people in civil partnerships to the ministry.

After a full day of debate - much of it of a legal and technical nature - an agreement continued to elude the Assembly. It was at that point that The Very Reverend Albert Bogle, the retiring Moderator, offered a third option. His

motion was as follows: that the Church would agree to uphold the traditional position concerning sexual relationships but that in those cases where a congregation specifically wanted to call a minister in a same-sex relationship, that they be allowed to do so - thus enshrining the dearly-held position of the Church of Scotland concerning the right of a congregation to call a minister of its choosing.

Essentially, therefore, the Assembly voted to maintain the traditional position and to reject the other argument which wanted to overthrow the traditional position in favour of the revisionist one. But in doing so, it conceded that there might well be some congregations who want to move from this position. These particular congregations will now be allowed to do so but the will of the Church of Scotland as a whole remains traditional - the view held from the beginning and the view still held by almost every denomination across the whole Christian world.

This was hardly what the BBC suggested with their 'Kirk votes to accept gay ministers' headline!

This decision has now been passed down for further work to be done on it. Inevitably, not everyone was happy with it. Many liberals were disappointed. They had hoped that the church would agree to an all-out acceptance of gay ministry. Many evangelicals were disappointed that, as they saw it, some ground was conceded and that some parishes will, in the fulness of time, move towards inducting ministers who are in same-sex relationships.

But many others felt that the Assembly had done well to arrive at a conclusion which they believe gives the Church the best chance of holding together. A vote for either of the two extremes may well have led to something akin to the break-up of the Church.

There are those who suggest that compromise is a sign of weakness. In truth, the opposite is often true. Albert Bogle displayed great courage and humility in presenting a third way. As a traditionalist himself, it was a huge step for him to concede the possibility of some parishes moving forward in the way described. Such moves would not be what he would want but he was willing to do what he could to accommodate other who see it very differently. Hasn't the Church always been in the business of looking for compromise? Take a look in the New Testament at Acts c15. There, you'll find an account of a 'general assembly' that the very first church in Jerusalem held as it tried to work out how it was going to find unity between Jewish and Gentile Christians. In the end, a compromise was found that everyone was able to live with.

When different sides prove themselves unwilling to look for middle ground, the result is disunity and, eventually, church splits. Sadly, the history of Protestant churches is littered with just that - churches splitting up into smaller and smaller - and ultimately irrelevant - units. In Scotland alone, we have almost as many types of church as we have football teams!

I often wonder as to the effect we might have if we all came together as one? And I remember often that that's exactly what Jesus prayed for in his dying hours:

*John 17:22-23*

*Father, I have given them the glory that you gave me,*

*that they may be one as we are one— so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.....*

Unity is never easy; It's often easier to split up. But hanging in there with those you struggle to get along with and with whom you profoundly disagree leads eventually to something worth dying for. Jesus died for us.

For my own part, I will continue to do everything I can to work for the peace and unity of the church - as I prom-

ised to do at my ordination. In very challenging times, that won't necessarily be easy. Then again, not much of what comes easily in life IS in the final analysis worth holding on to.

In closing, let me say that I am happy to share more on this subject in greater detail with anyone who wants further information about the debate at the General Assembly or about what will happen next.

Martin Fair

## Malawi Update

The Dunphys will spend the month of June in Malawi with Naomi staying on till the end of July. They will check on all the projects especially with the Sponsored Children. The new classroom should be finished by the time they arrive so they will be kitting it out with equipment.

As well as the usual school trips and sports day they plan to do some building work while there. Thanks to all who have supported the various fundraisers over the last year. Watch out for an update on the Dunphys return to find out what that money has been spent on.

## Women's Refuge

The response to the appeal for toiletries and children's bubble bath was overwhelming. A very big thank you to everyone who donated and to the members of the congregation who, throughout the year, have left toiletries in the cupboard. More than 50 bags were made up! The women who arrive at the refuge really appreciate these gifts. Thank you all once again.

## Youth Group

As has been our tradition for a number of years now we have had P7s join the Youth Group since Easter. I believe it's a good way to introduce them to Youth Group before they move up to Secondary School especially as it will ensure they recognise some 'friendly' and known faces when

they start at the schools after the Summer. Numbers attending youth group are currently between 20-25 and the ages go from P7 up to S4. The S3 and S4 have been taking more responsibility and have been helping with some of the games. It's been great to have 2 P7s who attended the Holiday Club come along to join and get really involved. Should you know of anyone of that age who would be interested in coming along please speak to me. **Sheila**

## Malawi Fundraisers

### Saturday 8th June - Coffee Morning

Tickets - £1.

Stalls include cake & candy, bric a brac and books.

### Saturday 10th August - Bag Pack at Morrisons

Could anyone willing to help speak to Sheila or Doris.

### Friday 16th August – Concert

with Pupils of Sheena Glover.

This will be a fundraiser for Malawi and the Music Festival.

## September - Soup Lunch & Bingo Night

### 19th October - St Andrews' Got Talent

Entry £5

This was postponed from May. Please be planning for this. It was a GREAT night last year and we know that lots of you have talent so please join in. All ages are needed!

If you would like to take part please give your name and details to Sheila – sheila@finessecs.com or 01241 873218. Please don't be shy whatever your age or talent!

## November – Soup lunch

### Saturday 30th November. – Ceilidh

## Stewardship

By the time you have read this, the Stewardship Programme will have been well and truly launched. You will also have received your pack of materials which indicate the vision and future focus for St Andrew's.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stewardship Team and the other volunteers for the hours spent in the preparation of all the literature and in the delivering of the cards and envelopes. Without these very willing people, the whole process could have been much more onerous.

Now we look forward to your response! JM.

## Save Stamps and Help Save The Planet!

Many St Andrew's folk "religiously" cut or tear the postage stamps off their envelopes to contribute to the stamp appeal of the World Mission Council of our national church. This year the funds raised from reselling stamps are helping to fund an exciting eco-project in the Czech Republic.

A Protestant church in a village in the Czech highlands is restoring an old school building to use as a centre for environmental education. They offer a set of three programmes for school children called 'Living Water' – all based on practical education about water and plant life. Through this and other activities such as an educational

garden and an insect house, the church is improving awareness of ecological issues through the whole local community.

If you're not yet in the habit of saving your stamps, now is the time to start! Once you have a pile, bring them to church and put them in the stamps box in the cupboard in the small hall – ask a member of the Service Core Group to show you where it is. You can also give the group a hand by trimming the stamps before you donate them – leave about half an inch of envelope around each stamp. Overseas stamps are particularly sought after. Why not ask your friends and neighbours to join in, or organise a collection point in your workplace? It's an easy habit to develop and is a practical way of supporting useful projects around the world.

## Fairtrade - It's about more than money

Fairtrade has obvious economic benefits for the producers involved, but the good news doesn't stop there.

In Uganda, women make up half the representatives in the Gumutindo coffee co-operative. They have always prioritised women's involvement in the running of the co-op, and in 2009 they went even further and launched their own brand of women's coffee. Uganda is a traditional, patriarchal society, but these women farmers are changing all that. They get a higher income from their Fairtrade coffee and their co-op is making positive changes to raise the status of women in the community.

In the Dominican Republic, farmers in a cocoa co-op have invested the extra income they receive from Fairtrade sales in new fermentation and drying centres for their beans. It's made their cocoa better quality and helped them go organic, meaning a better position in export markets.

In the Windward Islands, Fairtrade banana farmers have changed the way they farm for a healthier environment. They've reduced chemicals to encourage wildlife to return to their farms. So now animals can graze and they can grow other food crops nearby. They've also buffered their bananas from traffic pollution by planting fruit trees, which is an extra source of nutrition for them.

Go one step further with Fairtrade next time you shop and you'll be helping Fairtrade producers in all these extra ways as well as giving them a chance to trade fairly.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### JUNE

#### Sunday 2

9.30 am - The Early Service  
11 am - Worship Service; inc. Presentation of Queen's Badges  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 9

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 16

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

#### Sunday 23

11 am - Worship Service; inc. Sunday Club Prizegiving!  
1.30 pm - Church Family Trip  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 30

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

### JULY

#### Sunday 7

9.30 am - The Early Service  
11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 14

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

#### Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service;  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

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

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

## Clerk's Corner June 2013

### Training and development – Angus Presbytery 2013/14

The Presbytery offers training and development opportunities for 2013 and 2014. These are listed below and if you would like to attend any of them please get in touch with me as soon as possible. The application form needs to be returned by 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013, but it will be possible to attend a course right up to the given dates. Early notification is helpful to the organising team.

**Pastoral and Bereavement visiting** – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013. (**Preparing for and Conducting funeral services** will be arranged on a date suitable for partici-

pants).

**Working with young people** – for Sunday Schools and Club leaders – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Leading Worship** – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014

**You're an angel – sharing our faith** – Tuesday 11 and 25<sup>th</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**Working with dementia sufferers** – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014

If there is sufficient interest arrangements will be made to run a course on **Elementary Food Handling** with Angus Council Environmental Health Service.

Suitable venues for the courses will be decided once the numbers have been finalised.

## Church Family Trip

By the time you'll be reading this, we'll be into June and, so far, there's not been much by way of summer weather! That's why we're confident that we're going to have a beautiful day for our Church Family Trip which is taking place on Sunday afternoon, 23 June. Surely the summer will have kicked in by then!!

Buses will leave the church at 1.30pm and will make their way to Wellbank Village Hall and Park. It's an ideal facility with lots of space for the children to run around and the hall available to us should the weather be inclement - which, as stated above, will not happen!

Our trip is very definitely NOT a Sunday Club trip. In other words, it's for everybody - not just the children. And in many ways, that's the beauty of it because it sums up the all-age nature of St. Andrew's Church. So for the children, there will be games and races and all kinds of activities but for those who enjoy a more sedate pace, there'll be lots of space to sit on a deck chair or travelling rug and enjoy the activities from a spectator's point of view. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own picnic but a BBQ is served as well so you needn't bring too much food of your own.

On that Sunday morning, we'll celebrate with our children as they receive their prizes marking the end of the Sunday Club session. All in all, a great day to look forward to!

### International Leadership Conference

Over the two days of 13-14th May 2013, I was privileged to be able to attend the International Leadership Conference run by Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, in London. It was out of HTB Church that the now worldwide *Alpha* course was birthed in the 1980s.

The conference took place in the Royal Albert Hall and, from start to finish, was inspiring, stimulating and thoroughly encouraging. With over 6,000 Christian leaders gathered from 88 countries it could hardly have been anything else! Each day started and finished with lively worship and in between featured a wonderful programme of world-class speakers and seminar leaders.

Of the main speakers, chief among them were Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Schonborn of Vienna (pastor to the Pope), Bill Hybels, Senior Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church, Chicago and Steve Furtick of Elevation Church, Charlotte, North Carolina.

At 32, Steve Furtick is a relatively young minister. But from an even younger age, he developed a vision to begin a new church in a large urban area. So with six other families, Steve and his wife left their small town in rural South Carolina and relocated to Charlotte. That was some six and a half years ago. Today, on an average Sunday, Elevation Church is attended by 12,000 people and satellite congregations are springing up in other cities across North America. By any standards, that's phenomenal growth and has come about through a combination of vision, courage and an absolute passion to share Jesus with those who have never known him.

The North American context is very different from our own but it seems to me that that passion for mission - sharing Jesus in word and deed - is exactly what we need in 21st Century Scotland. Combined with that, the willingness to take risks is perhaps something that we need to rediscover in the Scottish Christian scene. There's a parting greeting that we regularly share with one another. We say something like, '*See you soon, take care.*' Steve suggested to us that in the living out of our Christian lives, we need to get better at taking risks! I'm sure he's right.

Justin Welby shared with us something of his own spiritual journey and laid great emphasis on his experience of the *Alpha* course. Largely as a result of that, he was encouraged to give up his career as a high-flying business executive in the world of oil to train for ministry within the Church of England. In what might be described as a meteoric rise, he has within a few short years gone from serving as a vicar to becoming Dean of Coventry Cathedral, Bishop of Durham and now, since the beginning of this year, Archbishop of Canterbury with oversight of the world's 80 million Anglicans! He spoke of the sense of responsibility that he bears and of his absolute reliance on the guiding of God, through the Holy Spirit. For a man with such huge demands upon him, it was humbling to hear him speak of his prayer life and the strength that he draws daily from spending time in God's presence. Something for us all to take heed of.

It's a long way to go for two days but the dates are already in my diary for next year - such is the value of the conference. We all need to be nourished in our faith and of all the events, retreats and conferences that I've attended through the years, this is by far and away the best one.

Martin

### I Have a Little Satnav

I have a little Satnav  
It sits there in my car  
A Satnav is a driver's friend  
It tells you where you are.  
  
I have a little Satnav  
I've had it all my life  
It's better than the normal ones  
My Satnav is my wife.  
  
It gives me full instructions  
Especially how to drive  
"It's thirty miles an hour", it says  
"You're doing thirty five".  
It tells me when to stop and start

And when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever  
Safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red  
And when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively  
Just when to intervene.

It lists the vehicles just in front  
And all those to the rear  
And taking this into account  
It specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver  
Has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car

It still gives its advice.  
It fills me up with counselling  
Each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house,  
Makes sure I'm properly fed,  
It washes all my shirts and things  
And - keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages  
And my tendency to scoff,  
I do wish that once in a while  
I could turn the darned thing off!

(With thanks to David Searle!)



Heart and Soul 2013 - On a pleasant day the large crowds enjoyed the exhibitions.



Martin led the closing praise and Michael Marr released a dove from the main stage watched by Adele Ramsay and others.



A magician entertains.



Fat cat wants a picture of everybody ....



... and especially himself, of course!



Messy Church - Great fun for younger (and older) children!



So this is why it is called Messy Church!



Fun for all with the parachute.