



September 2013

Moderator Visits Community Spirit

For the second time in two years, the Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland has visited our church and, in particular, to see our Community Spirit building and to visit our Havilah project. Last time around it was David Arnott. David went on to make reference to Havilah, and to use it as a shining example of Christian ministry in his closing speech as Moderator. Now, Lorna Hood has very much enjoyed a rewarding and encouraging visit.

First and foremost, she wanted to hear about our



Lorna Hood enjoys a discussion with some of the Havilah volunteers.



The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rev Lorna Hood, is pictured with Rev Martin Fair and Havilah Project Leader, Tracey McLeod

work and to see it for herself. But she has also been made aware of the issue that we have with the *Misty Heaven* shop next door. Since our raising awareness of the issue, there has been considerable coverage of the problem of so-called legal high drugs, at both local and national level. Many of you saw the Channel 4 programme that made clear the dangers of these substances. The Moderator may well have something to say on this subject and you may have become aware of that by the time you read this article. Ongoing publicity will help us to keep up pressure which, we believe, will ultimately lead to the closure of these shops.

Please continue to pray about this matter.

Home Groups and Growing Programmes

As always, our home groups will provide members with the primary means of sharing fellowship, prayer support and learning of the faith during this coming year. With a brand new location on offer this year, maybe it's time for YOU to get yourself involved in a small group and to enjoy the benefits of such a group. Of course it's great to be part of the big gatherings on Sundays, or on Wednesdays, but home groups allow for greater intimacy and for the building of close relationships etc. For the main part, the material used by the home groups mirrors the themes from Sunday mornings, allowing members to dig deeper into the Bible passages and ideas under discussion. Everyone benefits from the sharing of views and it's good to know what others are thinking as well as being able to express your own thoughts!

Over and above the main home group programme for this year, we'll be offering the following – some of which is fa-

miliar, parts of which are brand new for this year.

- ◇ We'll be running *Alpha* in the autumn, ideal for those who want to explore the Christian faith for the first time AND for those who want to do a refresher course
- ◇ Also, this autumn, for those who would like to go a little deeper – with particular reference to the great debates about the existence of God and how, as Christians, we defend the faith against those who would knock it – a tremendous new DVD-based course will be available.
- ◇ Then, to look forward to in the New Year, a special 40-day course for the period of Lent entitled '*What on earth am I here for?*' by Rick Warren and the team at Saddleback Church. This course is an extension of the best-selling book, '*The Purpose-driven Life*' and will be of benefit to everyone.

So, one way or another, there are opportunities for you to make sure that you're not standing still in your Christian journey – rather that you're learning and growing all the time. Watch out for details of each course as they launch and take part as it suits you best.

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
LEADER**

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****June/July/August 2013****Baptisms** - Ethan Simmers, Arran & Skye Clarke,
Evie Clark**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - Claire Lamont & Ian Proctor**Funerals** - George Dickson, Alick Dinnie,
Sid Cargill**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.

IMPORTANT DATES**OCTOBER 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 20th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th September (Word-Processed file)

WANTED!**Plastic Storage Containers**

Do you have any plastic storage containers that you no longer use and could donate?

Havilah are needing a variety of these for various reasons such as storing craft materials and soup. All sizes and types are needed and the more the better. Thank you.

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.

Stuart Irvin

September 2013

Dear friends,

New Chapters

As many of you will know, Lynne and I started a very new chapter on the 31st of May as we welcomed into the world Douglas John Irvin. We have really enjoyed the adventure that is parenthood so far and we haven't been short of lots of new challenges and milestones. Of the many things that have really encouraged me, one that stands out is the way in which, as a church, there has been a sense of shared celebration with Lynne and me. People have been so kind in their words and gestures, quick to show love support and advice and many people have given us really kind gifts. From what I have sensed people have really enjoyed meeting Douglas as he's come along on Sunday or perhaps to the coffee morning (with his mum of course!). All these things have been a real blessing to us for which we want to say thank you.

James, in the 5th chapter of his letter encourages us to think about the different chapters and experiences of life. In verses 13-14 he says the following: Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

As a Church we echo a shared song of joy for Douglas and other recent additions. I know though that there are many other stories to tell of people who have known the Love of God and the support of his people as they have entered into times of their life that mark a more challenging and darker chapter. What an encouragement it is to bless and to care for one another in the different highs and lows of life.

Well, as Associate Minister with responsibilities for children and families, I'd like to bring to your attention a different kind of new chapter that is on the horizon and seek your encouragement and blessing on it. Sweaty Church – yes you read it right – this is a new way in which we will be expressing Church and, like Messy Church, the idea is that families will come along and participate together. Once a month we'll be meeting on a Sunday afternoon to share in games and activities which point to an overall theme which will help us, altogether, to step out and grow in our faith journey. As you might have sensed from the title we'll not exactly be sitting still! Have a think about ways that you might be led to bless this new expression of Church as it begins. Perhaps you might be moved to commit to pray for it, maybe you know of someone you could invite, or maybe you'd like to take a role on the day?

Once again, Lynne and I say thank you for the support shown to us as a ministry family. Knowing the value and blessing of it I look forward to seeing the different ways that your love and support will be shown amongst us altogether as a church.

Yours in Christ

Stuart, Lynne and Douglas

October Holiday Club

Our holiday clubs for children have been consistently successful across the years and have given us lots of opportunities to engage with children in an age when so few are brought by their parents to traditional Sunday School. As a rule, we've run these clubs at Easter time but this year we're going to try in the October holidays as well. In no small part, this extension of our programme for children is

possible because of our now having Stuart Irvin as our Associate Minister. So, during the first week of the holidays this year – 7-11th October – primary-aged children will be able to sign up for *Champions!*

Right now, we're putting the team in place and working out what resources etc. will be required. Please pray for this new venture over the coming weeks as plans are made. May it be a wonderful new opportunity for us to reach out to the children of the town.

Church Family Trip

With a mixture of sunshine and showers, our annual trip to Wellbank Village Hall and park was an opportunity to make use of both the indoor and outdoor facilities! But regardless of the somewhat mixed weather, the trip proved to

be one of the most successful ones that we've ever had. We had a large number of adults and children in attendance and everyone entered into the spirit of the day, taking part in the games and races and enjoying the opportunity to catch up with friends, relax and socialise. Check out the pictures elsewhere in this edition of QUEST or on our Facebook page!

Ask Theophilus

Question :

In Mark 1:16-20 we are told that one day as Jesus walked along the beach, he saw four fishermen mending their nets. He called them to follow him 'and immediately they left their nets and followed him'. Was this not very irresponsible?

Theophilus answers :

Good question! What we have to remember in reading the four Gospels is that each writer had his own particular agenda and purpose in mind. Mark's Gospel (most probably really Peter's Gospel) was written in Rome and initially addressed to Romans who were people of action rather than philosophers like the Greeks. So Mark constantly says, 'And immediately...' or, 'And at once...' or, 'Straightaway...'

But we have been given four Gospels, not just one. So when we read Luke and John we find important additional information about the call of the fishermen. Luke tells us (5:1-11) that before Jesus called Peter, he had used his boat

as a 'pulpit' from which to preach to the large crowd gathered along the shore. After the afternoon's teaching session, Jesus had brought about for Peter a miraculous catch of fish, so many that a second boat was needed (James' and John's?) to bring the huge shoal to the beach. On that occasion Peter had acknowledged Jesus' uniqueness with tears and penitence.

John's Gospel adds other details which plainly, like the incident in Luke, come before Mark's account. He tells us that two of the disciples of John the Baptist had been pointed by him to Jesus as 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world'. These two men had then spoken to Jesus and spent several hours with him. One of the two was Andrew and the other was the youngest disciple, John. Andrew had dashed off, found his brother Peter and brought him to meet Jesus as well (John 1:35-42).

In conclusion, Mark's account of the fisherman's call to be followers of Jesus is the briefest statement, greatly truncated, because his purpose in writing is to introduce his readers as soon as possible to 'The Son of Man' (Mark 10:45) who had come to give his life as a ransom for many.

Malawi Update

Hi Everyone,

I have a few wee photos for you of the boys and girls in their new outfits as provided by yourselves. Many thanks for the outfits - the children are very happy to look so smart!

We also have several dates for your diary.

1. For anyone who is interested (and lives near enough) - the Dunphys (myself, Naomi, Fraser and Sheila) who were out in Malawi over the summer will be giving a feedback/update night on Sunday night (25th Aug) at 6.30pm at St. Andrews Church, Arbroath. This is instead of the usual evening service so come for 6pm for some food and then hear all the stories from Malawi '13.

2. John Kang'ombe- Head of Aquaid Malawi is coming over to visit us for two weeks in September. He will be speaking at the church evening service on 15th September and also at the Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday the 22nd September in the morning. So get along to one (or both) of them at either 6pm for the meal before the service at 6.30pm (15th) or 11am (22nd) to hear John Kang'ombe speaking. It would be good to have a good turn-out for him!

And he will of course be very engaging and interesting! - We love John!

3. Christmas letters and parcels- We are hoping to get a container of lots of things sent to Malawi very soon. This means that we will need to have these Christmas letters and parcels in asap. The DEADLINE is the 8th SEPTEMBER...

If parcels are not in at the time of shipping there's nothing we can do. We will be unable to extend or delay the shipping date as we are just putting one small container on a large container ship.

In your Christmas parcel should be...

1. A letter from yourself.
2. A Christmas card.
3. A photo of yourself.
4. A shirt for boys and a blouse for girls.
5. A body spray.
6. A set of pens.
7. A notepad. (A5/A6)

Many thanks.

Becky

Ian Gray Ordination

Many of you will remember Ian Gray from Montrose who did part of his training to be a Reader with us at St. Andrew's. Since then, Ian has served in a number of churches across Angus Presbytery as a Reader and Parish Assistant.

But the wonderful news is that Ian went on to train for the Ministry and was ordained on 27th August in Edzell Church.

Ian will be taking up a role as a *Locally Ordained Minister*. We send warm congratulations and wish him well for the future.

Clerk's Corner

Stewardship

In the June edition of Quest we told you that the launch of our Stewardship Programme was well and truly underway. You all received copies of the materials and very quickly your response cards began to come in.

Now our Treasurer is hard at work collating all your responses and making the necessary changes to her records, ensuring that those of you who have requested changes in your method of giving receive the appropriate details.

We have now been able to identify members who have not yet responded and a reminder letter has been enclosed with Quest. It may be that you have mislaid your original letter or, in the general busyness of life you have not got round to replying. Now is your chance to send back your reply and allow the whole exercise to progress.

Our thanks are due to the many people who gave so freely of their time to prepare the materials, to fill the envelopes and to the Contact Team for delivering many of them. Many many hours were also spent in the preparation and serving of the wonderful meals we had in June.

Here is a very rough breakdown of the hours spent to date in the first stage of the programme.

Preparation, cooking and serving of meals - 128 hours
 Writing of materials - 15 hours
 Printing of materials - 10 hours
 Preparing materials for issue to members - 24 hours
 Collation of responses - 25 hours

There will now be a second round of preparing envelopes and of the collation of results.

How richly blessed we are in having such very willing volunteers to undertake this work which is complex and time-consuming, but which is vital to us in going forward with the exciting vision we have for St Andrew's.

Thank you all.

Fund raising

A considerable effort goes into the work of fund-raising. We would ask all of those involved in this to make sure that sales tables are located in the main hall and not in the gallery. This will ensure that there is no overcrowding where teas and coffees are being served.

Display items

Pat Mill is in charge of the displays on our walls, making sure that they are up-to date and placed appropriately. If you wish to have a notice put up then please contact her. You can leave notices for her in the office.

Recycling

Our record in this area is very good and working away quietly in the background ensuring that nothing is flung out which could be recycled is our church officer.

However, storage space is very limited and we would ask you to bring only the items which are specifically requested which are listed on one of the cupboards in the small halls.

Data Protection

As part of the Safeguarding Scheme operated by the Church of Scotland and also the requirements of the Data Protection Act, we are required to seek permission of the holding of certain information. This process is being started in the Sunday Club by seeking permission for the use of photographs of children in specific areas of church life. The children will be not be named in these photographs. You may have noticed that in the most recent editions of Quest, no names of children have been used. Other aspects of necessary permission for use of information have already been dealt with and this is an on-going process.

Our privacy statement is:

St Andrew's Church of Scotland Arbroath is committed to protecting your privacy and safeguarding your personal data. We are registered with the Information Commissioner through the umbrella registration of Angus Presbytery and strive to comply fully with data protection law.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This year, we'll be celebrating Harvest Thanksgiving on 22nd September. The same old Harvest celebration? Not a bit of it! This year, our celebration will be a little bit special as we welcome John Kang'ombe to St. Andrew's. John is a key member of the Aquaid Team in Malawi and will be the first Malawian that we'll have welcomed to the church

since beginning our partnership with Aquaid back in 2006. So, as we pledge bags of maize that will be available to the communities that we support through the difficult months that lie ahead, it will be of huge benefit to have John with us and to have him explain to us exactly the benefit of this scheme.

John will also be our guest at the evening service on 15th September and will be visiting local schools during his two week visit.

Back To Church Sunday

Some years ago now, Michael Harvey had a vision – a very simple one – of people being invited to come to Church! Not rocket science but not something that very many of us do. In response, Michael founded the *Back to Church Sunday* movement which, since then, has grown dramatically. Now active in countries around the world, millions of people have been invited to church as a result of the programme. At St. Andrew's, we have used *Back to Church* on several occasions and are going to do so again

this year, on the last Sunday of September.

In preparation, and to fill us with confidence, Michael Harvey is coming in person to teach a seminar on this subject on Monday evening 2nd September, from 7pm. Michael is a wonderful speaker – humorous, practical and very listenable to. He will encourage us to become a more inviting congregation and will give us lots of hints and tips as to how to go about it.

Can you just imagine what could happen if we all invited a friend to come to Church?

O taste and see...

...how gracious the Lord is!

This well-loved verse from Psalm 34 is well in evidence in the abundance of fresh produce we have here in Angus, and in the skills of those who produce and process it. Fresh, local, high quality seasonal ingredients are one of the many bonuses of living in Angus. Let's be sure to regularly thank God for this.

Earlier this year Angus Council launched a free booklet called Angus Larder. The 48-pages of the booklet are packed

full of information about the food and drink of Angus, including features about Angus asparagus, wild salmon and jam, a listing of the best food shops, butchers, fishmongers and farm shops and an independent guide to restaurants, bistros, cafés and takeaways with local fare on the menu.

You can pick up a copy of Angus Larder from the Access office, the library, one of the leisure centres or download it from www.atasteofangus.com. Enjoying the produce and efforts of our neighbours in the farming and catering industries is a way we can support them – and why not invite someone from church whom you'd like to get to know better when you next go out?

Men's Ministry

It continues to be the case that for most people, the impression is that church is something for the ladies! Men are a bit too macho, or so some think. At St. Andrew's, we think differently. We have a great programme for men with a range of different events and activities all through the year – everything from curry nights to weekend retreats and camping expeditions. Most recently, we enjoyed a snooker evening at the Castle Club in Forfar. Seventeen guys showed up despite it clashing with the

Scotland v England game on television! Although the emphasis was on fun, and everyone was reminded how difficult a game snooker is, the minister showed his prowess by potting some fantastic shots and making some impressive breaks! Class always comes to the fore!!

Whether you want to come to all the events or join us for those that suit, men of all ages are welcome to be part of the Ministry for Men.

P.S. Remember also the Men's breakfast at 9am on the last Sunday of every month.

Guild

Our glorious summer is drawing to a close and we are looking forward to the start of our Guild year with our theme being "A fellowship to build"

Over the summer we have continued with monthly meetings. In June we enjoyed our annual bus trip to Elgin stopping on route at Dean's of Huntly shortbread factory for lunch, then returning to the Gordon Arms in Huntly for our high tea.

July was a more active night with BIG games when we had lots of fun and laughter playing with the oversized snakes and

ladders, jenga, dominoes, skipping and swing ball, and finishing the evening playing with the large parachute. Pictures can be viewed on facebook.

In August we had our fish tea in the hall followed by a quiz night with much hilarity as we were not as clever as we thought.

We start our new session on Monday 16th September at 7.30pm with our Service of Dedication.

All are welcome so come along. We have a large age group from 23-89years who all enjoy the fellowship of the Guild.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Clark/Clarke Baptisms!

We celebrated with the Clark family at the beginning of August as they rejoiced in the baptism of Michael and Laura's daughter, Evie. And just a couple of weeks before that, we celebrated with other Clarkes as we baptised twins, Arran and Skye. Their story is testimony to the possibilities that arise as we develop a ministry for children as extensively as is possible.

Skye and Arran, who are in P3, first came to us through our Holiday Club programme and then followed up by coming to Messy Church. From there, it wasn't such a big step for them to start coming to Sunday Club where they've been made most welcome.

The addition of Sweaty Church to our programme will only increase further these outreach possibilities and make more likely further celebration days for the congregation in times to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1

9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 8

11 am - Kirkin' O the Council Service
3 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 15

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
with special guest
John Kang'ombe (Malawi)

Sunday 22

11 am - Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration with special guest
John Kang'ombe (Malawi)
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 29

11 am - Worship Service;
Back to Church Sunday!
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

OCTOBER

Sunday 6

9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 13

11 am - Worship Service
3 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 20

11 am - Worship Service with Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 27

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.

Friends Club

The Friends Club starts on 5 September, 2-4pm and all are welcome! Our schedule to the end of the year is:

5th Sep – Laura and friends

3rd Oct – Danny Laverty

7th Nov – Ruth Leslie-Melville

5th Dec – Party, with Johnny Mac

If anyone is interested in the Senior Members' Club, please speak to Beatrice Gerrard.

Church Wildlife Workshop

Saturday, 14th September 2013

10am to 1pm

Inchtute Church

Details of this free event and booking forms are available from taysideswifts@yahoo.co.uk. This is a good opportunity to learn how to be more bug, bat and swift-friendly.

On First Name Terms!

Recently, I had occasion to be chatting with a couple who have been with us at St. Andrew's for some six years. They talked to me warmly about how welcome they feel in our congregation – always pleasing to hear! But it was one of the ways in which they described their experience that

most spoke to me. They said that they knew lots of people but only by their first names. That's not a problem; that's great!

Friendliness is measured on first name terms and formality by second names. There is, of course, room for formality but within a congregation, surely first-name friendliness is what we should be striving for?

Malawi Fundraisers

1st September - Sunday - Soup Lunch (Hall)

27th September - Friday - Bingo Night (Hall)

19th October - Saturday

St Andrews' Got Talent (Church) (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 (Hall)

**29th November - Friday - Ceilidh
Meadowbank**

Hebridean Holiday with 'The Searles of Grange'

Did I say holiday? 'Adventure' would have been a more apt title! The day of our departure dawned dull and wet. However, the four of us (Edna, an Irish friend of David and Lorna's was with us) set off early. But half way to Inverness David had an urgent phone call from Norma, wife of the minister in Benbecula whose manse we were to be staying in. They both were very unwell and Norma was asking us to delay our arrival until after 2pm the next day.

Since the ferry was already booked from Uig in Skye across to North Uist, we had to arrange B&B in Benbecula. We were fortunate that by 9pm that evening we were safely with our temporary landladies. The minister and his wife left next morning so we were then free to move into the spacious manse.

To say Benbecula is beautiful is an understatement. It is a very special place. The colours of the sky and lochs constantly change as the daylight changes from dawn to dusk, and the beaches and machars are wonderful for walks and bird life.

All appeared to be going well the first weekend. David preached morning and evening, but on Monday both Lorna and I contracted the same sickness bug that had delayed the minister and his wife going on a holiday—in spite of us

taking every possible precaution when we arrived by sterilising door handles, taps and all surfaces! However, after a couple of days we both recovered and we were all able to go out walking.

One walk was to Flodda Island where we sat and watched about forty basking seals lying on the rocks enjoying the sunshine. But two days later I discovered a tic in my leg (little beasties that burrow into the skin to suck blood). Lorna took me to the doctor, but they advised we visit the local vet! She removed it and sold us 'tic removers!' Next day Edna found a tic on her leg, and then poor Lorna found she had four and David had two! 'Tic remover' came in handy and all were removed—excitement now over.

Next Sunday David hurt his back lifting down bags of peat. Though he managed to preach at both services, next day he was quite bad and had to lie flat on the floor for the rest of our holiday. I took over lighting and cleaning the peat-burning Rayburn, bringing the peats in and stoking the stove. The days flew by. Though in great pain, David drove us home, though Edna took another bug of some sort and was quite ill when she arrived back in Belfast.

In spite of all these problems we all had a wonderful holiday and thankfully we all were fit and well a week or two later. Holiday? Yes, but something of an adventure as well!

Anne Burnett

A Summer Round-up

