

Harvest Thanksgiving and Malawi

As last year, our Harvest Thanksgiving appeal centred on members giving gifts of money for the buying of maize in Malawi. Maize is the staple diet for most Malawians; indeed for rural dwellers it is often the only food available to them! However, it is often difficult for families and communities to harvest enough maize to last for the whole year. Last year, thousands of people – many of them very vulnerable – found themselves at Aquaid Centres looking for emergency relief. The centre managers were able to do this – in no small part because of the giving of St. Andrew's Church.

We were thrilled, therefore, when the appeal this year raised in excess of £2,500. This will buy hundreds of bags of maize (the exact number depending on the price at the time of purchase) and will mean that this year, again, hungry people will be supported. This really is the spirit of Harvest AND is our response to the challenge of Jesus to feed the hungry.

Over and above the gifts for maize, many of you gifted tubs of multi-vitamins for the children at our centres. In simple ways, we can make a real difference! Thank you, to everyone who was able to support our Harvest appeal. And how wonderful that John Kang'ombe - our dear brother from Ma-



Becky Dunphy, John Kang'ombe and Martin Fair

lawi - was able to be in Church to receive the offering! John enjoyed a two-week stay with us and besides seeing some of our beautiful country and county, was welcomed into schools and community groups to speak about our work in Malawi. We wish John well with his ongoing work at Aquaid and ask God's blessing on him and his family as he returns to them following his trip.

Men's Ministry

In recent years, we've developed an excellent ministry for men – endeavouring to bring men together from across the



generations to strengthen relationships, to support one another in faith, and to reach out to those who are currently out-with the church.

To this end, we put together a programme of events to cater for all tastes. Most recently, we enjoyed a camp and hike in lovely Glenesk. Ten guys camped out on the Friday evening and eight more joined on the Saturday morning (having preferred the comfort of their own beds!) Then, the whole group set out on a hike around Loch Lee, some opting for a level walk of some six miles, others opting for an eight mile high level walk. Both groups enjoyed fantastic weather and superb mountain scenery and returned to the car park at Invermark thoroughly refreshed and invigorated.

Check out the relevant pages on our website or keep your eye on the church bulletin for details of upcoming events. ALL men welcome!

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

Iain Robertson : 877519

CHURCH OFFICER

Janis Clark : 878594

PASTORAL CARE

Kim Marr : 430505

YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR

Sheila Dunphy : 873218

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LEADER**

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HAVILAH ADMINISTRATOR

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SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

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FLOWER CONVENOR

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

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SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Candace Laing : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Parish Records****September 2013****Baptisms** - None**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - Paul Elder and Charlene Cooper,
Sandra Taylor and Sandy Davidson**Funerals** - Ann Duthie, Murray Brown**IMPORTANT DATES****NOVEMBER EDITION****Handwritten articles should be handed in to the office by the first date and not to the Editor.****Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent directly to the Editor by the second date.****Please avoid embedding articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.**

Friday 18th October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd October (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.

WANTED!**Artificial Christmas Trees!**

Do you have an old artificial Christmas tree that has seen better days? Then perhaps you will consider donating it to our Havilah work. Also useful would be any ornaments and decorations that you may no longer use. We are trying to economise on craft materials and these items could make ideal material when cut up and 're-cycled'. Thank you.
Karen Reaney.

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

October 2013

Dear friends,

Those of you who follow such things in the news will have noticed that the Blackberry is facing hard times. Not the fruit, the smartphone! The company that produces the phone has recently been forced to make large numbers of employees redundant. The reason? They're not selling enough of their stock. The opposition, whether from Apple or Samsung, has proved stronger.

And yet there was a day when the Blackberry was the phone of choice for business people and trendy young things alike. So what went wrong – and can the company reverse its fortunes?

Some analysts suggest that the Blackberry is floundering because it has failed to keep up with trends and hasn't been quick enough to adapt to changing technologies. While other makers have kept pace, Blackberry has been left behind in a quickly-changing market. Time will tell if they are able to recover or not.

Those who study the fortunes of the church suggest that the church faces the same issues. Of course it's not the job of the church to follow trends and fashions. Never-the-less, churches that fail to adapt to circumstances end up finding themselves left behind.

For the church, the point is this: our message never changes, which is about the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. But the ways in which we communicate that message – in other words, the ways in which we express ourselves as the church MUST be constantly adapted.

St. Andrew's Church has done well in this department – and must continue to do so. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow. His Church must always be about today.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

martin.fair@sky.com

Kirkin' O the Council

We were delighted to host the annual Kirkin' service within St. Andrew's on 8th September. It was quite an occasion! The invited guests, from Angus Council, its departments and other groups and organisations from across the county, paraded from the Library to the Church under blue skies and warm sunshine. Following the service, the guests were served an excellent buffet lunch which gave them time to mingle one with another and to reflect on the message of the service. It seemed that most of them had thoroughly enjoyed the service, had found our approach lively and refreshing, and had been suitably challenged by the preaching of God's Word and its application.

The following letter was subsequently received from the Lady Provost, Helen Oswald:

Dear Rev Fair,

Thank you very much for hosting this year's Kirkin.' I am aware that not all councils are kirked every year, but we in Angus have held the view that this is an important event which allows Councillors to reflect on their duties and roles

in the communities they serve. The service was excellent and your message was clear.

All the people I have spoken to since Sunday have told me how much they enjoyed the experience and particularly how much they felt included, even embraced, by the people of St. Andrew's. Could you please pass on my thanks to the members if your congregation?

We were treated afterwards to a smashing buffet lunch with lots of lovely savouries and home baking. Although I did go through and speak to some of the ladies in the kitchen, could you once again tell them 'Thank you' on behalf of the guests?

The choir and the musicians clearly enjoyed themselves and this encouraged everyone to join in with the singing with gusto!

Once again, thank you all very much for your warmth and hospitality and if there is anything I can do in my role as Provost to help you, please just ask.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Helen Oswald. Provost.

Debating Independence

Many folks are now looking forward to 18th September next year when the Independence Referendum will take place. As Christians, we should always seek to play our civic duty and to take our place in the democratic process. And, rather than concern for self-interest, we should approach the referendum and all such votes asking ourselves, 'What will be best for our nation and which outcome is likely to further the causes of justice and fairness for all?'

Even so, Christians will take different views on this mat-

ter and so the church, nationally and locally, will not adopt one or other position but will remain neutral, encouraging instead honest and robust debate.

And so in the months ahead, you will see that there are some events taking place within our buildings and that our minister is involved in chairing meetings in other places, all of which are sponsored by groups on either side of the debate. All of this flows out of our concern to facilitate meaningful engagement and does not in any way indicate our support for any particular position.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Should I pray to 'God', to 'Jesus', to the 'Lord' or even to the 'Holy Spirit'. Is there a right way of addressing our prayers?

Theophilus answers :

A good question. The short answer is that God is Three in One so that all the ways you mention of addressing prayers are right.

But there is a bit more to add. It's right to address 'God' directly (or as 'Heavenly Father' or 'Father'). Yet the Bible does teach us that the link between ourselves and God the Father is his Son Jesus. That is why we end our prayers, 'In Jesus' name'. So when we pray to Jesus, 'Lord Jesus Christ...' we are rightly addressing the One who has

opened the way for us to approach God the Father.

However, another point should be made. 'Jesus' was his earthly name, reminding us that he is one of us, human—'the Word became flesh'. Now that he is no longer physically on earth—he is present by his Spirit—having returned to the Father, he is the Risen Lord. Thus in the NT, outside the Gospels and Acts, 97% of the references (1203 in total) to the Son of God give him a title, such as 'Jesus Christ', or 'Lord Jesus', or 'Beloved', or 'Lamb' ('Lamb' 27 times in Revelation). Outside the Gospels and Acts, only 25 times is his earthly name 'Jesus' used, most of the occurrences being in Hebrews where the author's purpose is to show the Jews that the earthly Jesus was indeed the Lord.

Personally, I don't usually use Jesus' earthly name in prayer, though that is not wrong. I prefer to adopt the NT's practice of giving the crucified and ascended Jesus a title which acknowledges he is now our Risen Lord.

Wanted - Soup Makers!

Havilah is still in need of soup makers. If you could make us a pot of soup once every four weeks, that would be great. You can't beat a wholesome pot of soup. However, some of you may feel led to donate soup, but soup making does not count amongst your many talents. Four family

sized tins of soup gives us a good pot of soup. It is easier for heating if they are all the same flavour. If you feel you could help us that way, please see Karen or Tracey.

The soup lunch provided by Havilah may be the only food someone has in a day. And so, to supply soup, makes a huge difference in someone's life. It is very much appreciated by those who come along.

Malawi Fundraisers

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 need-

ed! 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**

“SAVE SYRIA”

Campaign organised by “Open Doors” on behalf of the suffering Christian community in Syria.

There is no way in which we can escape from reading, hearing and seeing what is happening in Syria. It is excusable if we sometimes wonder what on earth we can do to help the situation. I would like to thank those of you who signed the petition requesting more involvement by the UK govt., EU and UN in generally protecting Syrian lives but more specifically safeguarding the Christian community from kidnapping, torture and killing. Violence against Christians has escalated as they are caught between Assad's forces and the various factions of the rebel groups.

The recent siege by al-Qaeda linked rebels of the historic Christian village of Maaloula, where Aramaic, the language of Jesus is still spoken, has highlighted the severity of the threat to the Christian minority. The one positive recent happening is that King Abdullah convened a conference to address the challenge faced by Middle East Christians. This was attended by many scholars from Christian denominations as well as moderate Muslim leaders. All were agreed that their common enemies were extremists and jihadists. Only 2 nuns joined the panel but one male speaker said that if faith issues were left to women, half the world's problems would disappear immediately! Mmmm – maybe.

I would also like to thank those who contributed finan-

cially to the Syrian cause but also apologise to those of you who received a communication in the mail from “Open Doors” when you had already contributed financially and received a bracelet. There was a mix up initially about how to proceed with the bracelets and also send money for Syria. Our idea was to collect money here and thus save on postage but it seemed that “Open Doors” wanted to make contact with those who signed the petition. It is understandable that many today feel overwhelmed by the amount of literature arriving on their doorstep and this case was no exception, so please bear with us if you felt frustrated by this. The organisation did send a response slip if you did not want to receive any more literature. To finish on a positive note, I would personally like to recommend the “Open Doors” small free monthly magazine which highlights the plight of Christians around the world. Paul encourages us to “Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.”

Sue Pritchard

Douglas Irvin

We were thrilled for Stuart and Lynne when, a few months back, their first child, Douglas, was born to them! Now, we're looking forward with much anticipa-

tion to Douglas's baptism which is scheduled to take place on Sunday 3rd November during the 11am service. Doubtless, this is a service that you will want to be at.

Put it in your diary now!

Alpha

Millions of people from countries across the globe have completed Alpha and many have become Christians as a result. Others, who were already committed in their faith, have found

their faith bolstered or re-invigorated. As always, we're be running Alpha this year – beginning at the end of October and running for ten weeks into the new year (with a break over the Christmas holidays.) Why not come and be part of this year's group? Whether you're exploring the claims

of the Christian faith for the first time or are keen to refresh yourself in your spiritual journey, Alpha might just be what you're looking for.

Speak to our ministers, Martin or Stuart, for more details and sign up at the Church Office to let us know that you're coming.

Clerk's Corner

Stewardship Update

The first two stages of the Stewardship Programme have now been completed. The second stage involved contacting all those who did not respond to the first set of materials. It is good to note that a goodly number of you took advantage of the second invitation to complete the response card. If you still wish to send in your response then we will be delighted to receive it.

Some of you thought that if you were not changing your method of giving, or the amount of your offering, you did not need to respond. However, in order for the treasurer to have an accurate picture of our giving, replies are needed from everyone.

The next task, one which only Treasurer Susan can complete is to collate all the responses and then calculate what the overall result is. Many of you have indicated that you would like to change your method of giving. This can include such things as requesting FWO envelopes when you did not have them before, changing from weekly to monthly envelopes, giving by Direct Debit, and making offerings to the Ministry Team Fund etc. etc. All such changes require additional recording and you can be assured that you will hear from Susan in due course. In the meantime we are very aware of the amount of work that Susan is currently undertaking while maintaining the ongoing finances. We are indebted to her for her commitment.

Are we really an Eco-Congregation?

As the colder weather approaches, it is a time for us to consider what our commitment to being an eco-congregation is. While the Service Core Group is working at all the requirements, there are things that we can all help with. Here are some of the areas where we are (sometimes and forgetfully) not really doing all that we could.

- * *Do we leave the water heaters in the kitchen and gallery on after we leave? – **Yes we do!***
- * *Do we leave the cooker fan on when we leave? – **Yes we do!***
- * *Do we leave the main hall lights on (all of them) when we leave the premises or move to another part of the building? – **Yes we do!***
- * *Do we switch on the gallery lights when it is dull and then leave them on when there is (constant) brighter sunlight? – **Yes we do!***
- * *Do we leave the doors of the sanctuary, the main hall and the small halls jammed open when we leave? – **Yes we do!***

This example can also mean that if these doors are left open last thing in the evening, and the heating has been timed to come on the next morning, then there is significant waste in heating areas which are not required. **In addition the doors are becoming warped through being jammed open – please minimize the amount of time this is done.**

Can we all remember to check, click and close this winter? – Yes we can!

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Since The Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007 (PVG) came into force in 2010, the Church of Scotland has taken a phased approach to getting everyone registered in the PVG scheme. The first phase was for all new volunteers or paid workers who have never been checked under the old system and this still continues - e.g. Mum and Me volunteers. The second phase was for people who had been working with children and adults who were never disclosed. This is almost complete - e.g. some Havilah workers. The third phase is to now start getting everyone who is working with children and who has a Church of Scotland Disclosure under the previous system into the PVG scheme. I intend to do this in a gradual way. The Safeguarding Office is only releasing 10 forms at a time.

You will appreciate that this a complex and time-consuming process as I need to establish who may have a PVG record from their employment or other agency as this involves a different form. I understand that it can be frustrating to have to fill in forms and arrange with me to show identification but this is a legal requirement and we must ensure our church is a safe place for all.

I have a database of everyone disclosed and shall contact

people soon to begin the process. If you are no longer instructing nor have sole contact with our children please let me know.

Thank you for your patience. I shall try to be as accommodating as possible to meet with people at a time and place convenient to them to get this process completed.

Eleanor Mands, Safeguarding Coordinator - 01382477318

BOOKSTALL

The church bookstall will be back on Sunday 24th November when apart from books we will have a Christmas selection which will hopefully help you with that all important shopping!

The bookstall has been running since the end of 2011 and although we will still be very happy to recommend or source books for you, we feel that perhaps a monthly bookstall is perhaps too frequent - please let us know your thoughts on how often you would like us to provide a Bookstall. However we are also planning a monthly item in the Quest regarding digital books and websites which we are sure many will find helpful. If you have just read something that you feel others would find useful in their spiritual walk then please let us know and we can pass it on.

Christmas starts with Christ

This is the name of a UK-wide campaign which aims to reverse the trend of Christ being written out of Christmas. Recent surveys show that knowledge of the Christmas story is fading - it's up to us to share the real meaning of Christmas with those around us.

One way to do that is with the Real Advent Calendar. Behind each window of this calendar is a Fairtrade chocolate star and a line from the Christmas story, and behind the final window is a 24-page Christmas story book. The calendars cost £4 and a donation from each sale goes to the Chil-

dren's Society, as well as supporting Fairtrade cocoa farmers.

Many St Andrew's folk ordered Fairtrade Easter eggs with the Easter story on the box, and during October you can order a Real Advent Calendar after the morning services during October or by contacting Linda McDonald (ph 876727 or email lmcdonald.au@gmail.com). If you miss out at church, Tesco will also stock the calendars. Think about how you might use a calendar to share the Christmas story with your neighbours or workmates - or perhaps you could give one to a family who comes to Mum and Me, or to Messy Church or Sweaty Church?

Guild

The Guild resumed on the 16th of September with our Service of Dedication and Communion. We were delighted that Stuart was able to join us for our opening meeting along with a few new faces who had responded to the invitation that we sent out.

Monday the 14th October is our night of discussion on this year's theme "A fellowship to Build" - a good night to hear different views and opinions. This makes for a lively night. We are not slow to share our ideas with each other. We will also have a sales table with the proceeds going towards our projects for this year.

On the 28th October we have the second meeting for this month "Service Bites" when we have invited Angus Women's Aid, Starter Packs, and the Furniture Recycling Project to each give an insight into how their organisations support and help in today's society.

If you could not manage to join us at our last meeting please come along this month.

Plans are underway for Guild Week in November when we are to host a fund raising event of High-Tea on Saturday 23rd November and an open night on Monday 26th November with entertainment supplied by The Carnoustie Traditionals.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Fiona and Ian

Many of you will remember Ruth Bell, who served as our Probationer Minister and then Associate Minister. Most of you no doubt know that Ruth became engaged to Stephen and that the date for their wedding is now set. Well, by way of additional exciting news, Fiona Brown who served as our student minister through 2011-2012, is now

also engaged! We were able to announce her engagement, to Ian Bullock, at our evening service on 22nd September, when both of them were present with us. Fiona is of course well-known to us but many of us have got to know Ian over the last couple of years during which time he's been attending St. Andrew's Church. The final piece of this good news is that Fiona and Ian will be getting married in our sanctuary in May next year!

7th Arbroath B.B.

Our B.B. year has begun with much celebration with our Anchor boys having their 30th Birthday Party. It was started by Mrs Jean Tasker, who was Officer in Charge along with her daughter Janice. Mrs Ann Marshall was also an Officer for many years along with many helpers over the years. These ladies laid down the firm roots of our Anchor boy Section and the current officers are carrying on their good foundations. Our current Officer in Charge Mrs Sharon Jamieson along with Lt. Mandy Tasker have welcomed 16 boys so far into the Section. We held a party night on the 19th of September when our very first Anchor boy to enrol, Michael Clark, who is our current Officer in Charge of the Company Section helped to cut the cake with our latest recruit.

The Junior Section have increased their number to 7 and we hope to have a great programme for the winter nights ahead. The Company Section have 8 boys. This number has dropped owing to boys having gained their Queen's Badge and now moved away to University or work.

We have 3 boys working towards their Queen's badge this year, and 1 working towards his President's Badge.

We have a Tattie Holidays break and resume back on the 24th of October which is our Enrolment Service. This will be held within the Church Sanctuary at 7.15pm when an invitation is extended to all to celebrate with the boys and to mark 130 years of the Boys Brigade movement.

We are hoping to have a fund raiser by holding a Beetle Drive on Friday 8th of November. More details later.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Sunday 6

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

Sunday 13

11 am - Worship Service, inc.
Sacrament of Baptism
3 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 20

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

Sunday 27

11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3

9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service, inc.
Sacrament of Baptism
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 10

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

Sunday 17

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

Sunday 24

11 am - Worship Service
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.**

Woodland Trust – Free trees

Twice per year the Woodland Trust gives free trees to community groups in an effort to create more woodland throughout the U.K. Groups can apply for a pack of 30 trees, 105 trees or 420 trees. The packs come in themes – small copse, small hedge, wildlife, wetland, year-round colour, etc.

If anyone is interested in this project and can identify an area where trees could be planted, please give your name to Pam Drever, the leader of the Service Core Group.

Recycling – Postcards

The recycling of stamps within the church is proving to be very successful; another 1½ lbs. of trimmed stamps has been forwarded to the Leprosy Mission.

We would now like to add postcards to our recycling – again to raise money for various charities. Please save your postcards and deposit them in the “postcard box” in the cupboard in the Small Hall.

Thank you,
Service Core Group

Back To Church Sunday

To give us enough time to properly plan and prepare, we have re-scheduled our Back To Church Sunday service to take place now on Sunday 27th October. Invitations will be distributed in due course allowing you to invite a friend, neighbour, colleague or family member to this special service.

Although the terminology implies that the invites should be issued to those who used to come to church but have

since stopped coming, the reality is that you can invite anyone – whether they used to come to church or have never been in a church in their whole life! So, now is the time when you should be thinking and praying about who you might invite to this service. Of course, guests are welcome to EVERY service but this particular service offers a unique opportunity to engage in some inviting, in the knowledge that lots of other people will be doing the same and that the service will be especially designed for those who are not ordinarily in church.

Schools

In recent times, we’ve been delighted that our relationships with local schools have gone from strength to strength. We find ourselves always made welcome and thoroughly involved in the life of the schools. And, whereas in recent times, schools have been reluctant to come to churches for

end-of-term services etc., we’re now finding that there is a real desire to stage these events in church! Likewise, events like Easter Code have been very well received by the schools – pupils and staff – and there is an appetite for more of the same.

On Sunday 15th September, we welcomed Sara and Steve from Arbroath Academy to our morning wor-

ship service. They took the opportunity to update us about the paired-reading scheme and to encourage us that is really is making a difference. Following their presentation, eight new volunteers put themselves forward to take a part in this service! What a fantastic response and ongoing evidence that St. Andrew’s Church is committed to serving the community.

Computing throughout the Generations

Recently at our bible study group I was encouraged to see an octogenarian reading their bible on an iPad. Meanwhile, it is quite common in the Irvin household for me to be reaching for my tablet (the computing kind, not the sweet kind), to open up a simple app that has lots of bright colours and fireworks that go off which baby Douglas seems to love. As someone who is firmly planted in the computer generation it is great to see that there are so many different ways in which we can all use technology and it would appear that it is becoming ever more accessible with computers, smart phones and tablet devices becoming quite common place.

I thought I’d take the time to write and share some insight as to some of the great resources that are out there for reading and studying the bible. So whether you are always on the computer or perhaps you’ve recently got a smart phone or tablet or perhaps are thinking of exploring things further here is some food for thought.

The first on the menu is a web page that is a mainstay in my week when it comes to looking up passages. Rather than looking through a concordance I tend to find myself entering as many of the words from a passage as I can remember into Google. Normally in the top two or three results is a page called Bible Gateway. This is an excellent resource that offers lots of different possibilities. You can read a wide variety of translations and can even put them alongside each other so you can see where they differ. It is

easy to copy and paste the texts, perhaps to encourage a friend via email with a passage you’ve been reading and there are lots of resources to help you study things further. One feature that really stands out for me is that you can get the computer to read out the passage to you by clicking on the speaker icon.

Moving more into the sphere of bible study on the go, if you have a smartphone or tablet then there is an application version of Bible Gateway which gives you most of the same features. It is certainly worth trying out.

For mobile devices my recommendation for those who want good resources for reading and studying would be to look into the Faith Life Study Bible. You’ll be able to find this in your app store. It is an application produced by a company called Logos who make bible study software for computers and it is a simplified version that gives you lots of great free resources. Alongside the passage you’ll see notes and links for pictures and further information - e.g. a genealogy of a bible character. What is also good about studying in this way is that you can make notes for yourself, or even notes that you share with groups.

Why not have a go at exploring some of these resources? If you get stumped or want to try and learn more then make sure and catch me and I’ll happily help. Likewise, if you’re already using a resource that you think would be good to share, then let me know.

Your friend, Associate Minister and self confessed Bible Geek.
Stuart Irvin

Sweaty Church Is Up and Running/Jogging!

When we were refurbishing the church building, we had in mind that it was about creating a more flexible space. But few of us could have imagined that we would end up with such a fantastically flexible space as to house a full-scale gym in it!! But that's exactly what we had for the first ever Sweaty Church! And with over fifty people present, between the team members and guests, it made for a great launch.

Sweaty Church is built around games, sports and fun exercises. It's great for the whole family. And right in the middle of all the fun, there's Bible teaching pitched perfectly for 21st Century families.

So, we're up and running and we have a real sense that it's going to go from strength to strength!



Anchor Boys

Below - A great turnout for the 30th birthday party (see report inside). Below right - the very first Anchor Boy, Michael Clark, cuts the cake with the most recent recruit.

