



Christmas Past - But Always Present

Of all that went on during our Advent and Christmas celebrations this year, one of the stand-out occasions for many was the visit of the Salvation Army Band from Bellshill. In all of my 22 years at St. Andrew's I can scarcely remember receiving more overwhelmingly positive feedback. Many went out of the way to describe how they had been uplifted and moved by the worship that we shared with the band members. Yes, it was one of the longest services we've ever had but few seemed bothered by that and others commented that they could have stayed for more! All being well, we'll welcome the band back in coming years.

Christmas Eve itself was a thoroughly miserable day and evening in terms of the weather and some had feared that our attendances might suffer accordingly. But in fact, numbers attending were very healthy indeed with the turnout at the Nativity & Christingle and Christmas Day services particularly strong. We're very grateful indeed to the children of the Sunday Club – and their leaders, of course! – who presented a beautifully simple Nativity Play that gave the children the opportunity to tell the story as every generation has before them - another great highlight for many of us.

Also of note was the attendance at the special service that we hold every year, just after

Christmas, to allow time and space for remembering and thanksgiving. With just over 50 gathered in the sanctuary we more than doubled the attendance that we've had in recent years.

In finishing, the good news is that well over £1,000 was raised for the Blythswood organisation that the Kirk Session had agreed to support during the Christmas season. A big 'thank you' to all who contributed towards that excellent collection.

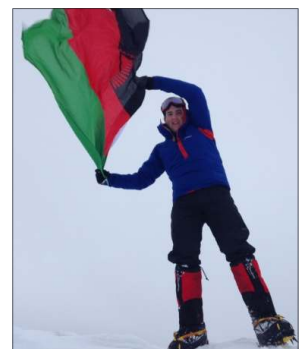
(More pictures on back page.)



Munros for Malawi

Our minister, together with Michael Marr, has committed to undertake a Munro-climbing expedition once every month throughout 2014. This is a sponsorship opportunity for all who want to offer their support and the great news is that, already, something in the region of £3,500 has been pledged! As we are all very aware, every penny counts in Malawi.

The first stage of this undertaking saw our intrepid climbers heading west, to the hills north west of Bridge of Orchy on the road leading north to Glencoe. It was a bitterly cold day, with sub-zero temperatures on the tops and an easterly gale which felt like it had come all the way from Siberia. Undaunted, Martin and Michael made good early progress and were soon above the snow line and, eventually, on to the summit of Stob a'Choir Odhair. There, the Malawi flag was unfurled and a camera was positioned to capture the moment. (Continued on page 6.)



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Candace Laing

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

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ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Rev Stuart Irvin, BD

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ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Parish Records****December 2013 / January 2014****Baptisms** - Artemus Burton,
daughter of Gavin and Eve**Blessings** - None**Weddings** - Gavin Law & Emily Rees**Funerals** - Margaret Forster, Cathy Fairweather**IMPORTANT DATES****MARCH 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 14th February (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 18th February (Word-Processed file)

Thank You

It is difficult to resist using the opportunity to deliver a eulogy on a lady who made friends wherever she went and was loved and respected by all with whom she came into contact. However my purpose in writing this is to thank sincerely all those of you who sent cards and remembered Alison in your prayers, and, above all, the heart-warming number who attended her funeral service.

Alison was a humble person, and I

know that she would have been amazed, but delighted, at the attendance, as I was. Perhaps it was a measure of her popularity, since she always had time to help or simply listen to those in any sort of difficulty, and dispense a kind word and a perpetual smile. She was a lovely person, and no one knows this more than I do.

I thank all those who took the time to recognise this.

God bless you, everyone.

Gordon Lodge

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

February 2014

Dear friends,

On Sunday past, I shared that the Church of Scotland (in keeping with most other branches of the church) is seriously short of ministers and that what is presently a 'problem' is rapidly turning into a 'crisis.' Already, we are short of around 180 ministers and, as things are at present, there aren't nearly enough younger people offering themselves for ministry to stem the tide. By 2020, we'll be looking at a situation where around two-fifths of our present churches will be without a minister.

What we do then, and how we organise the resources available to us, are questions that many within the church are currently grappling with. But the impact of this shortage is being felt even now - principally in that present day ministers are being stretched more and more thinly with, at the same time, more and more being asked of them.

To give you some sense of what this means in practice, I can tell you that at the December meeting of The Presbytery of Angus I was appointed to be the Interim Moderator of St. Margaret's Church, Forfar. Very shortly, their minister is moving on and until they find a new one I, along with a locum, will have responsibility for that congregation. That appointment begins at the beginning of February whilst in March I have responsibilities to fulfil in relation to a congregation in Dundee - which is also without a minister - and to another one in Glasgow which is a fairly newly-started congregation.

The point is this; I am increasingly having to spread myself between local, district and national responsibilities I'm sharing this with you NOT out of a spirit of 'woe is me!' I can't tell you how much I love what I do. It's my dream job! Rather my purpose in sharing this is to ask you to understand that there is going to be a chunk of my time that I have to spend in other places. That's part of my responsibility as a minister, something I promised myself to at my ordination and something from which I'll never shirk. I have never once sought position or influence or specific roles within the wider church - that's because my first love is to be a parish minister with the congregation of St. Andrew's and the people of our community. But when duty calls - particularly when times are hard - one must not be found wanting.

In all of this, we have much to give thanks for because 1) we have Stuart, our Associate Minister and an excellent Ministry Team and 2) we have an army of volunteers who serve to a degree far and beyond what might reasonably be expected. In other words, we are not a 'minister-dependent' congregation. We have worked our socks off and committed our funds generously to guard against that. Now, perhaps as never before, we'll benefit from our hard work and insightful planning.

To reiterate, I am not at all feeling over-burdened or downbeat regarding the Church, or its future. On the contrary, I'm thoroughly excited about what's around the corner! But it's going to be challenging in all kinds of ways and we will have to learn to adapt to these changing circumstances. This much I know; the people of St. Andrew's will rise to face every challenge and will not falter when the going gets tough.

May God bless you all,

Martin

martin.fair@sky.com

Arbroath FC

Though pretty well everyone knows that I have blue blood running through me when it comes to football, I've been delighted to strike up a relationship with the local team, Arbroath, through the work of **Sports Chaplaincy UK**. It's perhaps the least known fact concerning Scottish football that 40 of the 42 senior clubs now have chaplains appointed to them. A no less important football figure than Sir Alex Ferguson has given the organisation his seal of approval as has the SPFL, Scottish football's governing body.

I've been quick to point out to all concerned that having

a minister around the place won't bring good luck or guaranteed success – and, as if to prove the point, Arbroath lost four out of four of the games they played in since my appointment!

More importantly, this is about being present where people are – and as with any other form of chaplaincy, be it school, workplace, prison or military, it's about being with people who otherwise might not ever come near the Church.

I've been given a wonderfully warm welcome from everyone at the club and I hope that, as time goes by, I'll be able to bring something very positive to what goes on at Gayfield. And, hopefully, a return to winning ways!!

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Are the 'Magi' (Matthew 2:1-12) the same as the 'Nephilim' (Genesis 6:1-4)?

Theophilus answers :

This question involves a fair bit of explanation, and I think it better to try and answer it in two separate issues of Quest. So we'll start with the 'Magi', usually translated in our Bibles as 'wise men'.

We know quite a bit about these 'wise men' from very early sources outside of the Bible. The word 'Magi', which Matthew uses, does not occur anywhere else in the Bible, apart from Matthew's account of their visit to worship the newborn King Jesus. It is a Persian word and it refers to 'astronomers-priests'. It is generally believed that these eastern priests practised a religion today called 'Zoroastrianism'. Zoroastrians believed that God was present in fire, and so holy fire burned incessantly in their ancient temples. They worshipped God with offerings of 'gold, frankincense and myrrh'. The carol, 'We three kings' suggests rightly that gold stood for kingship, and frankincense for priesthood. But verse 4 of the carol is wrong in

identifying myrrh as a burial ointment; rather, in Zoroastrianism myrrh stood for a healing balm. Only in Matthew 2 are these three precious substances mentioned together in Scripture.

The ancient capital of Persia was a city called Susa. It is now known that it was once a Zoroastrian centre for the study of astronomy. When the Italian explorer Marco Polo visited Susa in the late 13th century, he found in a very ancient observatory-tower valuable charts of the stars; along with the charts, he found there models of globes and constellations.

For what it is worth, my own view is that preserved in Susa was the prophecy Balaam had made more than 1000 years earlier; this strange man, who came from the east, had foretold that some time in the distant future 'a star would arise out of Jacob and a sceptre out of Israel' (Numbers 24:17). I suspect that this ancient tradition was behind the Zoroastrian astrologer-priests conviction that the appearance of a new constellation was heralding the fulfilment of Balaam's prophecy.

The Nephilim are a very different 'cup of tea'! We will try to offer an explanation of them in the next issue of Quest, but they are certainly not the same as the 'Magi'.

Report by Stuart Irvin, Associate Minister

Work with Children and Families which took place in 2013.

My time with St Andrew's started back in February of last year and from the vantage point of a new year it is encouraging to look back on all that has taken place since then.

There are, of course, the personal milestones that marked 2013 as a special year - my ordination and the birth of our first son Douglas John. Furthermore, there have been many other milestones that have occurred as part of my first year in ministry and also as part of my time here at St Andrews. Specifically in the area of ministry with young people and families there have been two elements that have changed the geography of our mission and outreach. As I report upon them I would urge the Kirk Session and the Leadership Group to prayerfully consider and appraise the place that these hold in the wider vision of St Andrew's Church.

The first of these areas for specific consideration is that of our work with our local and outlying primary schools, in particular the programmes that we have run at the Church. In Easter of 2013 we ran our first Easter Code, where we welcomed Primary 7s from Hayshead and Ladyloan Primary Schools. At the beginning of Advent we ran Bubblegum 'n' Fluff where we welcomed Primary 6s from Hayshead, Ladyloan and Inverkeilor Primary Schools and we also went out with the programme to run it at Friockheim Parish Church and Warddykes Primary reaching almost 170 pupils. The material for both of these programmes aims to

present these Christian celebrations in a fun and engaging manner that is in line with the school curriculum.

The feedback forms, in particular from the teaching staff, showed that these events were well received and had a very positive impact. It strikes me further though that there were some key positive aspects from this kind of ministry that arose. They proved to be events that successfully used the wealth of gifted individuals that we have in our congregation and likewise they were events which the congregation as a whole could support - this was particularly seen in the generous financial donations. In addition, this type of ministry has proved to be a great bridge-builder in the relationship we have with our local schools.

We now possess two excellent resources that we can roll out each year for future Primary 6s and 7s and it is my desire that we continue to expand this Ministry by way of producing our own material for a Pentecost themed event.

The second area that I would like to point out for consideration is the fresh expression of Church that has been growing by way of Sweaty Church. Similar to Messy Church, this style of Church seeks to engage with the whole family of primary-aged children. It uses sport and all things active to challenge, engage and to help us learn more about being a part of God's family. Our first monthly session in 2014 is to be on the Prayer of Jabez (1 Chron 4:10) where Jabez is bold in asking for God's blessing and guidance. For 2014 it is my prayer that God would bless this Sweaty Church congregation as it grows and I commend it for your prayers and spiritual oversight.

There have been many other things that have taken place this year that mark the ebb and flow of ministry. I am grateful for the support that I have received from St Andrew's in the journey through this and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for 2014.

Clerk's Corner

A Day in the Life of the Events Team

Event – A local authority training day with 120 participants

The first members of the team arrive prior to the starting time and, along with the organisers of the event, prepare the sanctuary and halls with the furniture required. Some of the catering team will also have begun work at this stage in preparing the teas and coffees.

A member of the team familiar with our sound projection system is on hand to ensure that all requirements such as laptops, microphones etc. are available.

One member of the Events Team will then arrive to be on hand as the participants begin to arrive and are directed to the registration table and to the servery for tea and coffee.

Just before the event starts, announcements will be made about the fire safety arrangements.

There is a lull in terms of stewarding once the actual event has started until the first coffee break when a different member of the team will arrive to be on duty. The break time is very noisy as participants catch up with each other!

The full catering team will now be hard at work – probably six of them - preparing soup/sandwiches / cakes/ laying tables etc.

Two new members of the team arrive at lunchtime to steward and to ensure that folks who go out for a break get back inside the building. They also make sure that no-one takes any food or drinks into the sanctuary!

At the end of the day, a team arrives to restore everything to normal. The size of the team depends on how much setting out of furniture and how much movement of chairs has taken place within the sanctuary.

Why do we do this? There are two main reasons – firstly, our building becomes a community resource and we can welcome people across the threshold who would not normally be in a church; secondly the income generated from the cost of these lets is considerable and enables aspects of our work to be afforded. Income in 2013 was well in excess of £10,000.

One of the most satisfying things is to hear the many comments about the beauty of the premises and about how well we treat the visitors. We also hand out copies of Quest when folks leave.

Could you be a part of this team? Its membership is being updated at the moment, so please contact me if you would like to help. Sometimes it can be as little as half-an-hour once in a while that you would be needed, and you can just do as much as you feel able to. For example, not everybody is able to move furniture but, mostly, the requirements are simply to 'be around' and welcome folks into our premises.

Arbroath is a Fairtrade Town

Arbroath is a Fairtrade town and is expected to do something during Fairtrade Fortnight. The steering group Arbroath Fairtrade Action Group are having a coffee morning on the 8th March at St Andrew's Church hall.

We hope you will support us on the day as this is the only fund-raising that the group does. Money made from the day is put back into the community with purchases of Fairtrade products going to difference organisations.

We have church members in the kitchen and on the door. I hope you will buy a ticket at the cost of £1 where

you can have a Fairtrade biscuit or home baking using Fairtrade products. Gifts of home baking or items for the bric a brac stall would be much appreciated.

The group is also working with two of our schools Warddykes and Arbroath Academy where we are sponsoring the Fairtrade Dodgeball and Fairtrade championship and this will happen during Fairtrade Fortnight.

We will have some pupils from the Academy serve on our cake and candy stall with one of two of their teachers. We are looking forward to seeing you on the 8th March.

Thank you - Mary Reid

Guild

We ended last session with our Christmas party when we enjoyed a three course meal of Turkey and all the trimmings finishing with a choice of sweets. Watching the waistline was not a problem and I can report that more than one sweet was enjoyed by most guild ladies and friends. We were then entertained with songs by "Rock Chorus" a recently formed youth choir who had their debut performance under the leadership of Kirsten Hammond. Party games were enjoyed with much hilarity and the evening concluded with the singing of carols.

We started with the first meeting on January 6th with "Call my Bluff" when we welcomed the panel made up of Morag Shaw, Anna Webster and Winnie Jorgensen who baffled most of us by giving true and false meaning of Scottish words and we had to decide who was telling truth.

Monday the 20th was our next meeting when Richard Irvine gave an illustrated talk about his visit to San Francisco and Oakland in America telling us about the Arbroathians and their connections to this area.

Ten members enjoyed Burns celebrations with Knox's Church Guild on Tuesday 23rd January.

Forth-coming events -

Monday 3rd February we have an invited speaker from Scottish churches Housing Action who support the Julius Project and who offer a befriending and mentor support to homeless people, assisting them to obtain and sustain housing. This is the Guild project that we are supporting this session.

Monday 17th February we are to share in an agape meal.

Monday 3rd March Rev. Rhona Phillips will join us.

Whose we are and whom we serve.

Continued from page 1.

The traverse to the second Munro of the day, Stob Ghabhar, was a real challenge including as it did a 600ft steep climb up icy snow slopes and a crossing of the short Aonach Eagach ridge. In summer, this feature presents no difficulties whatsoever but on this particular day, the wind-blown snow had transformed it into a knife-edge. Safe crossing required very careful footwork with ice axes at the ready to halt any trip or slide. From the end of the ridge, there remained only a short pull up to the summit and from there, with the cloud closing in, it was the shortest route back down

with the car being reached just before 5pm, daylight by then having long since faded.

So, that's two Munros down and, according to the scheduled plan, twenty-eight to go! Though Martin and Michael love the mountains, and are loving the challenge to date, the focus is on Malawi and on furthering our support to the communities there at Thyolo and Kambalonjo. It seems as if for the children growing up there, life presents one mountain of difficulty after another. And yet the little that we do makes a mountain of difference. Let's keep up the good work.

Calling all women

a date for your diary: Women's Day Retreat

Why should the men have all the fun!! NOW is the time for us women to have our time to get away from it all and spend a relaxing spiritual day together. This day is open to women of all ages who want to come along to this spiritual retreat.

We will be going to the relaxing rural setting of Edzell church on **Saturday 26th**

April, leaving our church and worries behind at 09.30 and returning for approx 16.30. This will be a wonderful day of worship, devotion and prayer in a relaxing setting. There will also be a time for crafts in the afternoon or a relaxing walk if you prefer.

We are in the process of arranging our guest speaker and further information will follow, so get this date in your diary now as it is a day not to be missed.

For further information speak to either Lynne Irvine or Tracey McLeod.

Malawi Update

We finally did it! Most of you will have heard that the Container arrived safely in Malawi. It caused great excitement in both Namisu – Aquaid's main centre - and the surrounding area since no one had ever seen such a huge container before.

The Christmas Presents were taken to Thyolo a couple of days later and all our sponsored children had the great excitement of opening them. All the other contents of the container are slowly being distributed. This is what John Kang'ombe said - 'Many will get clothes from the container and it's the best quality that they have ever received. God bless you all.' Thank you to all who gave items, helped pack, stored and sponsored the container. You can't even begin to imagine the difference that all the contents will make to people's lives in Malawi. It was hard work but definitely worth it.

Now for the next one..... You too can be involved. Do you have any items that you don't need? We are looking for clothes, shoes, books, toys, educational materials and equipment, bikes, tools, bedding, medical supplies, football kits and boots, sports equipment and just about anything that you can think of. Although they can be second hand, items need to be clean and in good condition.

Or maybe you have contacts that would consider sponsoring the next container....please speak to me for information.

Thanks for all your efforts. Sheila.

Malawi Fundraisers

Quiz – Friday 7th February at 7.30 in Church hall. Entry is £5 per person and includes a light supper. If your team is from a Church Organisation you have a chance to win a 2nd prize – The Malawi Quiz Cup – for the organisation team that finishes highest. See Sheila for details.

Soup Lunch – Sunday 9th February after the morning service in the church hall. - The usual wide selection of homemade soups. Cost – Donations please.

March – Our famous Murder Mystery. A great fun evening when you are entertained and fed at the same time! A murder has taken place and with the group at your table you have to decide which of the characters the murderer is. As information is given you will also be treated to a delicious 3 course meal. If you haven't been to one before, you won't want to miss it so make sure you buy your ticket early. Tickets including meal are £12.

April – Wine Tasting Event

May – Great St Andrew's Bake Off

June – Coffee Morning.

LOOKING AHEAD

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2

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

Sunday 9

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

Sunday 16

11 am - Worship Service
Main service followed by
short celebration of
Communion
Guest Preacher : David Searle
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
Guest Preacher : David Searle

Sunday 23

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

MARCH

Sunday 2

9.30 am - Traditional Service;
inc. Holy Communion
11 am - Holy
Communion Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 9

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

Sunday 16

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 23

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 30

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.

And the packets say “Not For Human Consumption”!

It was in the early part of the summer last year that we became aware of the so-called ‘Head Shop’ that had opened just two doors up from our Community Spirit building on Fisheracre. To our astonishment and consternation, here was a shop openly selling **New Psychoactive Substances**, or legal-highs as they are more commonly (but unhelpfully) known.

These shops have found that there are glaring loopholes in present legislation meaning that, presently, there is nothing that anyone can do to close, or restrict their activities. But the truth is that these substances are far from safe and just because they are deemed ‘legal’ should fool no-one into imagining that they are safe. In 2013 alone, there were 52 deaths across the UK as a result of people ingesting one or other of these substances. Here on our own doorstep, we’ve met with distraught parents who have told us of the terrible effects these substances have had on their

children.

We’re delighted, therefore, that the wider community has cottoned on to the problem that we are facing. Through a Facebook campaign that has, to date, gathered almost 2,000 expressions of support, a steering group has been formed with the express purpose of bringing pressure to bear on local and national authorities to see that, whatever it takes, these shops are closed down. Of course the problem will doubtless continue on an online basis – which is where most of the business takes place. But the shops undoubtedly contribute to the problem and act as a point of ‘easy access’ for those who are inquisitive enough and not mature enough to know better.

Our minister is serving on this steering group and hopes that, through this partnership, we can see a resolution to this particular problem. It is utterly ridiculous that of the 47 ‘head shops’ in Scotland, 2 of them are in Arbroath! There are times when we must speak up and act accordingly for the good of our town and, particularly, its young people.

Annual Stated Meeting

Our Annual Stated Meeting will take place on Sunday 16th March immediately after the morning service. The minutes of last year’s ASM are printed below. Please read them carefully so that we can progress matters quickly on 16th March :-

The Annual Stated Meeting was held after morning worship in St Andrew’s Church on Sunday 17th March 2013 and was constituted with prayer.

Moderator: Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

Sederunt: 65 members of the congregation were in attendance.

The minute of the Annual Stated Meeting held in St Andrew’s Church on 3rd March 2012 was approved on the motion of R Brand and J McLeod.

Finance Report: Finance – the presentation of the Accounts for 2012: The accounts for 2012 were scrutinised by the Finance and Administration Core Group, examined and approved by an external auditor and finally approved by the Kirk Session.

Scott Anderson, leader of the Finance and Administration Core Group presented the detail of the figures for 2012 with the 2011 figures presented alongside these. These were in a shortened form and the full version was made available for those who wished to have a copy. Beginning with the figures for the Big Picture, the Statement of Financial Activities for 2012 covering all incoming and expended resources showed the surplus for 2012 to be £14,977, a significant increase over the planned outturn. Comparative figures for both payments (salaries, fuel, Ministry and Mission etc.) and receipts (offerings, donations, Gift Aid) for 2010, 2011 and 2012 were shown and explained. The Finance and Admin Core Group recom-

mended that c£5,000 of the surplus should be put in the Fabric Fund and the remaining £10,000 in the fund to pay for the Associate Minister. Details of the spending to date of the Jean Glen Legacy were provided.

Community Spirit: There was an overspend on the original budget for the refurbishment of the building and, combined with the difficulty of the timing of the receiving of grants, there have been occasions of cash flow difficulties. An allocation of £10,000 towards capital building costs was approved by the Kirk Session

Scott concluded by indicating that for 2013, while income from the key areas of WFO and Gift Aid would benefit from increases, no specific budget figures have been identified as it is considered appropriate that what we need financially will be based on the vision for St Andrew’s.

The Moderator thanked Scott for his clear presentation of the figures and also paid tribute to Susan Godsall for the considerable commitment she gives to the role of Treasurer.

Moderator’s Comments: Martin indicated that he feels a heightened sense of optimism about his work as our minister and has a sense of enthusiasm and encouragement for where we are going. The investment in the post of Associate Minister will result in increased possibilities for the development of the vision for St Andrew’s. In particular, the building up of our outreach to those in our community will be a focus of our endeavours.

Thanks: The Deputy Session Clerk, Joan Hainsworth conveyed warmest thanks of the Kirk Session to Martin for his inspired teaching throughout the year and made special mention of the biblical journey being undertaken through the study of The Story. She ended with comment on us having the reassurance of God’s presence with us and led prayer for the manse family, and for our new Associate Minister Stuart and his wife Lynne.

The meeting concluded with the benediction.



Above - a Christmas roundup with all our children



Meg and Malawi

Above - Using donated tartan material, Meg Harris made 39 quilts for our children in Malawi.

Meg is now exploring the possibility of using the left-over material to make dresses or pinafores for the girls.

Left - The container (see report on page 6) arrives at its destination, much to the delight and interest of the children.