



A Service To Remember

On Sunday 26th March, we all thoroughly enjoyed wishing Elaine and Martin happy 50th birthdays. The opportunity for various jokes about what happens when you reach this milestone enabled the tone to be set for a celebratory element to the whole service. It was also good to welcome friends of the manse family, from near and far, to worship with us. Two of our young people used their musical skills with their trumpets to accompany the singing, and we look forward to hearing them again. Two other 'youngsters' – Callum and Alex, along with their puppeteers, Elaine Anderson and Stuart Irvin, had the children enthralled as they heard about the consequences of being untidy, and Scott Anderson then explained the Christian context. Martin's excellent preaching and the vibrant singing completed a service that we will long remember.



Easter 2014

As well as our work among children and families, this Easter season will see us reaching out again to the new community that is forming at Monarch's Rise on the Montrose Road way out of town. We visited these new homes prior to Christmas and are returning before Easter, all to raise awareness of our existence and that we are the local church, ready to help and serve.

In terms of worship, Easter Day itself will be as full as ever with the 11am family celebration featuring dedications and baptisms and the evening service promising to be a time of joyful singing and reflecting on the truth that Jesus is among us. But the day will begin with our outdoor service in the grounds of the Abbey. Beginning at 8.30am, thirty

minutes later than usual, we're delighted that this year the congregations of Knox's and St. Vigean's will be joining us for the first time. Who knows, maybe one day ALL the congregations in the town will come together - as would be ideal - for this occasion!

In the lead up to Easter Day itself, the Church will be open on the Thursday and Friday evenings, from 7-9pm, and on the Friday during the day from 12noon till 3pm, the times known as 'The Hours of Darkness.' These are all opportunities for anyone to come into the sanctuary to reflect quietly on the sacrifices of our Lord in these last days of his earthly life.

Make sure, then, that whatever else you're doing over the 'holiday' season, you prioritise worship - remembering that Jesus died for you and celebrating that he rose for you!

Heart & Soul 2014

Following the great success of Heart & Soul over the last few years, the Church of Scotland is running the event again, this time to take place on Sunday 18th May 2014, again in the wonderful setting of Princes Street Gardens. As previously, our morning service will begin at 10.30am and will be a little shorter than normal to allow those attending Heart & Soul to depart in good time. There's much to look forward to, but as those who have been before will know, just strolling through the gardens, rubbing shoulders with the thousands of others in attendance, is what it's all about.

Booking places for this trip will open in mid-April. Make sure you don't miss out!

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

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

HAVILAH PROJECT

LEADER

Tracey McLeod : 434088

HAVILAH ADMINISTRATOR

Karen Reaney : 434088

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 PROMOTERS

Judy Spink : 872395

Anne Matthew : 876008

SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Candace Laing : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

March 2014

Baptisms - None

Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Lena Cargill, Ian Bell

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY EDITION

Handwritten articles should be handed in to the **office** by the **first** date and **not** to the Editor.

Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent **directly to the Editor** by the **second** date.

Please avoid embedding articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 18th May (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd May (Word-Processed file)

**SPECIAL PLEA FROM
THE EDITOR**

The May edition for Quest will need to be completed in the week which leads up to the Arbroath Choral Concert on Sunday 27th April. I would therefore be extremely grateful if contributors were able to submit articles as much in advance of the deadline as possible. Thank you.

Ken Miller.

CDs of Services

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

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

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Organisations will alert members when groups resume after holidays or when changes to venues are made.

SUNDAY

10.15 am – Gathering for prayer.

10.30 am – Choir practice.

11.00 am – Morning service (with short communion on the third Sunday of each month. Tea/coffee after. Creche – up to age 3. Infants – ages 3 to 5. Juniors – ages 8 and 9. Seniors – ages 10 and 11 Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238). Teen Scene – S1 to S2

7.30 to 9.00 pm – Youth Group

9.00 pm – Senior Youth Group

Monday to Friday - 11.00 am – Havilah : Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088)

MONDAY

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50s Exercise Class

6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)

7.30 pm – St Andrew's Guild : Fortnightly – Shona Kemp (878526)

7.30 pm – Flower Club : Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993)

TUESDAY

9.30 am – 1.00 pm - Mum and Me - K Marr (430505) and G Scott (879615)

WEDNESDAY

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

6.15 pm – Brownies – Rosie Hill (07977 790528)

7.30 pm – Guides - Rosie Hill (07977 790528)

7.30 pm – Women's Group – first Wednesdays – Elaine Fair (873238)

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – Joan Archer (876522)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – L Smith – B Gerrard, secretary (434821)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning

Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.

Martin Fair

April 2014

Dear friends,

Elaine and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge 'thank you' to you, the members of the congregation, for the way in which you helped us both share our respective 50th birthdays. Your kindness, expressed in so many different ways, meant that the experience was altogether painless! But joking aside, we were humbled and reminded all over again what it is to be part of a family of God's people.

During recent Sundays in church, we've been reflecting on some of the issues that were faced by the family of the newly-formed Christian Church at Corinth, as these are testified to in Paul's letters. In particular, they were struggling to understand the work of the Holy Spirit and their experience of that (see chapters 12-14.) Principally that's the part of their situation that we've been focussing on. But if you read all of Paul's correspondence to the Corinthians, you build up a picture of a Church that was far from perfect and, in fact, bordering on the hugely dysfunctional!

Sometimes we imagine that at some point in the dim and distant past there must have been a golden era when everything was as near perfect as could be. We tell ourselves, 'If only the church now could be like the church then, everything would be great! There would be halt to declining numbers and everything would look much rosier.'

But there was never was a golden age, if by that we mean a time when everything was perfect. The fact of the matter is that the church has ALWAYS been made up of people and as soon as you introduce people into the scene the one thing you can be sure of is that there will be problems!! As I've stated above, a quick glance at the letters to the Corinthians will make it clear that their problems were many, varied and complex. So even in what we call 'Bible times,' the churches weren't perfect.

Part of what I love about being part of St. Andrew's Church is that it is thoroughly ordinary, certainly not perfect. Though the issues are different, we're no different to the Corinthian Church or to any other church. If the apostle Paul was writing to us now doubtless he'd have quite a few chapters to pen concerning aspects of our shared life that he'd be less than impressed by!

So there is always room for improvement and, by God's Spirit moving among us, ways in which we can become more like He'd want us to be. But in the meantime, living with our imperfection, what matters most is that we go on loving one another. I'm sure it would be an easy business to love the person who is perfect; there would be no prizes given out for that! But we're called to love one another in our imperfection. We're called to be tolerant of one another - yes, even when that stretches us to breaking point! We're asked to go the extra mile of helping and supporting even those of our brothers and sisters who we'd rather turn our backs on.

And that's what being in a family is all about - working out how to live with one another and love one another. It's what Paul asked of the Corinthians and what's required of us.

Give thanks that God has called you to be part of a family such as this one.

May God bless you all,

Martin

martin.fair@sky.com

In the Steps of St. Paul

Having previously led three trips to the Holy Land, Martin is considering leading an eleven-day trip in October 2015 which will comprise a journey through modern-day Turkey, visiting the so-called 'Seven Churches' of the Revelation. With flights from Edinburgh and accommodation in good quality hotels, the trip begins with three nights in the wonderful city of Istanbul - where East meets West - and then moves across Turkey, by plane and bus, concluding with four nights at a seafront hotel on the beautiful Aegean Coast.

The fact is that much of the life of the early Church, as established by Paul, was set in these lands, and visits to the great cities of ancient Ephesus, Thyatira, Laodicea and the

like, will help any Christian to better understand the books of Acts and Revelation in particular and the beginnings of the Church in general. Though this will prove to be a fantastic sightseeing tour, with geographical, historical and architectural interest, essentially it will be a pilgrimage designed to deepen faith. Daily devotions, reflections and worship times will be a big part of the programme.

An introductory meeting for those who would like to know more will be held on Tuesday 22nd April, 7.30pm. No commitment will be required at that time but it will give opportunity for information to be shared and for questions to be asked.

(Though this pilgrimage is being advertised firstly within St. Andrew's Church, it is entirely likely that the final group will be made up of people from a range of different churches.)

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Why does David say in Psalm 8:4-5 that Christ was 'made a little lower than the angels'?

Theophilus answers :

The answer is easy. The Psalm's words that 'he [Jesus] was made a little lower than the angels' refers to his birth in a cowshed as a man. He became a human being and so suffered hunger and thirst, exhaustion and suffering and finally the humiliation of a shameful, cruel death. No angel was ever subjected to these frailties of humanity!

However, in Psalm 8 the reference was originally to the honour conferred on humanity at creation. For example, in verse 6 where we read, 'You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his

feet' the reference is to Genesis 1:28: 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' But then in Genesis 3 we read of human sin which defaced the image of God in human beings, and caused them to lose the blessings promised them in chapter one.

It is in Hebrews 2:6-9 that the apostle applies this Psalm to Christ, because he laid aside his glory when he was born among us. But through his life, death and resurrection he has now been crowned with all 'the glory and honour' of Psalm 8:5. In 1 Corinthians 15:27 where the apostle says of Christ that 'God has put all things in subjection under the feet', Paul echoes Psalm 8:6, 'You have given him dominion over the work of your hands; you have put all things under his feet'. Therefore, the questioner is quite right to read Psalm 8 as referring ultimately to Jesus.

ATTENTION!!!!

KINGDOM INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

As everyone who knows anything about St. Andrew's Church knows, our Havilah ministry is central to our ministry amongst the most broken and hope-less sections of our community. This, we believe, is the kind of ministry that Jesus himself engaged in. He said of himself that he had come to bring good news to the poor and to announce sight to the blind and liberty to captives. If anyone knows what captivity really means then it is he or she who battles with addiction.

That's why we run Havilah. It's hard work, that's for sure. There are as many disappointments as there are encouragements but progress is being made. Through the years, we've been able to send almost forty men and women to rehab programmes and many others we've supported locally. We have a growing list of people who have succeeded in breaking free. Others continue to struggle.

Question: Would I give money to someone who was still using drugs? No. Not even a few pounds. To do so would be of no help.

But what about those who have broken their addictions, who are in rehab programmes, and are genuinely on the road to recovery and a new life? Here's where some financial support would make all the difference in the world; here's the investment opportunity.

We can invest in guys like Andy, whose life was a life of care homes and trying to be the parent to his younger brother and sisters. There followed years of drug addiction but Andy is now changing his life and is on a rehab programme at 'Betel of Britain' in Birmingham. But to go into Betel is to give up all benefits and the guys have to work hard to finance their placement, leaving very little if any spare money. Andy has two young children of his own and worries about them taking the same path as he did. Andy wants to be there to give them the parental guidance and love that he never had. However with Andy living in Birmingham, his children living in Glasgow and the lack of

finances, he finds it very difficult. He is pulled between being in rehab where he knows he has to be and going to Glasgow to care for his family. He carries huge guilt over this. A small investment would make a huge difference to Andy and his family

We can invest in guys like Keith who is in South Wales. By his own admission he was heavily involved in heroin use for many years and felt there was little hope of a future for him. After a spell in Teen Challenge, we arranged for him to move to Victory Outreach where he is now changing his life to the point of now studying a wide range of theological subjects at Victory Academy. Keith's studies have been funded by Havilah. Keith said "It is fantastic to study the word of God and get to know the bible on a deeper level". Keith says "none of this would be possible if it wasn't for the support of St Andrew's Church and the Havilah project as it was you guys who sponsored me." A small investment would make a huge difference to the likes of Keith.

John Wilson went from trying to sell heroin at the back door of the church to working as a full-time prison tenancy support officer. We supported John spiritually, emotionally and physically to eventually manage to complete his programme then we added financial support to enable him to study at the Teen Challenge Training Institute. This theological training opened the door for him to work as a support worker in Teen Challenge before taking up his present post at the Lighthouse Project in Rochdale. John is a gifted communicator of the bible and has recently felt a call to study for ministry. Presently John feels he should keep working and study through distance learning as he wants to pay his way as much as he can. However with fees somewhere in the region of £5,000 per annum John could do with some financial support to answer this call. Again, a small investment would make a huge difference.

Anyone wanting to make a monthly contribution (even if just a few pounds) to supporting guys and girls moving on with their lives please speak to either Heather Black, Tracey McLeod or leave your details at the office and we'll get in touch with you.

The Havilah Management Group

Guild

By the time you read this article we will be into official British Summer Time and the “Lighty Nights” will be coming. The Guild syllabus will be concluding with our A.G.M. on the 14th April. Don’t be put off, as with all organisations there will be a little business to get through, but afterwards there will be our usual fun and fellowship with tasty treats.

Our March meetings were well attended and enjoyed by our members. On the 3rd of March we were pleased to welcome the Reverend Rhona Phillips. Rhona gave us an insight into her work as a chaplain employed by the NHS. She explained how part of her work was to help staff as well as patients and relatives. If staff problems could be helped, they were happier and better equipped to do their jobs and this spiralled down throughout hospitals to patients and relatives.

The 17th of March was our Topic Night “FINDING THE RIGHT WAY”. We explored passages in the Bible and discussed their relevance in our day to day life. We still debate who should pay taxes, as the Bible tells us Jesus did in biblical times!

The 31st of March was a D.I.Y. night when members of our Guild shared their talents and skills with fellow members.

Not wanting to miss the “Lighty Nights”, the committee hope to organise monthly meetings during the summer. Watch this space for details!

The 26th of April is a busy day in our Guild calendar. We will be hosting a soup and pudding lunch. Tickets are on sale for this event at £5.00 or can be purchased from Guild members and after church on Sunday. This Lunch will give everyone in the church the opportunity to taste some “delicious soup” and help the Guild to raise funds for the Church of Scotland Guild Projects.

The Guild boxes have been counted for the year, and we were delighted with an increase in contributions as £1,024.68 was raised. We would like to thank everyone who had a box and have given so generously. We would also like to thank Susan Godsall and the counting team. Anyone who would like a Guild box can collect one in the hall after the Sunday service during the month of April.

Throughout our session we have enjoyed fun and fellowship but never forgetting our Guild motto “Whose we are and whom we serve”.

Clerk’s Corner

Last month we began the process of providing you with the names of the members of the various Core Groups, starting with the Fabric Core Group.

We apologise to Janis Clark whose name was missed out last month from the Fabric Core Group list. Janis, our hard-working Church Officer, is also the secretary to this group and faithfully produces a detailed minute of the many tasks that are undertaken, without which we would be lost!

A People of Prayer

News from Stuart and the Nurture Core Group

When Douglas came along just over 10 months ago we were so fortunate that so many of the big things that can often break the bank for new parents had been passed on to us by friends. Before his arrival we didn’t need to shell out on prams, cots, Moses baskets or car seats because we had been amply supplied with so many ‘pre loved’ items. It was very humbling as a new parent.

This is of course just one snap shot picture that is replicated over and over where people so freely give of what they have in order to be a blessing to others. Is it not the case that the likes of carpet cleaners, pasting tables and hedge trimmers find themselves doing the rounds as we try our best to help one another out? This is something we are good at in the church, and rightly so. What though, of being a blessing in spiritual terms?

With lots of different hats on – as a parent, a minister and as part of the Nurture Core Group – I would like to challenge you as to how we can bless the young people in our midst by committing to pray for them.

I am aware that in the past there has been a system of prayer guardians where people committed to praying for a young person – many people still do this to date. At the Nurture Core Group we have been thinking as to how to re-invigorate this important culture of prayer. What we have a sense for is to ask different groups in the church to make a point of praying for the varied work that there is with the young people who come in contact with St Andrew’s Church. Over the next while we’ll be contacting the likes of the Flower Club, the Home Groups, the Guild and the Men’s Group (to name but a few!) and ask them to commit to pray for a group like Mum and Me or the Boy’s Brigade.

Our hope with this is that groups will take the initiative to find out what is happening in these children’s groups and, in chatting about them and being aware of what it is going on, it will spur them to pray for these groups of young people.

Paul’s words on prayer at the end of his letter to the Ephesians were this: “And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” My prayer is that this would spur us on to be a people of prayer where praying for one another is as much in our mindset as lending a helping hand.

This month it is the turn of the -

Finance and Administration Core Group

Core Group Leader – Scott Anderson

Leadership Group Link Member – Alan Marr

Ministry Team Member – Candace Laing

Session Members – Iain Robertson

Congregation Members – Susan Godsall (Treasurer), Heather Black, Morag Shaw

Malawi Fundraisers

March Soup Lunch –£188 was raised.
Murder Mystery – Thanks to all the cast who did a great job! – Lynne Irvin's Table were the winners guessing correctly that Ken Miller's character was the murderer. Thanks to all those who supported this fundraiser. £1,068 was raised.

Next Fundraisers:

Saturday 10th May - Australian Wine Tasting Evening. Linda McDonald has kindly agreed to lead this before she leaves to return home to Australia for good.
Sunday 11th May – Soup Lunch
Saturday 14th June – Coffee Morning with usual stalls.
Friday 20th June – Great St Andrew's Bake Off.

Please note we still recycle old mobiles, foreign coins and ink cartridges. We are now also able to recycle toner cartridges.

Church of Scotland

Information from The Stewardship and Finance Department

Arbroath St Andrew's: The total contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2014 is £87,854

The Ministries part – 86%. £75,554 of our total contribution goes towards the cost of providing over 1,000 ministers (which includes Martin) and other parish workers. The 2014 cost of a parish minister at the top end of the stipend scale is £40,411 (stipend plus the employer's national insurance and pension contributions). As our contribution is above this figure, we are meeting the full cost of our ministry and supporting other congregations.

The Mission part – 14%. £12,300 of our total contribution will be used to support the church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world on our shared missionary journey; contributing to the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

What's Easter got to do with the church?

Once again many St Andrew's folk have taken the opportunity to share the Easter story through buying and giving the Real Easter egg. Farmers in Fair Trade cocoa and sugar co-operatives have benefited, and so has the wider Fair Trade movement. But even more importantly, we have put the Easter story into the hands of people who may not ever have read or heard it before. The company who make and sell the Real Easter egg had these encounters when promoting the eggs:

When we first revealed the Real Easter Egg I was asked by a journalist 'What's Easter got to do with the church?'. I had to explain that it was in fact a religious festival and not owned by Cadbury!

This year The Real Easter Egg radio ad was rejected by the radio authority. They seemed unsure if Easter was Christian and so wanted our ad to say that our eggs had a copy of the 'Easter Christian story' in the box'. We argued the point and they decided that 'on balance' it is a well-known Christian festival.

This is how little the Easter story is known by some of the people who produce and control our media. Friends, the gospel is in our hands and no others! It is up to us to share it with our family, friends, neighbours and workmates. In this Easter season, keep your eyes and ears open for every opportunity to make the story known.

Living Lightly

There are many groups and websites that can help us to be better stewards of God's creation. One such is Living Lightly, an initiative of A Rocha UK. Its website is a great mix of practical articles and tips, along with thought-provoking pieces about the spiritual value of changing our habits:

www.arochalivinglightly.org.uk

As we focus this year on the person and work of the Holy Spirit though our worship, the Living Lightly website and community can help us to grow more of the fruits of the Spirit in the way we care for God's Earth and our fellow inhabitants. During this season of Lent, I highly recommend reading Living Lightly's great article titled 'Turning Lent on its head' – search for 'Lent' on the home page.

If you would benefit from regular gentle guidance for your eco-journey, you can sign up for Living Lightly's monthly eco-tips email – use the link on the home page.

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL

Sunday 6
 9.30 am - Traditional Service
 11 am - Worship Service,
 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 13
 11 am - Palm Sunday Service
 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Thursday 17
 7 to 9 pm - Church open for Maundy Thursday reflections

Friday 18
 12 noon to 3 pm - Church open for 'Hours of Darkness' reflections
 7 to 9 pm - Church open for Good Friday reflections

Sunday 20
 8.30 am - Sunrise Service in the Abbey
 11 am - Easter Day Celebration
 6.30 pm - Easter Evening Resurrection Special!

Sunday 27
 11 am - Worship Service
 4 pm - MESSY CHURCH
 6.30 pm - Evening Worship (In Community Spirit)

MAY

Sunday 4
 9.30 am - Traditional Service
 11 am - Worship Service
 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

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

Sunday 18
 10.30 am - Worship Service (NB Early start to allow bus departure to Heart and Soul in Edinburgh)
 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 25
 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.

STOP PRESS!!!

St Andrew's Church fails in its quest for Eco -Status on two counts.

Count 1 - Significant amounts of gas and electricity are being wasted.

Count 2 – The beautiful building is being mistreated.

You will remember this (false) headline from the March edition of Quest.

It is good to be able to report that many people have made a real effort to think about saving heat and light. However, we need to redouble our efforts. In one week alone in March, **the hall lights were left on after an organisation had left, the sanctuary lights were left on after another meeting, and the overhead heaters and lights were left on in the Session Room with both doors left wide open!!**

Now to the care of the building – here are some guide points for you to think about.

Doors : Two significant doors which are very expensive (over £1,000 each) are being damaged - the door into the sanctuary and the door into the main hall. They are being jammed open for long periods of time and the pneumatic closure fitted at the top of them fights against this. They are now showing **very significant signs of warping**. The hall door has a sign on it which is just being ignored. Both are fire doors which, strictly speaking, should not be jammed open at all! We understand that it might be convenient to use the door stops when there is a significant amount of setting up being done, **but the time that this is necessary should now be kept to an absolute minimum.**

Chewing gum : We have had chewing gum left on the carpet in the sanctuary on several occasions – not nice for the cleaning team and **extremely difficult to remove properly from the carpet**. Chewing gum has also had to be removed from the **gents urinals!** The cleaning teams also have to remove sweetie papers, paper hankies etc.!

Bikes : The gallery wall has been scraped by bicycles being left against the wall. **Please do NOT bring bikes into**

the building - we have specially installed racks outside the gallery door.

Sanctuary chairs : After every service there is some movement of the chairs as we enter and exit the rows – this is perfectly natural. However, when a major resetting of the chairs is needed, it is really important that the chairs are returned to their proper places. **There are marks on the skirting boards, and radiators, which clearly show where the two side rows line up.** It is then very easy to reconstruct straight rows in the middle section in line with the side rows. **Start by aligning the left end of a centre row with the join in the carpet** and then simply work along to the right end. At the moment, straightening of the chairs goes on most weeks so that our sanctuary looks beautiful, but if this was not done, you would soon notice! If you are involved in moving chairs and are not sure of the procedures described above for replacing them, then please ask. Also, stacks of chairs or heavy objects (particularly the heavy communion chairs) should not be dragged across the carpet as they leave marks which cannot be removed.

Being tidy : This is a major area of concern. Huge efforts have been made to provide space for organisations to store their materials etc. Correct places are identified in the cupboard areas. Some are very good at tidying up but, sadly, not all. Tables and chairs are taken out of cupboards, not returned, or returned to the wrong place and materials are frequently abandoned. Every week, used dish towels are left on the work surfaces in the kitchen. Each organisation using these is responsible for having them washed and returned. You will probably not be aware of these things, because other people are having to do the tidying! They are threatening strike action!

Kitchen corridor fire door (and others) : It is absolutely essential to check that these have been closed properly.

Do you find all this depressing, picky, petty, and unnecessary? Hopefully not, and instead you will feel that you will be able to play your part in looking after God's house in the way that you look after your own. The leaders of all organisations will get a copy of this and will be asked to delegate someone to have responsibility for the relevant areas. **We can do this!**

Jane Miller - Session Clerk
Pam Drever- Service Core Group Leader
Ray Reaney - Fabric Core Group Leader

Recycle Books

The next second-hand Christian book stall will be held after the church service on Sunday, 27th April. This is another opportunity to remove from the bookshelves, books that have been read and probably will not be read again.

If you have any books to donate, either bring them along on the 27th or put them in the cupboard in the Small Halls.

All money raised will go to Malawi.

From an anonymous author:

Forbidden Fruit creates many jams.
Exercise - daily walk with the Lord.
Need a new life? God takes trade-ins.
Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted.
When you flee temptation, don't leave a forwarding address.
If God is your co-pilot, change places.
Cars are not the only thing recalled by their maker.
The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.
Lead me not into temptation - I can find the way myself!

Men at Prayer

Veterans of the Men's Retreat to Kincaig, by Aviemore, were broadly of the opinion that 2014 was the best ever! The company, the fun and games and the food were excellent as always but this year there was a sense of sharing and supporting one another in faith that seemed to go deeper than ever before. And those who led the various sessions did an excellent job in encouraging us to commit ourselves more freely to the One who commits himself so wondrously to us.

As the weekend reached its climax, there was a sense among some that aspects of what is enjoyed about the weekend should be continued on throughout the rest of the year. So to that end, men have begun meeting at the church to support one another and to pray for one another every Tuesday morning at 7am. For most people, that allows attendance before daily commitments begin and folks are able to leave at any point necessary.

Though we've only been going for a few weeks, already there is a sense that meeting in this way is hugely worthwhile. Why not come along and get involved, either every week or as you are able? Let's find out what happens when men begin to meet faithfully to pray!



Glasgow 2014

In 2012 the world had its eyes on London for the Olympic Games. This summer, the Commonwealth Games comes to Glasgow and the occasion offers the churches a great opportunity for service and outreach.

To that end, we'll be running an event on the day when the Queen's Baton comes through Arbroath at the end of June. Beyond that, plans are underway for us to take a Mission Team to Glasgow for a week during the time of the Commonwealth Games.

There will be three elements to what we plan to do:

Working with a congregation on the south side of Glasgow, we will run a sports-themed Holiday Club for local children.

Working with the Salvation Army, we will be part of a team that will be offering welcome to visitors to Glasgow and, in particular, distributing 200,000 bottles of water!

Hopefully, we will be supporting the work of 'Stop the Traffic,' an organisation concerned with addressing the world-wide problem of human trafficking. That will include leafleting and awareness-raising campaigns

So, all on all, a wonderful opportunity for us to do some 'reaching out!'

Pastoral Care and Quest Magazine

For most of you sitting reading your Quest magazine just now, you will have received it by delivery to your front door. We could have looked at sending the magazine to all members each month (but that would have incurred a large cost in postage) or we could have asked you all to collect your magazine from the church on a Sunday (but this would have disadvantages for our elderly in the congregation who do not get to church each week). It was decided that the delivery of the Quest would form one of the first steps in the pastoral care service offered in the church. As such we would attempt to have face to face contact with every one of our members by hand delivering the magazine to homes. It is hoped that each month the distributors will knock on

your door, ask how you and your family are and hand your magazine to you. If you are experiencing difficulties, this is an opportunity for you to ask for some assistance from the church. Your distributor can note your concerns and relay these back to the office or to myself and hopefully we can help. If you and your family are well then that is grand - you can just enjoy the contents of Quest, but the church will know that you are fine. For those of you who live outwith the town and receive Quest by a different arrangement, you will receive a phone call and are therefore included in the same way. So far this system seems to be working quite well for the vast majority of the congregation. However, should you have an issue between deliveries you can contact the church office or myself, Kim. Both phone numbers appear on the inside front cover of your Quest.

Can anyone help me, please?

I am looking for a children's worship song based on Acts 2:39 which was on a recording made in the early 90s. I had this at one time but can't find it anywhere. It is either entitled 'Acts chapter 2 v 39' or 'The Promise of the Holy Spirit'. I think it was a Spring Harvest recording, but I'm not too sure about that either.

The words are as follows –

The Promise of the Holy Spirit is for you,
The Promise of the Holy Spirit is for your children,
The Promise of the Holy Spirit is for all who are far off,
Even for as many as the Lord your God shall call
O yeah.

Acts Chapter 2 Verse 39

I would love to hear from someone who has a copy of this. Thanks.
Karen Reaney

Another Munro For Malawi

During the Men's Retreat, Michael and Martin climbed Cairngorm in a howling gale and complete whiteout. Mad for Malawi!!!

