



Proud To Be Queen's Men

The BB Annual display and awards night was held on Thursday 15th of May in St Andrew's Church Hall which was full to capacity with parents and friends of the B.B. The Inspecting Officer was Rev Stuart Irvin, BD, Associate Minister. Captain, Mrs Wilma H Ewart welcomed the invited guests and the Chaplain, Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA. BD. D Min, opened the evening with worship.

After the Inspection the Anchor Boys performed a musical item of songs and actions. The Junior section had a sporting games challenge with participating family members with the Commonwealth theme much to the fore. Company Section completed the entertainment section with a highly contested Cake Decoration competition.

Following the entertainment Mrs Sharon Jamieson, O.I.C. for Anchor boys gave a comprehensive report about the Company activities over the past year before inviting Mrs Lynne Irvin to present the awards.

Anchor Section : Best Boy - Aiden Merryweather and Jackson Smith.

Junior Section : 1st Year best boy - Jamie Low

2nd Year Best Boy - Lewis Stephenson

Marshall Trophy - Tom Christison



The BB prizewinners with Stuart and Lynne Irvin

Company Section : Attendance Trophy - Josh Gall, Daniel Jamieson and Cameron Tasker

Ewan Findlay Memorial Cup - Cameron Tasker

Company O.I.C. Michael Clark gave a presentation about the Queens Badge Award before the Chaplain presented this highest award for the Boys Brigade to Daniel Jamieson, Cameron Tasker and Jake Thomson.

A formal presentation of the awards will be made at the morning service on the 1st of June. The evening closed with the Benediction.

Captain : Wilma Ewart

Heart & Soul 2014

Now in its third year, the Heart & Soul celebration didn't disappoint and the thousands who gathered in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh, left much inspired and having enjoyed a wonderful day of fun and fellowship, entertainment and worship.



Our Youth Group had a great day.

The event is scheduled to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and is essentially a celebration of that is best about the Church, and Christian witness more generally, across Scotland and beyond. Our own minister has had a leading role in planning and leading the closing worship service, which serves as a fitting climax to the day.

One more Heart & Soul event is scheduled, for May 2015. Thereafter, a review is to take place as to the desirability of continuing it or otherwise. There can be little doubt that if that decision lay with the group that travelled from St. Andrew's, Arbroath, the answer would be a resounding KEEP IT GOING!!

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

May 2014

Baptisms - None

Blessings - None

Weddings - Fiona Brown & Ian Bullock, Linda McDonald & Andrew Dawson

Funerals - Maureen Maxwell

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY EDITION

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

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

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

Friday 20th June (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th June (Word-Processed file)

**Malawi
Fundraisers**

Saturday 14th June

**Coffee Morning
with usual stalls.**

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

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 (07938 340534)

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

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

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

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

FRIDAY

9.30 am – Coffee morning

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

Martin Fair

June 2014

Dear friends,

In the 15th Century, the German inventor, Johannes Gutenberg, created the printing press - and in so doing changed the world! Before that, books and manuscripts had to be copied out by hand or by processes so slow and laborious as to ensure that the costs involved meant that ordinary people had no access to writings. The printing press made mass printing possible for the first time.

Of course, one of the first books to be printed using the new technology, and to be widely distributed, was the Bible. And out of this revolution came the equally world-changing Reformation - a renewal of Christian faith built around access to the Bible.

The digital revolution which has taken place in our lifetime has been of the same magnitude, if not more so. The means by which we now communicate with one another, and the rapidity with which we do so, are nothing short of astonishing - and would have been unthinkable to all but the most geekish sci-fi fans only a couple of decades ago!

Churches are often slow to catch up, and sometimes thoroughly resistant. To begin with there was deep-rooted hostility to the idea of the Bible being printed and made available to ordinary people. Many of those who led the way in this found themselves persecuted as a result, some of them losing their lives as a consequence. Even now, some congregations still throw up their hands on horror at the suggestion that screens and projectors be installed as a means of displaying words and images.

But it should surprise no one that St. Andrew's Church is not afraid to embrace 21st technology and, indeed, that it has seen the fantastic opportunities that it presents. To that end, a considerable amount of time and energy - not to mention a substantial sum of money - has been expended in recent months to pave the way for what will be our very own technological revolution! Our embracing of the digital age is well underway.

Of course all of our systems have been computerised for many years, and we led the way in terms of the recording of services and the use of projection when these technologies first became available. And, yes, we use Facebook and Twitter extensively as means of communicating with an ever expanding audience.

But now our sound system is state-of-the-art digital and within a matter of weeks we will have completed the installation of a digital lighting system and a digital camera system which will allow us both to record pictures of our services and to stream them live to the internet.

These are exciting times and we should thank God that we are able to utilise technologies such as these for the furtherance of our mission. And make no mistake about it, **THAT IS WHAT THIS PROJECT IS ALL ABOUT!!** Just as Paul was grateful to the Romans for the provision of an empire-wide road system, and just as the Reformers were grateful to Gutenberg for the invention of the printing press, so should we see the digital window as one through which huge opportunities present themselves to us.

The benefits of this investment lie before us but for now, as the installation work continues, we ready ourselves for stepping further into the world at our fingertips. As we do so, we are enormously indebted to the amazing know-how and hard-working commitment of our tech team - that is, Ian Clark, Ken Miller and Iain Scott. That God has blessed us with these three at this time, for this purpose, is for all of us a cause for thanksgiving.

May God bless you all,

Martin

martin.fair@sky.com

Mission Opportunity!

Since it was announced that Glasgow had won the right to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games, the Church has recognised the possibilities therein for furthering the work of the gospel. And so amid a whole range of activities that will take place, it is exciting that our own congregation is going to take a part! And the best bit is that there's room on the team for you!

During the week 20th - 25th July, we'll be based in

Giffnock South Church, Glasgow, from where we'll run the following: The 'Fit for the King' holiday club for primary-aged children and a city centre awareness-raising campaign concerning the evils of modern-day slavery, often referred to as human trafficking.

Between these two main programmes, we'll be involved in sharing the good news about Jesus AND in speaking up for justice and against evil.

What an opportunity! There is an aspect of mission which means going overseas. But most assuredly, it begins in our nation. Might this be your moment?

Ask Theophilus

Question :

I was interested in your explanation of the biblical word 'atonement'. Could you help with another word, 'Redemption', please.

Theophilus answers :

The short definition of 'redemption' is 'deliverance at a cost'. Most readers will be familiar with the related word 'ransom', which is the price paid to free (redeem) someone. But this was a very familiar word in the ancient world. Its use became common in the Greek and Roman worlds in this way. Armies and raiding parties would regularly bring back with them prisoners they had taken who would then be sold

as slaves. But if friends or families knew when the slave market would be held, and if they could gather together the required money, they were then able to buy back their loved one simply by paying the price demanded. Their payment was a ransom. The practice was known as 'sacral manumission'; it was regarded as 'sacral' (sacred) because technically they had bought the prisoner to be the slave of some god, so that the ransomed person now belonged to that particular god. But practically that person was now free.

Paul was quick to see the application of this well-known custom for the gospel. So he could write, 'You are not your own, you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body' (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Elsewhere read that the price paid was Christ's own life blood (1 Peter 1:18-19).

Thoughts from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2014

I write this article from Edinburgh where I am most of the way through my week of General Assembly. If I were writing a post card I perhaps would have started with 'the weather is nice... but I wish I were outside enjoying it!' That being said, I am sure the postcard picture would be quite a sight as I look out from my seat and see a multitude of Ministers and Elders from across Scotland and beyond.

As this has been my first time at Assembly it has been a learning curve about what to expect. For example, I was glad to meet many people that I knew or knew of and likewise make new friends and connections. So far I've met two young guys who are thinking about going forward to Ministry. They were both at a similar stage to me when I started the process, so it was good to be able to chat and encourage them.

I've begun to understand the process a lot better about how we engage with the reports and then agree to the right things with consensus. This has involved a lot of reading and reflecting then a lot of sitting in the Assembly Hall and listening to others and offering your own questions or insights where suitable. Running alongside this is learning some very practical things such as where is good to go and get lunch and what stretches are required to revive my knees after a long session sitting down!

By Wednesday I was starting to get the hang of things, so much so that I felt confident enough to make an amendment to the Social Care deliverances. Suggesting that we ought to congratulate the staff who had received awards in the past year, the convener accepted my proposal as did the assembly. A friend noted that I now have a 100% track record for getting motions passed at General Assembly!

The reality though is that across the week we have been discussing weighty and challenging issues. A prime example of this would be the question of how the Church should approach the issues of Ministers in Civil Partnerships. I have no qualms in expressing that I have been, and continue to be challenged about the direction we find ourselves heading in and I value your prayers to this end. Something I have been learning anew this week though, is the importance of listening and engaging with respect and integrity to other views whether similar or different to your own.

I certainly feel that I have reinvigorated a passion to listen, so please, come and share with me what you wrestle with - perhaps things you have and have not heard from the Assembly and what continues to challenge you. Grab me after church or give me a ring and we can share thoughts together - I can't guarantee that I'll have any Edinburgh Rock left to share by then though!

God Bless

Stuart Irvin, Associate Minister

Guild

Our session ended on the 14th April with our AGM. Rev. Stuart Irvin attended to oversee business matters and a new committee was duly elected. We were pleased to announce that all our fund raising efforts had been successful and we were able to give £500.00 to each of our Guild Projects for this year.

These projects were: The Julius Project which helps homeless people in Scotland back into housing. "Passage from India" which empowers women in Scotland to overcome poverty and increase their levels of resilience and confidence. Other recipients were Malawi, and various church groups (Heat and Light, Mum and Me, Young Peo-

ples Ministry, Sweaty Church and Flower Club).

After all the business, we were given an update about Mum and Me, by Kim Marr. We finished the evening with refreshments and a chat with fellow members.

The sun is shining this evening as I write this article making me look forward to our Guild Bus Trip which is on the 14th June. We hope to organise a walk for Monday 14th July and our annual Fish and Chip Tea will be on Monday 11th August.

The Guild would like to thank everyone who has supported us during this year and wish everyone a great summer! Let's hope the sun shines.

2014 Highlights

It's great to know that within the life of our congregation, we've got plenty of things to look forward to - whether our own events or ones that we'll travel to. Here's a flavour of some 2014 highlights - which you'll want to pop into your diaries at the earliest opportunity.

Stuart Townend

Monday June 9th, St. Peter's Free Church, Dundee. Here's a great opportunity to enjoy an evening of worship with Stuart Townend, amongst the most respected of today's Christian singer / songwriters and worship leaders. Our own congregation uses many of his songs including classics such as 'How deep the Father's love for us' and 'In Christ alone.' Tickets for this evening are £10 and transport from Arbroath will be arranged.

Ian White

The great news is that much-loved Christian singer-songwriter, Ian White is returning to Arbroath, and to St. Andrew's Church, on Friday 20th June. Ian is engaged in a nationwide tour to showcase his new album and was keen to put Arbroath on the itinerary. Hot on the heels of his excellent set at Heart & Soul in Edinburgh, his Arbroath concert will re-unite him with St. Andrew's Church where he

has been a regular visitor through the years. Ian was very much in the vanguard of those who saw that their music was their ministry and he has remained faithful to that ministry for over twenty-five years. Get the date in your diary and make sure that you're there to enjoy an evening with Ian.

Graham Kendrick & Tony Campolo

Friday October 31st, St. Andrew's Church. In years gone by, this event would have been unthinkable - at least for it to take place in a town the size of Arbroath. Even Dundee was lucky to host names such as Kendrick and Campolo. And yet, here we are now, ready to host such an evening - having been requested especially by tour organisers to be a host venue. This is something to do with the quality of our venue and to do with the fact that our congregation is well known now for its ministry and mission.

Graham Kendrick is by far and away the biggest influence upon contemporary Christian worship and American, Tony Campolo, is recognised world-wide as being a Christian communicator par excellence. To have these to coming to our church on the same bill is fantastic news!! The evening is bound to be a sell out so watch very carefully for the ticket sale details to ensure that you don't miss out.

Clerk's Corner

Core Groups

This month it is the turn of the **Service Core Group** to be named

Core Group Leader – Pam Drever

Leadership Group Link Member – Linda McDonald

Session Members – Shona Kemp, Noela Watson

Congregation Members – Elise Bowie, Pat Clegg, Norma Cox, Alice Dewar, Angus Milne and Mary Reid.

The members are active in promoting service to the community by including in their varied remit, involvement in such things as the Food Parcel project, encouragement of Fairtrade activities, several recycling aspects and providing toiletries for the Women's Refuge (see picture on back page).

You will all be aware of some of their activities under the heading of Random Acts of Kindness, where, for example, at the beginning of the new session, tray bakes were provided for the staff of the schools in our area. The workmen on the Monarch's Rise housing estate, which falls within our parish area, were also given these treats.

A major area under preparation at the moment is the submission of the application for Eco status. There is a considerable amount of evidence required to be gathered for this.

Seminar programme for 2014/15

Angus Presbytery is offering a range of seminars as detailed below. The dates are provisional and the locations will be decided once it is known where the participants are coming from.

2014

28th September- Introduction to PowerPoint

19th October and 16th November – Pastoral Visiting – deals with visiting skills, listening skills and practical guidelines for visitors

2nd November – Introduction to leading worship – provides basic information and is in preparation for the later three part sessions on leading Worship

5th November – Working with young people - brings leaders from Sunday Schools, Clubs and Youth Groups with a presentation on available material and some examples of new developments.

30th November – Bereavement visiting – experience of bereavement and the process of mourning.

2015

18th January – Funeral taking – offers participants the skills and confidence to be involved in the preparation and taking a funeral service.

26th January and 8th February – Eldership today – looks at the role of the elder as part of the leadership team of the congregation.

22nd February and 18th March – Leading Worship – Part 1 will consider the purpose of worship, Part 2 looks at the structure and content of a service of worship, Part 3 deals with music in worship, speaking in church and putting it all together.

29th March – PowerPoint – Part 2 – provides more advanced ideas.

8th March, 22nd March, 5th April – Telling it naturally – sharing our faith. – Session 1 – A faith to share, Session 2 – Why do we share it, Session 3 – How to share my faith

Dementia – date to be arranged subject to demand and will be held in three locations if there is sufficient demand.

If you would like more detail of any of these courses and how to apply, please contact the Session Clerk.

Old & Abbey

We rejoice with our near-neighbours at Old & Abbey Church in the appointment of their new minister, Dolly Purnell. Her induction service on 8th May was a wonderful occasion, with our own Stuart Irvin preaching and Karen Fenwick, Moderator of Angus Presbytery, presiding over Dolly's installation. With the shortage of new ministers coming through the ranks, Old & Ab-

bey Church has done well to fill the position so quickly - in just over a year. It's nothing at all nowadays for congregations to be without a minister for two, three and even four years.

Our own minister, Martin, is now well into his role as Interim Moderator at St Margaret's Church in Forfar. Time will tell if they are so fortunate or whether they'll be vacant for a longer period of time. Continue to pray, please, for both of these Angus congregations.

Mental Health

Along with two others from our congregation, Martin travelled to London at the beginning of May to attend a two-day international leadership conference, hosted by Holy Trinity Brompton Church of England, home of the Alpha movement.

In what was all-in-all a brilliant conference, one of the undoubted highlights was the interview conducted with Rick and Kay Warren, co-founders of Saddleback Church, California. The Warrens are recognised the world over as influential leaders and Rick's book, 'The Purpose-driven Life' is one of the biggest selling books EVER written. Together, they lead what is one of the world's biggest churches and combine that with international commitments to tackle HIV/ Aids and to raise standards of education in the world's poorest communities.

But none of that meant anything to them when in April of last year, Matthew, their 27 year-old son, ended his life. Matthew's life was coloured with mental health issues throughout and though every possible remedy was sought and tried, he was never able to recover from his illness.

And so Rick and Kay Warren have spent most of the last year coping with their anguish and loss. In the interview that they gave at the London conference, they spoke with a raw honesty that is rarely heard in Christian circles. All too often, there is a

stigma associated with mental health which means that it is either swept under the carpet of that those suffering from it are treated as if they should somehow 'pull themselves together.'

At the same time, our own Michael Marr has reported a worrying upward trend in the number of fatal and near-fatal incidents taking place at our harbour and at the cliffs - incidents that he regularly attends to in his capacity as a member of the local lifeboat crew. Rightly, Michael is concerned by what he is seeing and, understandably, has been troubled by much of it.

But even more important, he is asking, 'What can the church do to respond to these issues?'

The answer to that lies before us and is as yet unknown but what is certain us that his question cannot be ignored.

To that end, and as a beginning, we're going to screen the Rick and Kay Warren interview as it was recorded in London. This will be of interest to many but certainly to those of you who have lived with a loved one suffering from mental health issues. And, it will be of real interest to those of you who, like Michael, are concerned with the high incidence of suicide and attempted suicide currently evident in our community.

This screening and discussion will take place within the church on a date to be announced.

But of interest for all of us is the fact the Killermont took much of their inspiration to go ahead with a building project from our church! Their committee came here to Arbroath and were so taken by what they saw, and by the enthusiasm that was conveyed to them, that they decided to step out in faith themselves.

They've done an excellent job and we wish them well as they settle in to their new building and begin to envision how they will use it to further their mission to the local community.

LOOKING AHEAD

JUNE

Sunday 1

9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service, inc.
Presentation of Boys Brigade
Queen's Badges
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 8

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

Sunday 15

11 am - Worship Service, with
special guests, the
Praise and Dance Team from
Lowson Memorial Church,
Forfar
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
with special guest
Aftab Gohar

Sunday 22

11 am - Worship Service, inc.
Sunday Club Prizegiving
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 29

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

JULY

Sunday 6

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

Sunday 13

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 20

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 27

11 am - Special Service
(Outdoors if weather permits
and according to arrange-
ments that will be intimated at
the time.)
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.**

Killermont

Our minister was very honoured to have been asked to be the guest preacher at Killermont Parish Church, Bearsden, on the special occasion of the opening of their beautifully re-developed and expanded buildings - 27th April 2014. This was the church in which Martin completed a key part of his training for ministry and he and Elaine have many happy memories from their time there.

He reports that it was wonderful to see the church packed for the occasion, and that along with some 'well kent' faces from years gone by, the increase in the number of younger families was what was most striking.

Don't Believe Everything!

Don't believe everything that you read in the press!

Stuart Irvin, our Associate Minister, and elder Elaine Anderson attended the General Assembly of the Church during May and, doubtless, built up their own impressions of everything that was said and agreed upon. Martin, our minister, attended on one of the days - as a visitor - primarily to hear the report of the Mission and Discipleship Council, of which he is a member, and the report of the World Mission Council.

Both of these reports were full of good news, highlighting much of the good that the church is involved with in Scotland and around the world. The World Mission report in particular was thoroughly inspiring as the Convenor, Andrew McLellan, outlined a selection of what the church

is involved with worldwide. The bottom line is that the Church of Scotland punches way above its weight in this regard and supports fragile and vulnerable communities around the world in places that most often the world forgets or ignores. And it was equally gratifying to hear delegates from overseas - from troubled places such as South Sudan, Syria and Pakistan - queuing up to register their gratitude to the Church of Scotland for its support and for its advocacy work.

Of course, our denomination is flawed in all kinds of ways but there are times when we should be justly proud to be members of the Church of Scotland!

But though the nation's press pack was in attendance, none of these good news stories received any attention whatsoever. Rather, the papers chose to run with stories designed to show the Church in an entirely different light. Isn't it sad that there is so little appetite for good news?

Senior Moments!

Attention all those of you who are old! Remember that 'old age is 15 years older than you are, or remember that there is no old age. There is, as there always was, just you'.

In St Andrew's Church you have Pensioner Power!

If you are aged 60 plus, do you sometimes feel that you are regarded, even within the family of St Andrew's as old, past it, an old fogey, a crinkly, past your 'sell by date', old-fashioned, not up-to-date and many other denigrating phrases? Just because some of you may not go around permanently attached to a mobile phone, wearing jeans, chewing gum remember that *'Age is never so old as youth would measure it.'*

Well, do not worry, we have power and we are going to live longer and longer while the younger among you may well have to work on and on and on and become older and older and older much younger! Right now, we are punching away above our weight! There will soon be so many people in this age bracket that we will be a force to be reckoned with. Imagine all the senior members of St Andrew's deciding to stop doing all the vast range of work they do to contribute to the running of the church - a disaster would ensue!!

Firstly, the church would be pretty empty most Sundays and there would not be the usual number of people who have *'a twinkle in their wrinkle'* to welcome you! The carpets in the sanctuary would be filthy because there would hardly be any people on the cleaning teams to dust and vacuum, pick up sweets, paper hankies, bulletins etc. As the organist would have been put out to grass there would be less music for you. *'I'm not 70 - I'm eighteen with 52 years experience'*. The Bible would not be brought in at the beginning of the service because the Church Officer would be regarded, in health and safety at work terms, as too decrepit to go up the pulpit stairs and if she packed in her job, then the place would be a mess - what younger person wants that job! *'The years between 60 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do more and you are not yet*

decrepit enough to turn them down'.

The Friends Club would not be affected in the least because they are full of life, fun and secure in their environment where their age is respected and is regarded as a necessary requirement for membership! *'No man loves life like him that is growing old'.*

Both Havilah and Mum and Me would struggle to maintain their work as so many of the volunteers are in the senior age bracket but are so obviously enthusiastic in their work. *'The years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up of enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.'*

Joinery and plumbing repairs, painting, tidying etc. and all the myriad jobs required to keep the Fabric going, and, in the process, saving a vast amount of money, are carried out by a quiet, almost hidden group of 'oldies' whose bones creak as they get down on their hands and knees to carry out floor repairs, climb ladders with their cholesterol-blocked hearts in their dentured mouths, and use their Carpel-Tunnel Syndrome arms while painting. *'Some people, no matter how old they get, never lose their beauty - they merely move it from their faces into their hearts'*. They would subscribe to the view that one should *'be on the alert to recognise your prime at whatever time of your life it may occur'*.

The range of ages is perhaps at its widest in the Home Groups and in the groups which help with such things as Easter Code and other children's activities where the message for us all is *'as we grow older we must discipline ourselves to continue expanding, broadening, learning, keeping our minds active and open. Men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing'*.

So rejoice in your senior years knowing that you are valued and really needed.

And finally:

'The art of growing old is the art of being regarded by the oncoming generations as a support and not as a stumbling block.'

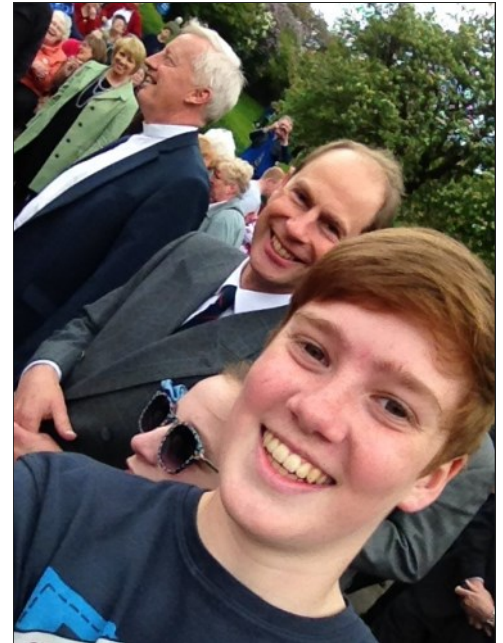
Ruth Bell

Many of us remember with great fondness, the couple of years that we enjoyed with Ruth Bell as our probationer minister, then our associate minister.

It was with great rejoicing then, that Martin and Elaine, together with a small detachment from Arbroath, attended Ruth's wedding on 10th May!! She is now married to Stephen and, as was plain for all to see, wonderfully happy!!

With her PhD almost complete, Ruth is in the process of securing her first ministry appointment and we look forward with great anticipation to hearing where her full-time ministry is to begin.

But wherever Ruth ends up, we'll always think of Ruth as 'one of us!'



Pictured are Mo Broomfield, Noela Watson and Alice Dewar

Heart and Soul Fun

Above left : St Andrew's Ladies are not frightened to 'let their hair down'.

Above : Fraser followed Prince Edward around until he got the chance to do a 'selfie' with the Prince, who was clearly aware of what Fraser was trying to do - and saw the fun side of it too!

Service Core Group

Left : Some members of the Service Core Group prepared 65 bags of donated toiletries for the Women's Refuge.