



Look Who's Coming To Town!

It's almost inevitable that to see major performing acts requires a journey to Aberdeen or to the central belt. Not this autumn!!

We're delighted to announce that the world-famous London Community Gospel Choir will be performing in St. Andrew's Church on Friday 19th September.

The LCGC have been performing for thirty years and in that time have shared stages with the likes of U2, Elton John, Madonna and Kylie Minogue. And each year they perform at music festivals such as Glastonbury.

But their roots are in churches and their first love is performing gospel music in churches. To that end, they are undertaking an autumn tour which will take them through parts of Europe and across the UK. Their only Scottish date is in St. Andrew's Church. Fantastic!!

Tickets prices have been held back at £10 to ensure that as many people as want to can attend, though to see this choir in a non-church setting would cost considerably more! The tickets are NOW AVAILABLE at our church office or can be bought online through the ticket agency Eventbrite.co.uk.

People will be travelling from other places to enjoy this concert, so make sure that you don't miss out on the opportunity to experience such an occasion right here in our own church! Let's make it a sell-out evening to remember.



As if that wasn't enough, on the 31st October we welcome back Graham Kendrick and band, this time accompanied by American preacher and professor, Tony Campolo. What a double bill. Both of these men are worth travelling to hear but to have both of them on the one night IN OUR OWN CHURCH is a treat indeed! Again, ticket prices have been pegged back to £10 and these will be available very shortly.

Martin writes:

'When I was starting out in ministry, I could never have imagined that we'd ever be able to welcome the likes of the London Community Gospel Choir and Graham Kendrick and Tony Campolo to our church! I'm still pinching myself that we've been able to put both of these nights together. Having seen these performers in the big cities, it really is, for me, a dream come true to be able to bring them here. I'm very much hoping that the congregation of St. Andrew's will look on these nights as brilliant opportunities and that, consequently, the church will be packed to capacity.'

October Holiday Club

Similarly to last year, we are going to run a holiday club for primary-school children during the October holidays. This, of course, is only possible because we have Stuart on board as our Associate Minister.



We've decided to go back to Expedition Force for this club, a programme we followed back in 2003. But of course, the children who will be attending this year weren't even alive then so it will be new to them!

As always, we'll be recruiting a team and will be looking for support of various kinds as we go through the coming weeks. Holiday Clubs remain excellent ways for us to engage with children and families in our wider community. Let's make the most of this one!

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 WORK TEAM

Adele Ramsay : 07403 193 875

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

June/July/August 2014

Baptisms - None

Blessings - None

Weddings - Darren Barr and Louise French,
Ben Skerret and Claire Thoms,
Iain Scott and Amy-Louise Ramsay

Funerals - Sadie Clark, Bill Mill, Barbara Slusar,
Lillian Cargill, Jean Crowe

Malawi Fundraisers

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

IMPORTANT DATES

OCTOBER EDITION

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

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

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

Friday 19th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd September (Word-Processed file)

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 – L Clark (437758)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – N Watson – 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

September 2014

Dear friends,

Throughout the church season, 2013-2014, our preaching and teaching programme focussed exclusively on the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit. Many commented that they had learned a lot and, for some, it served as an introduction to an aspect of Christian life that had been unknown to them.

This year, we're saying 'come and MEET JESUS!' Of course, Jesus is at the very heart of it all for us Christians. It's Jesus we begin to learn about in Sunday School and it's Jesus we seek to follow all of our lives. But no matter how well we think we know him, this is going to be a year during which we will seek to get to know him more – both in terms of our knowledge and our experience. We'll revisit his wonderful parables. We'll marvel again at his miracles and will ask ourselves questions about their underlying meaning. We'll be inspired by his love for the unlovely and the poor and marginalised. We'll ponder what it means to claim that he was both human and divine. We'll be surprised, again, at the telling out of his birth and, of course, we'll gaze deeply into his suffering upon the cross and. And perhaps most of all, we'll seek to be people of the Risen King!

Our efforts will amount to nothing if we do no more than accumulate further knowledge about Jesus. Rather, let it be our prayer that during this year we'll find ourselves being further transformed by Jesus. Let us offer ourselves to him that we might become more like him.

So let it begin by me inviting you: 'Come and meet my friend; his name is Jesus.'

May God bless you all,

Martin and Elaine

martin.fair@sky.com

Two Challenges

In August, along with many other folk, I did the Ice Bucket Challenge. It was something that swept through social and traditional media pretty quickly as people were nominated to have freezing water poured over them in order to raise both awareness and money for charity. Personally I was really encouraged by the awareness and money being raised for charities such as the Motor Neurone Disease Association. MND, known as ALS, in America is something that has affected our family personally.

Here is the thing that I would like to reflect on – the speed with which people can raise awareness and bring attention to things that are really important. Once upon a time a similar challenge to the Ice Bucket Challenge might have gone along the lines of a chain letter which was at the mercy of the postal service for speed and which was a lot less public. Now that these things go so fast, it's hard to keep up as they reach into every home that has a computer and internet connection. Further, like me, you may have looked out your window to see neighbours taking part or

have passed people talking about it. The potential to reach out with a message and raise awareness is phenomenal. As Christians we ought to reflect upon how we can make a positive impact on the community around and these charitable efforts ought to really be commended.

Further though, we ought to keep on reflecting about how we share the good news of Jesus in a way that engages and captures people's attention. Was it not Zacchaeus who came to find out more, because of the most tried and tested form of social media – word of mouth? In Luke 19, there in Jericho, Zacchaeus had climbed a tree so that he would get a chance to see Jesus. With all the possibilities of communication that we have today, perhaps there could be more people like Zacchaeus - people who hear a little and want to know more, people who are made aware and go on to encounter a life changing message.

This Autumn, every house in the Parish will get a copy of 'The Penny Gospel'. I am going to take on the challenge to read it all and I would encourage others to do likewise. Why not encourage a neighbour to read theirs? Why not take on a life changing challenge?
Stuart Irvin

Presbytery Elder

Earlier this year at the meeting of the Kirk Session I was appointed Presbytery Elder. All new members of the Presbytery were invited to an Introduction Meeting by the Presbytery Clerk, Rev. Mike Goss. This was a very informative evening giving us all an insight into the process

and procedures which will take place during Presbytery meetings.

I look forward to serving St Andrew's Church at Angus Presbytery.

Joan Hainsworth
Depute Session Clerk

Ask Theophilus

Question :

You explained the word 'atonement' last time. But what does the word 'justification' or 'justify' mean when the Bible uses it? I'm wondering if it's different to the Dictionary definition.

Theophilus answers :

The two words 'righteousness' and 'justification' are the same in both the OT language of Hebrew and the NT language of Greek. The fact that they are so different in English is confusing for we would hardly guess that in effect they are the same. The nouns 'Righteousness/righteous' (and the verb 'justify') are among the top most important five words in the whole Bible. It will take at least three 'answers' from Theophilus to offer even a simple explanation.

So first let's try and understand what 'righteousness' means as far as men and women are concerned. 'Righteousness' is all about being faithful in our relationships. Just think of the many relationships each of us has. There are our relationships with our families, our friends, neighbours, workmates, butcher, taxman and the tradesman who does a repair for us, and so on. Life consists of scores of relationships.

But they are all different.

For example, the relationship a school teacher has with her pupils is quite different to the relationship she has with her own children. Or the relationship you might have with your sister is different to the relationship you have with the clerk in the bank. Each relationship is governed by a set of spoken and unspoken rules. And being 'righteous' means always honouring perfectly the unspoken rules or 'mores' of every single relationship we have in our daily lives - never ever any deceit, nastiness or inappropriate behaviour; no 'porkies' ever told, gossip spread or grudges held.

So while some of our relationships may be okay and reasonably faithful to the spoken or unspoken rules, others may not be. That is why Isaiah could say with undeniable truthfulness that human 'righteousness' was like 'filthy rags' (64:6) and Paul, quoting Psalm 14:1 (AV), could declare, 'None is righteous, no not one' (Romans 3:10). He meant that there are various points at which we all fail in one or another of our relationships! So not one of us is always, without fail, righteous! More to follow on these important words.

(Editor's note : We are extremely grateful that David Searle continues to write his words of wisdom for us, and we pray that he and Lorna continue to enjoy their new location.)

Munros for Malawi

At the beginning of the year, our minister, Martin, and Michael Marr committed themselves to a year of Munro climbing to support our ongoing work in Malawi. Every month, therefore, they've taken themselves off to the hills and are on track at this mid-way point in the year to complete their challenge. They've been far and wide across Scotland and have seen some lovely weather and some atrocious weather!

The July challenge was the climbing of Ben Nevis, the

UK's highest mountain. For this special occasion they were joined by a number of other hardy souls, from teenagers to retirees! While most got safely to the top, Michael and Stuart, our Associate Minister, found themselves stuck on the cliffs of Ben Nevis and having to spend an entire night there before being reached by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team around noon the next day. We are grateful that Stuart and Michael emerged unscathed and we are equally grateful for the courage and skill of the rescue team that came to their aid.

Future climbs as part of Munros for Malawi will be a little less eventful, we're sure!

Guild

We went on our annual "Guild Trip" on Saturday, 14th June, when we visited the People's Palace and Winter Gardens in Glasgow. The outing was well-attended by our members and friends. Those unable to attend missed a really interesting and enjoyable day.

We left by bus at 9.30 a.m. so that we would have as much time as possible to enjoy everything there was to see. All went well until we stopped at traffic lights in Glasgow where we sat for about twenty minutes while lots and lots of marching bands dressed in orange passed! We discovered that we were only 10 minutes from the Palace! We continued on our way and got there in good spirits. It is surprising what one does on a bus - I think we all waved to the two mounted police women as they passed, who duly waved back.

The Palace is a beautiful old building with high ceilings, lovely stairways and tiled walls. It is a museum where one

learns about Glasgow's social history. The museum is divided into sections: The Single End showing how families in Glasgow struggled to make ends meet in cramped conditions in one-room tenement flats. There was an area on the trades union movement and the struggles of the working class in the city. Some of our members found the "Barrowlands" pictures interesting (for those who do not know, the Barrowlands was a famous dance hall in Glasgow in the fifties and sixties). We decided that being a "wallflower" in the Barrowlands was just the same as a "wallflower" in the Marine in Arbroath!

There is much more to see and I would recommend a visit. Entry to the People's Palace is free!

I ended my visit by having an ice cream in the Winter Gardens, admiring all the lovely plants. We stopped in Perth for a nice high tea at the Mustard Seed, a Christian centre in Perth. I think we arrived home tired, but happy.

"Whose we are and whom we serve."

The Fight Goes On

Local and national newspapers carried the tragic news that local man, Michael Mackay, died recently in Ninewells Hospital following, it is alleged, addiction to so-called legal highs. What is not in question is that Michael had been taking these substances for some four months and that he had been buying them from a shop in our town.

Here is a young man we knew well through our Havilah work – a troubled young man, certainly, but someone who was extremely well thought of. He had battled addiction

issues on and off for some years but, having survived all of that, his death appears to have come following his use of legal highs.

Again, we have cause to ask: ‘Why are these substances freely available and being sold from a shop right across the road from the CAFÉ project, where lots of young people gather, in our town?’

Be assured that we continue to work to see the closure of all such shops and that the police and other authorities are committed to the same cause.

Glasgow Mission 2014

Few who were in Glasgow in the summer of 2014 will ever forget it. The city was looking its best and with remarkable summer weather, the Commonwealth Games were voted a huge success by all concerned.

But for those of us who were on the Mission Team from St. Andrew’s Church, it was an even more special summer! What a wonderful week we had. Yes, we engaged in work with children each morning. Yes, we spent afternoons in Glasgow city centre campaigning on the subject of human trafficking. But above all of that, it was just great to spend a

week together – church family living and working together in true community. There is no doubt about it that camping in a church hall, eating together, laughing and playing together, and sharing dormitories together is THE way to experience Christian life together! And the fact that the team comprised several of our teenagers together with a goodly number of adults, some of whom were taking holidays to be there, speaks volumes about St. Andrew’s Church.

Our prayer is that our work will have been worthwhile and our hope is that an opportunity will emerge soon for another mission trip. Watch this space and make sure that you don’t miss out next time!

Soap Sunday

At the end of last year, a container full of all sorts of goods was shipped to Malawi. Almost immediately Sheila started collecting for the next container!

Both the young and the old in Malawi appreciate soap. Hence on Soap Sunday, the 12th of October, the congregation is invited to donate bars of soap, either toilet or washing soap. The aim is to fill a cardboard box with soap – hopefully with sufficient bars to give one to every person in the two centres in Malawi.

Clerk’s Corner

Core Groups

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

Core Group Leader – Amy-Louise Scott
 Leadership Group Link Member – Elaine Anderson
 Ministry team member – Martin Fair
 Session Members – Sheila Davidson, Lawrie Harris, Isabel Mitchell, Jocelyn Slater, Mary Spink
 Congregation Members- Judy Spink, Carol Ann Thain, Ian Scott (co-opted)

The remit includes the following:

- ◇ Be responsible for sustaining, developing and resourcing all of our worship services – in other words, ensuring that the ‘**worship**’ part of our three-fold motto is central.
- ◇ Be responsible for exploring ways in which the congregation might promote spirituality among its members and beyond.
- ◇ Be responsible for developing the prayer life of the congregation, including the overseeing and supporting the work of all existing opportunities for prayer – e.g. Prayer Line and Prayers for Persecuted Christians.

- ◇ Promote opportunities for innovative congregational involvement at specific times during the Christian calendar - e.g. Easter Labyrinth.

Bookings – a reminder

If you wish to book areas of our buildings for a meeting, event etc, please ensure that your first port of call is the church office. It is absolutely essential that our Administrator is the first to be asked about any bookings so that they can be entered in the diary and avoid a clash with any other organization.

Fabric Group volunteer work

Here are some of the things from on-going maintenance that have been undertaken by members of the Fabric Core Group in a three week period – railings painted, servery urn repaired, metal strips fitted to main hall and gallery door to repair damage, gutters cleaned, adjusting screws on glass doors fixed, likewise the halls entrance, Session Room emptied and prepared for a new carpet and then cleaned and furniture replaced, small safe resited, repairs made to main hall floor, new clock provided for small halls, servery door repaired, grass cut, tidying in rear garden, plumbing repairs, garden gate fixed, a multitude of old keys identified, re-labeled or discarded. These things are all over and above what is in the remit of the cleaner and church officer. You will realise that these largely unseen but willingly carried out tasks, is saving us a small fortune every month.

Boys Brigade

The new session of the 7th Arbroath B.B. will start on Thursday 4th of September.

Anchor Boys - Primary 1, 2, and 3
Contact the Officer-in-charge Sharon Jamieson on 431942

Junior Section - Primary 4, 5, and 6
Contact the Officer-in-charge Wilma Ewart on 876114

Company Section - Primary 7 upwards
Contact the Officer-in-charge Michael Clark on 437758

Anchor and Junior Section meet at 6 pm to 7.30 pm then company section from 7.45 pm to 9.30 pm.

We look forward to welcoming everybody back for another year. All section are open for new recruits.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

On the third Thursday of each month a group meets under the leadership of Sue Pritchard to share in a time a prayer for the Persecuted Church worldwide. In recent years, every passing month has brought more fresh horror and outrage to the fore and, in between the regular meetings, Sue faithfully highlights and networks specific points to the group which are not always covered in any kind of depth by the main news media.

What a privilege it was then to welcome back Sajida Iqbal from Noor (Light) Ministries in Akhtarabad and Renal Khurd in Pakistan for a brief week's stay in July and to hear a first hand account of the work that goes on in a land where Christians are a socially marginalised and persecuted minority.

Immediately on her return home from the UK in July 2013, Sajida was targeted by the Taliban who threatened to destroy her and the schools. How precious therefore were the funds raised by the St Andrew's Church family to provide doors for the classrooms which not only afforded a degree of privacy - the doors helped greatly with upgrading security on the sites. This year, the money raised (£485) by the folks of St Andrew's Church will be going

towards the provision of a photocopier with the balance going towards the purchase of desks and chairs for the ever-growing number of students moving up to high school.

Until now, the photocopying of study and exam papers has involved a staff member having to travel several kilometres by bus to the nearest town - usually to find that there is a prolonged power cut there - followed by a fruitless journey back to base empty-handed.

(The gift from a church in Northern Ireland will pay for the installation of solar panels so a future power source will be guaranteed. So this, combined with the above, represents a massive and practical step forward!)

That Noor Ministries and the Life Transforming Church achieve what "it says on the tin" is evidenced by the range of film clips and testimonies from young people and their families living a life of complete hopelessness and near-starvation - chappati with sugar or chappati with chilli being the daily diet for many - being gradually transformed to beautiful bright articulate young people with engaging smiles and a future they can look forward to - all down to the power of prayer! Prayer in action!

And the icing on the cake? Thanks to a recent previous visit by the Reverend Aftab Gohar to St Andrew's Church, Sajida was able to share some precious time with the Reverend Aftab and his wife in Grange-mouth.

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 7
9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service, with guest from Lunan Court Retirement Home
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 14
11 am - Sunday Service
4 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 21
11 am - Harvest Thanksgiving Celebration; main service followed by short celebration of Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 28
11 am - Worship Service, inc. Sunday Club Prizegiving
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 29
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - MESSY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

OCTOBER

Sunday 5
9.30 am - Traditional Service
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 12
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 19
11 am - Service of Holy Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship; including Celebration of Holy Communion

Sunday 26
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.

Appeal

St Andrew's Church can rightly be very pleased with the level of volunteering by its members. Most appeals are met by an immediate response, but there is one area where we have not had the same success.

We are becoming dangerously short of members for the cleaning teams. Could this in part be because folks think that heavy furniture has to be moved? **This is not the case.**

Team members meet once a month for around one and a half hours on one of the designated days, and the larger

the team the quicker the work is carried out.

Could you help us with this very necessary work in keeping our sanctuary looking at its best?

If so, please contact the church office.

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

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.

THE THREE “S”s in ISLAM

Media coverage continues to bombard our eyes and ears with pictures and words relating to the Muslim faith. As the aggression by ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq & Syria) mounts, three words are constantly brought to our notice: Shariah law, Shia and Sunni Islamic beliefs. What do these words mean?

SHARIA - If Islam is submission to the will of God, then sharia is the path by which it is enacted. This law covers all aspects of life and does not separate the secular from the religious sphere. It infringes many modern principles of human rights, religious freedom and equality of gender with inherent discrimination against women. In many Muslim countries child marriages are legal; a man is allowed to have up to 4 wives; some countries allow FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) to preserve a woman's chastity. A man can divorce his wife easily but a woman faces great obstacles if she wishes to divorce her husband. Women who are raped or who have husbands of another faith, can be flogged or stoned to death. Although there are differences in various schools of Islamic law as to the extent of the covering required, the Koran urges modesty in women's dress and commands them to cover themselves in public.

Hudud punishments - these are prescribed by sharia for offences defined as being against God himself. These can include, lashes, imprisonment, amputation of limbs or death. **Jihad** - Holy War, means defending Muslims and their territory from any forms of aggression. Islamic terrorist groups justify their atrocities by reference to this rule.

Halal products - pork and alcohol are forbidden to Muslims. Shariah says that animals must be killed by splitting the animal's throat and draining its blood. Stunning of animals before slaughter is forbidden. **Riba** - interest - many Islamists hold that any kind of interest is wrong and therefore do not want to participate in normal economic systems and demand separate Islamic financial products.

SHIA and SUNNI - The conflict between Shia and Sunni Muslims has a long and turbulent history. The split between Muslims originated after the death of Muhammad in a dispute over the succession to his leadership. When Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law, became caliph in 656, he was not accepted as the rightful heir and war broke out between his supporters and their opponents. Ali and his sons were killed but his followers the Shia Ali (the party of Ali) continued and became the Shia Muslims.

The vast majority of Muslims are Sunni who felt that the leadership of Islam should have been placed under the control of Muhammad's companions; 12 of whom were proven, capable leaders who were known as Caliphs. This group was originally led by Abu Bakr and they see themselves as orthodox, traditional Muslims. Their practices of prayer, pilgrimage and fasting differ from those of Shia Islam. The word “Sunni” comes from Ahl al-Sunna, which means “the people of the tradition.”

May this glimpse into beliefs other than our own, help us to understand more of present world conflicts (particularly those in Iraq and Syria) and encourage us to pray effectively for Christians who presently face terrible persecution by Sunni Muslim extremists.

Sue Pritchard

Summer Review

Below left : At the prizegiving we were joined by Stuart's puppets - or has Martin suddenly aged?! Below right : Prizes for everyone right down to the smallest.



Above : A good gathering of families attended the outing to Wellbank and stalwart Ray Reaney, as always, kept a ready supply of hamburgers on the go, assisted by Michael Marr. Below : Face painting proved very popular - and scary!



Above : The Havilah barbeque gathering
Below : Linda Hunter won the Great Bake-off



Above : The 2014 Glasgow Mission Team
Below : Iain Scott and Amy-Louise Ramsay

