

Embracing Technology For Mission

In previous editions of QUEST we've shared news of our exciting plans to embrace technology for the expanding of our mission. In particular, this concerns the use of hi-tech cameras and various other gizmos which will allow us to stream our services live to the internet.

The good news is that testing is now well underway and that final bug-fixing etc. is taking place, meaning that we're virtually at the point of going live. Indeed, by the time you're reading this our first online services might be available!

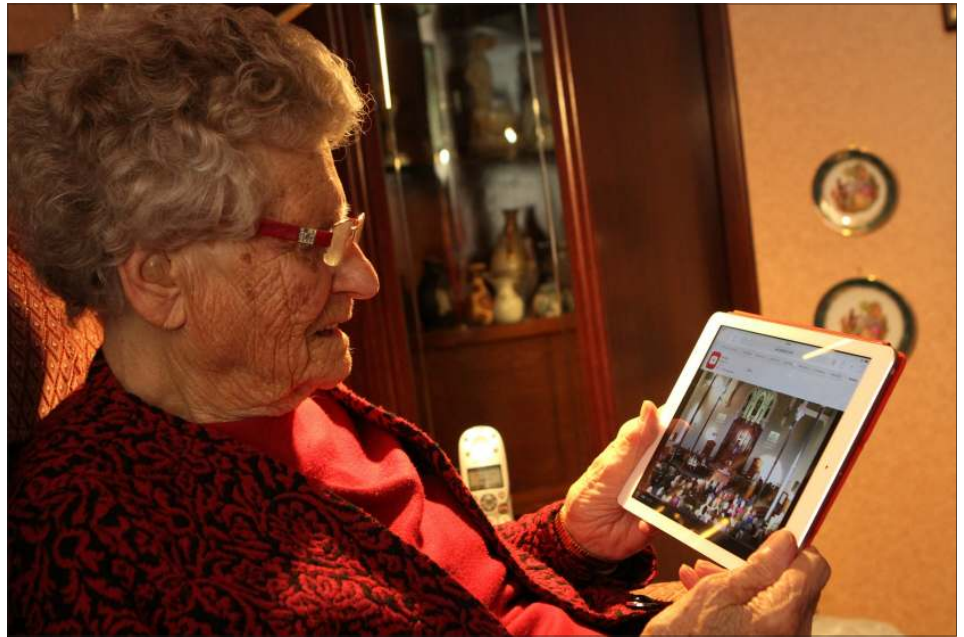
So for the first time, our weekly worship will be available to many who otherwise wouldn't be able to join us. That includes Mrs McIntosh, who is one hundred years old now and, though no longer able to join us in person, will share in our worship online. Isn't it great – at that wonderful milestone and being able to access worship! Well done to Mrs McIntosh for keeping up with the times and knowing how to operate computers and iPads!

It also includes Derek Ramage, one of our men who serves in the Royal Marines and who is currently serving down south. Derek will be able to join us on Sunday mornings. And it includes Leonie in Turkey and all of our folk who find themselves living away, or still local, but not able to come out on Sundays. The recording will also be available to watch during the week.

Another possibility will be for pastoral occasions to be streamed. Sometimes, at the time of a wedding or funeral for example, a family member is not able to travel to be there in person. Now, assuming they can get to a computer – or have a neighbour bring an iPad – they'll be able to share in the occasion.

And, perhaps most important of all, our prayer is that we'll begin to reach people who are never going to walk into our church – people who are distanced from the church for any number of reasons and people who have never been near a church.

All of this has involved a tremendous amount of work and to the three - Iain, Ian and Ken - we are hugely grateful. That they've been so willing to share their time and expertise is testimony to their commitment to the mission of the church.



Ann MacIntosh enjoys watching a trial recording of our service on her iPad.

Christmas 2014

As always, Christmas at St. Andrew's is shaping up to be a special time. Our theme is going to be, 'Joy has dawned upon the world.' There will be the two services on Christmas Eve – the 6.30pm one featuring the Nativity Play, ideal for the whole family – and the later one being the best way possible to usher in Christmas, with coffee and mince-pies from 10pm! On Christmas Day itself, all ages are welcome at our 10.30am service.

But of course, all of the services throughout December will take us on an Advent journey leading to Christmas. And there are various concerts to enjoy as well. As usual, the Arbroath Choral Society and the Male Voice Choir will perform on the Sunday evenings at the beginning of the month. And brand new this year, a special evening of music from Tearfund – featuring some of Scotland's best Christian singer-songwriters, including Steph McLeod, Yvonne Lyon and Alan McKinlay.

So whatever else your Christmas season involves - family festivities, parties and present-giving - make sure that you get yourself along to church.

CHURCH OFFICE : 431135

ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Hunter

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

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Iain Robertson : 877519

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Janis Clark : 878594

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LEADER

Tracey McLeod : 434088

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Karen Reaney : 434088

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Ray Reaney : 07803 235418

SUNDAY CLUB

Elaine Fair : 873238

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Eleanor Mands : 01382 477318

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Margaret McIntosh : 876993

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Judy Spink : 872395

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SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR

Norma Beattie : 873442

BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Linda Hunter : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

November 2014

Baptisms - Rosie, Millie, Jacob

Blessings - and Katie, family of John Anderson and Tracey Foreman

Weddings - None

Funerals - May Nicoll, Helen Spence

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 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 16th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th January (Word-Processed file)

Malawi Fundraising

Next Malawi Fundraiser:

Sunday 14th December – Soup Lunch.

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

Also has anyone any holdalls or cases that they no longer use or need? Please let us know if you are willing to donate them to Malawi.

Apology

Jane, Elaine and Lesley would like to apologise for the confusion over the October breakfast. We are so sorry that some of you turned up to find no one there to make the breakfast. This was due to more than one error and lack of communication. The breakfasts are on the second Sunday of each month in school term only. Therefore there are never any breakfasts in April, July or October. We sincerely hope to see our regulars again and would also welcome new faces. Once again, our sincere apologies.

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 – 3.00 pm - Mum and Me - K Marr (430505)

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

December 2014

Dear friends,

If there was to be a little strapline to describe Christmas, I'd propose, 'The Cradle and the Cross.' Much as I love all of the fun associated with Christmas, and all of the church and family traditions, as the years have gone by I've found myself less and less satisfied with a Christmas that stops at Bethlehem. Yes, we love the manger scene, the annual Nativity Play, the carols and the 'little town of Bethlehem.'

But all the while, as we celebrate Christ's coming, we need to bear in mind that he came to die – that his death was written in from his birth. So the joy of the birth of the child is always overshadowed by the knowledge that his cradle would in the end give way to the cross.

The prophet Isaiah and the Gospel of John both make it clear that this was the intention, from the outset. In other words, the cross wasn't a 'Plan B' - something that God came up with as an afterthought. Equally clear is that Jesus willingly gave up his life. To put it another way, Jesus wasn't dragged to the cross kicking and screaming! He chose the nails.

And all of that is intended from the beginning. That's why the joy of Christmas must always be tinged with a little sadness; it's tinsel and tears, a cradle and a cross. Of course this doesn't 'spoil' Christmas or put a dampener on it. Rather it makes it all the more magical and worthy of awe and wonder. God's love for us really does know no bounds.

This year, our chosen carol is 'Joy has dawned upon the world,' by Stuart Townend. It's a great carol because it refuses to stop at Bethlehem. As we sing it, let's reflect deeply on ALL that God has done for us and on how deep is his love for us. As a taster, here's a few of the verses.

Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for ev'ry nation

Gold, a King is born today
Incense, God is with us
Myrrh, His death will make a way
And by His blood He'll win us

What a Saviour, what a Friend
What a glorious myst'ry
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of hist'ry

Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary

Son of Adam, Son of heaven
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ, our mighty champion

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas season,

With love,

Martin and Elaine

martin.fair@sky.com

Bubblegum 'n' Fluff

Our Christmas event for Primary Sixes

This month we will have had our Bubblegum 'n' Fluff event. Writing this the week before we start the event, I am really encouraged as to how it has all come together, especially as we look ahead to welcoming around 150 Primary sixes to the event. Leading up to it there are a couple of things that have caused me to reflect on the whole experience.

The first is that we have been able to pull out all the resources that we were able to build up last year largely thanks to the generous donations of the folks in the congregation. The thing is though, it is not just physical resources that we have banked away – there is also the experience of having run the event already and having covered most eventualities. When we think of experiences, whether recent, a year ago, or even longer, nothing is wasted – especially in the Christian faith. Whether it is coming across

scribbled notes in your bible or recalling a previous chapter in our lives; these are all things that can bring us encouragement as we set out into new tasks.

The second point of reflection is the way in which we pass things on to other folks in the wider Church. Last year we had two ladies join us from St Columba's Church in Stirling. They came along to see how we ran the event with the intention of doing likewise at their own church. I got a lovely email the other week to say that they are all set to run their very first Bubblegum 'n' Fluff event. It's great to be an encouragement in this way.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thess 5:11

How might we continue to encourage one another in the different things we do, especially in this festive season?

Your Friend and Associate

Stuart Irvin

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Some Christians are against Christmas trees in church because they say it is a pagan custom. And many, especially in the Highlands, refuse even to have them in their homes. Are we wrong to have them in church?

Theophilus answers :

I don't think so. Here's the history of Christmas Trees. There is an ancient legend (it's retold in a children's book St. Boniface and the Little Fir Tree) that Boniface (AD675–754), an English missionary to Germany, chopped down a tree for firewood and in its place a little fir tree grew. Thereafter, so the story goes, at Christmas people honoured and decorated small fir trees.

Be that as it may, there is reliable evidence that by the 15th century devout Christians in Germany brought decorated fir trees into their homes at Christmas time. The earliest record of a fir tree in a church goes back to December 1521, when a decorated tree adorned St George's Church in the German town in Selestat. It was a reminder of Boniface, the missionary who had brought them Christian faith, and it was a new way (then) of celebrating Christ's birth.

Decorated with candles, sweets and tinsel, Christmas trees became very popular and were brought into most German homes by the mid-19th century. Prince Albert brought this lovely custom to our shores when he married Queen Victoria and the royal family adopted it. So enjoy your Christmas tree—it's a really ancient Christian custom—even though it's not in the Bible.

Put it like this: it's not un-Christian, and surely anything that brings joy at this time of the year is to be welcomed.

Guild

Wow! I think November might prove to have been the busiest month in our Guild Calendar.

On Monday 10th we were pleased to have the Condor Wives Choir entertain us. This was quite appropriate being so close to Remembrance Sunday. The ladies sang a lovely selection of songs and gave us an insight into the life of being a military wife, moving around and how being in the choir helped them make friends as there are choirs in bases throughout the country. We had visiting guilds on that night and I think everybody enjoyed the entertainment and fellowship.

As I write this article we are busily organising our main fund raising event: - High Teas to be served in the church halls. Guild Week was also in November and those of you at church on Sunday, 23rd November will have seen members take part in morning worship. Monday 24th was a normal Guild night when we had a speaker from one of our Guild Projects – Out of Africa into Malta. These nights are a great insight to the work the Women's Guild does throughout the world and where the money we raise goes. Monday, 8th December will be our Christmas Party (hurray).

Everyone in the Guild would like to thank members of the congregation and friends who have helped and supported us at our fund raising events throughout this session.

We wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas with family and friends, always remembering those, less fortunate than ourselves, in our prayers throughout this very busy and bustling season.

Dates for January 2015:

Monday 8th – Cedric & Catriona De Voil: Alternative Medicine

Monday 19th – Irene Hoar: Flying for Life

7th Arbroath B.B.

We have had a busy Autumn with all sections taking part in our Enrolment Service on 23rd of October. On Saturday 1st of November we held a Coffee Morning and raised £400 for our funds. Many thanks to all our church family who came along to support our work with the boys. Winner of Guess the Street where the treasure was - Doris Bowie, Guess the amount of sweets in a jar - Ava Moore, Bottle in a box - Margaret Neave. Unfortunately our fees for National and local Battalion far exceed what we made. Another fund raiser will be held in the New Year.

The Anchor and Junior Halloween Party was enjoyed by the boys. The winners were Anchor boys - 1st Daniel Webster - Bat Boy, 2nd Ben Garden - Zombie. Junior Winners - 1st Tom Christison - Joker, 2nd Lewis Stephenson - Slender Man. A good night was had by the company boys at the Movies.

On Remembrance Sunday our Company Colours were paraded in Church. It will be the 50th Anniversary of the presentation of our colours made possible by the kind donation of the late Provost R.R. Spink. This happened on the 29th of November, 1964. The Queen's colour was carried by Lt. Ewan Burness, the father of Ian Burness who recently returned home for his mother Isobel's memorial service in the Church last month. The Company colour was carried by Lt. Earl Matthew, founder and past Captain of the 7th Arbroath. How fitting that his grandson Keith Ewart should be carrying it 50 years later.

We now have only a couple of weeks till the end of our session before Christmas when the boys will be having a party on the 11th and our annual visit to the local Panto "Pirates" on 18th December. This is our last meeting of the year. We restart on Thursday 8th of January 2015.

May we wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Festive Season - from all at 7th Arbroath B.B.

Friends Club

At our November meeting everybody was welcomed by Noela Watson, president, and we had a talk by Anne Craig, Auchmithie, on the life of Annie Gilruth.

Annie was married to Andrew Gilruth and Anne described Annie's life and all she did for the village of Auchmithie. For example, she fought for the school, hall and development of the harbour.

The vote of thanks was given by Liz Smith and everyone then enjoyed a cup of tea and pancakes.

Ladies Breakfast

Sunday 14th December

The guest speaker at December's Ladies Breakfast will be Brian Anderson. Brian will share his experiences of cooking a 'Royal Breakfast'. For those of you have already heard Brian speak about some of the places he has cooked in, and those he has catered for, you will know that this is a breakfast not to be missed - and for those of you who haven't heard Brian talk, then come along on Sunday 14th December at 9.30 am and you will be in for a treat.

Tearfund Christmas Tour

The final of our autumn / winter 2014 special musical events features a number of Scotland's best singer songwriters and musicians.

Put together by Tearfund, among those performing will be Stef McLeod, Yvonne Lyon, Allan McKinlay and David Lyon.

From Ayr to Aberdeen and from Aberfeldy to Arbroath, the performers will be bringing us something of the Christmas spirit in music and song. At only £5 per ticket, this is the bargain ticket of the year! The concert begins at 7.30pm with doors opening at 7pm.

The proceeds from this tour will all go to support the work of Tearfund in the developing world – a perfect focus for the Christmas season.

Alpha

For many years now, we've been running Alpha, without doubt the best-known of the courses which offer an introduction to the Christian faith. And many of those who have come to our courses have benefited hugely from them – some by refreshing themselves in the things of the faith and others finding themselves encountering Jesus for the

first time.

The present group of attendees is very typical, made up as it is of some who have been in church for many years and others who are considering faith for the first time. To date, the discussions have been great – all kinds of questions and points of view – resulting in all of us finding out more about what it is to be a follower of Jesus.

Please pray that for all of the participants Alpha will be just what was needed.

Malawi Update

On Thursday 20th November, a small band of willing workers – joined by a team of marines from RM Condor – gave their day to the packing of the 40ft container that is now on its way to Malawi, crammed to its limits with all kinds of things which we had gathered in over the course of the last months (see photo on back page). So well done to the packing team and a big THANK YOU to everyone who gave and gathered items – everything from obsolete equip-

ment from the old Timmergreens school building to clothes and medicines and almost everything else you could imagine!

It helps us to understand the difference between our world and the developing world when items which are deemed 'to be dumped' in this country will be received 'as new' in Malawi.

And so our work goes on, as we continue to work out what it means to be faithful to the biblical imperative to bring good news to the poor.

Christian Hospitality

For some time, a number of our members have been making weekly trips to Angus College to spend time with the overseas students helping them to become more confident in conversational English. Of course, this is done on a purely voluntary basis and came about following a request from the leader of the ESOL course (who attends church in Broughty Ferry.) She reports that these contacts are making a big difference and that the students are really appreciating the opportunities. What a wonderfully relevant service to be offering in 21st Century Scotland.

Much more recently, the opportunity arose for us to extend this service by way of offering hospitality to some of these students and, where applicable, their families. This will mean that some of our members will invite the students to share dinner, at some point over the festive period. We're hopeful that relationships can be established and that that will make it easier for those who have come to live in our community to feel a greater sense of belonging.

This isn't just a good idea; it's an expression of Christian hospitality, something that both Old and New Testaments instruct us to extend. 'Thank you' to those of you who have already signed up to be involved. May God bless these initiatives.

LET'S MAKE IT A BUMPER YEAR FOR OUR USED STAMP COLLECTION!

Over the last few years, many of us will have noticed the gradual but significant reduction in mail bearing traditional postage stamps in favour of franking and other devices.

However, the Christmas season is the time when the humble (but now rather expensive) postage stamp still comes into its own. (Recently, one member who, like more than a few of us, can remember pre-decimalisation values, wished she had not been aware that a second class stamp now holds the same value as the former ten-bob

note!)

Collectively, used stamps play a vital role in raising much-needed cash shared among the Church of Scotland's World Mission, The Leprosy Mission, and Mercy Ships.

The current collection will be sorted and batched up and sent off early in the New Year.

It helps if donated stamps are trimmed leaving a margin of at least 0.5 cms / a quarter of an inch.

Thank you all in anticipation in the hope for a bumper stamp harvest with which to end 2014!

Clerk's Corner

Clean Carpets!

The carpet in the gallery and the colourful rugs used by our youngest children get a tremendous amount of wear in the constant use of the church. Recently it has become clear that they were in need of a thorough clean.

We have been very lucky because we had an offer from a member of one of the

groups which uses our premises on a weekly basis. He has now cleaned those carpets, free of charge, using an industrial cleaner with all the relevant attachments. The result was the removal of stains which had been defeating all our own considerable efforts. Indeed, this offer has been extended so that this cleaning can now be built into our regular maintenance.

If you would like to get the details of this company for yourself, please contact the office.

The Big Day Out 3

There will be much more information about this event in coming months but for now, we're simply asking that you put the date in your diary; the Presbytery of Angus will hold Big Day Out 3 on Saturday 9th May 2015.

As for the last two events, the setting will be Arbroath with activities split be-

tween our own buildings and those of Old and Abbey Church.

There is an excellent range of workshops and seminars already in place and the keynote speaker is to be the Very Rev Lorna Hood, former Moderator of the General Assembly.

So, as promised, more details to follow early next year. Watch this space!

Great news!

We are now officially recognised as an Eco-Congregation! Following much hard work, and an inspection visit from the national organisation, we were informed that we had 'passed' and could now be considered as being 'green!'

Environmental concern is thoroughly biblical, finding its origins in the book of Genesis where God appoints human beings

as 'stewards' over all creation. Of course, the need for such concern has become much more immediate in the last generation or so as the impact of global industrialisation has affected the planet so adversely.

Now it is up to us as individuals, and as a congregation, to ensure that we keep our eco-status. We'll do that by minimising waste, by using only such resources as we need and by being diligent about heating and lighting.

If we all do our part, our progress will be assured.

Boost Banana Buys

Bananas are the most popular fruit in the UK, so encouraging shoppers to choose Fairtrade branded bananas can give more farmers and plantation workers the opportunity to come into the Fairtrade community and work their way out of poverty. The Fairtrade label that you see stuck to banana skins in supermarkets is the best independent assurance that the bananas you buy have been grown by someone who has been paid a guaranteed minimum price designed to cover their costs of production, and an extra amount of money (the Fairtrade premium) to invest in improving their farm and community in response to local needs.

However, we can only choose Fairtrade bananas if our local supermarkets stock them. There are bitter banana price battles raging between the UK's biggest supermarkets, including Asda and Tesco. These two are the biggest banana sellers in the UK, supplying nearly half of the bananas we purchase. However, less than 10% of their bananas are sold on Fairtrade terms. Here in Arbroath, Tesco stock Fairtrade bananas most of the time, but the bulk of their stock is not Fairtrade. Asda doesn't stock Fairtrade bananas at all.

Both these retailers are currently negotiating their banana contracts. By acting quickly, we Fairtrade supporters have the chance to convince them to switch all their bananas to Fairtrade and help thousands of banana farmers and workers worldwide. Do your bit as a member of our Fairtrade church – send a message to our local Tesco and Asda, telling them that we want them to offer us 100% Fairtrade bananas. You can do this in less than a minute online at fair-trade.org.uk/bananas, by phoning the stores (Tesco 0345 6719349, Asda 01241 442500) or visit the stores and ask to speak to the duty manager.

Every voice that speaks up makes a difference – make sure you're one of them!

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

Sunday 7

9.30 am - Traditional Service;
2nd Sunday in Advent
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship (in
Community Spirit)

Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service;
3rd Sunday in Advent
4 pm - SWEATY CHURCH
6.30 pm - Evening Worship (in
Community Spirit)

Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service;
4th Sunday in Advent
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Wednesday 24

6.30 pm - Nativity and
Christingle Service
11.15 pm - Traditional
Watchnight Service

Thursday 25

10.30 am - Christmas Day
Family Service

Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Service of
Memorial and Thanksgiving
(in place of the usual
evening service)

JANUARY

Sunday 4

9.30 am - Traditional Service;
first of 2015
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

11 am - Worship Service
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.**

Remembrance 2014

Many of us, in years to come, will remember with particular clarity our Remembrance Service of 9th November 2014. As we were all very well aware, it was the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1 and most certainly that lent an added poignancy and sombreness to our proceedings. That we had uniformed representation from RM Condon, from the local lifeboat crew and from the Boys Brigade was a bonus – as was the wonderful contribution of Una Stewart who recited a poem ‘My War’ that she had composed especially for the occasion. For your further reflection, the poem is printed below.

And on top of all that, Jane played evocative wartime music and the members of the Flower Club surpassed themselves with the simple yet beautiful pieces that they had prepared.

It is important that we continue to do our remembering, and that churches give a lead to the community in this. It’s safe to say that we did our bit.

My War (1939-45)

Fifteen

So it’s happened,
Just as we had dreaded
We are at War!
Gas-masks, black-outs,
Fire-watching
First-aid classes

Just carry on as usual
In the air raid shelter

Sixteen

Younger ones have all gone
To safety we all hope
Rolling bandages
Gathering sphagnum moss
Knitting sea-boot stockings
Collecting meagre rations
But – carry on as usual
In the air raid shelter!

Seventeen

Bombers overhead
Droning every night
Coming nearer and nearer
Bombs falling crump, crump!
Hoping we don’t get hit
The candles flicker and smoke
But carry-on as usual
In the dripping, dank shelter!

Eighteen

Exams all passed
What to do now?
What does that poster say?
Do your bit for Britain!
Join the Women’s Land Army!
Music and varsity will have to wait
So carry on as usual
Till we get rid of air raid shelters

WE ARE FAMILY, WE ARE ONE...

Barnabas fund are very grateful for the over £200 given to them by you all on the Persecuted Church Sunday of early December. Also, for signatures received earlier concerning the protection, humanitarian asylum, and provision of assistance to fleeing refugees.

Just a word about overseas Christians’ situation around this time of year. Many of you will be familiar with Bob Geldof’s Band Aid song: “Do they know it’s Christmas?” Unfortunately many terrorist organisations do know and step up their murderous activities. In 2012, dozens of Nigerian Christians were killed in attacks on churches and raids in homes. In Southern Sudan, Sudanese forces carried out bombing attacks between the 18th and 26th December. On the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar, a church leader was shot by two assailants on Christmas day.

Although this attack was 2 months before Christmas, we

heard with horror of the incident at All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan, when 2 suicide bombers blew themselves up outside the church as the worshippers came out to greet each other. 85 people were killed and around 130 wounded. Perhaps some of you will remember the visit of Aftab, the minister at Grangemouth, who visited us and showed pictures of the wounded, including members of his own family.

Yes, we will rejoice in our Saviour’s birth but let’s share thoughts and prayers for those who need our God’s protection and provision. Some are in prison, some are hungry, some need shelter, others are grieving the loss of family members, many have lost all their possessions. The angel told the shepherds that the “good tidings of great joy, shall be to all people” May we help to make this a reality in the lives of the “all people” but particularly those whose faith in Jesus makes them children of God and thus part of our spiritual family.

Great Guide Opportunity!

Ten Guides and two leaders from Girlguiding Arbroath & Montrose, including Phoebe Hill & Kally Smith from the St Andrew’s Church congregation, are travelling to Japan in August 2015 to take part in the Sai-No-Kuni Girl Scouts International Camp with Girl Scouts & Guides from Japan and other countries throughout the world.

During the trip we will visit Tokyo and Hiroshima, travelling between the two places by Bullet Train, before heading to camp at the Togakushi Girl Scouts Centre in Nagano Prefecture. After camp we will enjoy some home hospitality with a Japanese family.

This is a fantastic opportunity for the girls to widen their horizons and immerse themselves into another culture, whilst gaining independence!

To help with the cost of the trip we have started a fund-raising drive to raise as much money as we can towards the overall trip cost of £25,000 for all 12 of us! As part of this we are holding a Christmas coffee morning in St Andrews Church Hall on Saturday, 13th December with all the usual stalls.

All support gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you there!

Kind regards
Fiona Dalziel

Graham Kendrick & Tony Campolo

Rarely can our church have looked so spectacular as it did for the occasion of the 'Night To Remember' event featuring Graham Kendrick and Tony Campolo. The stage setup illustrated perfectly just what can be done with the sensitive and creative use of lighting and other special effects.

Graham Kendrick has been recording Christian music and leading worship for over forty years now but he has lost none of his spark or enthusiasm. Indeed, like a good wine, he has got better with age! He shared with us some of the best-loved songs from his back catalogue – favourites like 'Shine, Jesus, shine,' 'Meekness and Majesty' and 'The Servant King.' But so too he sang 'story songs' which spoke of the great events of the life and passion of Jesus.

And what of Tony Campolo? Well Tony continues to be a communicator par excellence! Of course, his style is very much the American one – not surprisingly given that he comes from Philadelphia! – but his ability to amuse, chal-



lenge and cause us to reflect on our lives in relation to the world's poor is unrivalled.

We continue to pray that God would bless these men of faith in their respective ministries and that much good would come from their servant-heartedness.



Members of RM Condor helping to load the Malawi container / Our Christmas Fayre in Community Spirit was very successful



Remembrance Sunday

Representatives of RM Condor, Boys Brigade and Lifeboat crew were in attendance, and a wreath was laid at the table. Congregation members were able to see many mementos, some of which are shown here in our two pictures.

