



Moderator Visits St Andrew's Church

In what has been a hugely busy year for him, we were delighted that John Chalmers managed to fit in a visit to St. Andrew's Church as part of his moderatorial year. Having been in Nigeria and South Sudan, and in Rome for an audience with the Pope in the weeks beforehand, Arbroath was somewhat less dramatic – but the Moderator enjoyed his time with us enormously.

And few were the members of the congregation who were not moved by John's preaching and by his celebration of Holy Communion. He spoke from John's Gospel concerning the arrest and trial of Jesus, a theme that was brought together beautifully in the breaking of the bread.

The day was rounded off with John presenting the congregation with one of his trademark 'Doves of Peace.' John has, throughout his year as Moderator, been struck by the brokenness of the world and by the suffering endured by so many innocent victims caught up in the crossfire between warring nations and communities. By way of a symbol of hope, John commissioned the making of a number of these doves. One went to Prime Minister, David Cameron, one went to Pope Francis and, among other places, one now resides at St Andrew's Church, Arbroath.

These doves are made out of glass, the glass having been gathered up from bombed-out buildings across the Holy Land. How wonderful that something beautiful could come from such tragedy.

Let us cherish 'our' dove, not just as a reminder of John's visit but as an inspiration to us to work for peace at every turn. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers; they will be called children of God.'



The Tater Family

Most of us will remember the talk that Martin gave as he described what it is to be joined together with Jesus and with one another, under the heading, 'I am the vine and you are the branches.' He introduced us to the 'Tater Family', a family of specially-designed potato heads, each with its own characteristic. And most of these Taters, we really don't need around our church!

There was, for example, 'Dictator,' who always wants to get his own way and 'Agitator' who stirs up trouble at every opportunity. After a long list of unhelpful members of the family, Martin concluded with Sweet Tater – the model for all of us to aspire to.

The question is: what kind of family member are you? Some are no more than 'Spectators,' who sit watching but are rarely ever willing to get involved. Some are 'Commentators,' always with something to say but, again, unlikely to actually do anything!

When it comes to the family of St. Andrew's Church, what kind of member will you be?

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

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 SUPPORT

WORKER

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

Isobel Prouse : 876236

BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Linda Hunter : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

March 2015

Baptisms - None

Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - No St Andrew's members

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY EDITION

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

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

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

Friday 17th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 21st April (Word-Processed file)

Malawi Fundraising

Saturday 18th April – **Ceilidh** with players of AFC at Meadowbank.

Saturday 25th April – **Bag pack** at Morrisons – Anyone able to backpack please speak to Sheila.

Sunday 10th May – **Soup Lunch**

Friday 15th May – **Murder Mystery** – Anyone willing to help with acting please speak to Sheila.

Saturday 18th July – **Afternoon Tea and Wedding Dress Display** – Anyone with a wedding dress that they would be willing to display please speak to Linda Hunter.

August – **Family Fun Day**

Sunday 13th September – **Soup Lunch**

Friday 23rd October – **Beetle Drive**

Sunday 8th November – **Soup Lunch**

Friday 20th November – **Thanksgiving Meal**

Sunday 13th December – **Soup Lunch**

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

April 2015

Dear friends,

Doubtless you find myself and Stuart absolutely riveting as you listen to our dulcet tones, Sunday by Sunday – unthinkable that your minds might be caused to wander for even a moment!!

True, as this doubtless is, there's nothing like a visitor from time to time to make us all sit up and listen! Certainly, we enjoyed the recent visit of John Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland. John's preaching was thoroughly inspirational. And, we all enjoy a change from time to time.

We're delighted therefore to announce that during the month of May, we're going to be welcoming visitors on two Sundays. Much more than 'a change from the usual,' these promise to be special Sundays indeed.

On Sunday 10th May, both in the morning and in the evening, our guests will be John and Kirsty Wilson. Kirsty, we'll be meeting for the first time. She works for a project aimed at tackling human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of young girls. John, on the other hand, is no stranger to St. Andrew's. He first came to us as an addict, attending our Havilah Project. His journey from there was a far from easy one. But, by the grace of God, he is now completely transformed – free from addiction, committed in his Christian faith, working for a Christian organisation and, married to Kirsty!

Here's a Sunday you'll not want to miss as together we share in this story of hope, redemption and transformation.

Then on 31st May, we'll be welcoming Mark Fleming, Scottish Director of Sports Chaplaincy UK. Mark is just about the most enthusiastic person you'll ever meet! His passion for sharing faith is obvious and, almost single-handedly, he has built up a network of chaplains serving sports clubs across the country, at a professional and amateur level. I serve as Chaplain to Arbroath FC as part of this team.

But this isn't a Sunday solely for sports fans; far from it. It will be a day when together we focus on what it is to make the most of every opportunity to share our faith. You'll love Mark's approach and if you don't find yourself thoroughly enthused and inspired by this man's faith, you probably never will be!

Two Sundays in May, then, that you'll want to circle in your diary right now. Let's make sure the Church is full so that John and Kirsty and Mark get the best possible St. Andrew's Church welcome!

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family

martin.fair@sky.com

Monday Morning

Whenever I prepare a sermon I always try and think about Monday morning. I make a point of asking myself what difference it makes after we've been altogether on the Sunday. What is Monday like when people get on with their week?

A few weeks back in one of my sermons we were looking at Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17. The theme was 'Together to Gather'. What did Monday bring? Monday saw a raft of people from church round at one of our member's house helping them get ready to move house. Togetherness was in action. The Friday that followed would go on to see the start of the Easter Code where churches from across Arbroath were working together to share the Easter Message with all the Primary 7s in our local schools. Togetherness would again be in action.

These things would have happened even if I hadn't preached that sermon, but I wish I could have had pictures of

them in advance to help illustrate my sermon better!

It warms my heart when we see Christians working together. Whether this is within our own church and, especially, across different churches and denominations, it is great to see. It is great also for others to see. In his prayer Jesus would say "*I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you*"

How often do we think about those who will believe? When we are alongside each other; in worship on a Sunday; house moving on a Monday or welcoming Primary 7s to a school event on a Friday do we think about those who will believe? Do we think about those who will gather because they see the way in which we are together? Perhaps you might like to use these questions to inform your prayers over the next season.

God Bless from your friend and Associate

Stuart

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me.' (John 14:1-14) Does this mean that only Christian believers will be in heaven?

Theophilus answers :

There was a time when no one questioned Jesus' saying that he was the only way to God. But today we not only live in a 'global village' but many of us have friends of different ethnic backgrounds who are sincere Hindus, Buddhists or Muslims. This change in society has given rise to a new understanding of the word 'truth'. (This thinking has the technical term of 'relativism'.)

Many people now question whether there is any absolute truth. They say that truth is simply what you believe. So if someone has been brought up to be a Hindu, that person believes Hinduism is true--that is 'truth' for them. Similarly, those raised as Buddhists or Muslims hold that what they

believe is 'the truth'. Think about it: some of those sincerely held 'truths' could be, and indeed most certainly are, completely contradictory. Islamists in the so-called Islamic State may well believe they are right in their ruthless beheading of infidels. But their 'truths' cannot be reconciled with other 'truths'; clearly these truths cannot stand comfortably side by side.

The more deeply we explore 'relativism', the **more** evident it becomes that it leads us into a mental morass of contradictions. Until, exasperated, we say with Pontius Pilate, 'What is truth?' Jesus had said just to him, 'For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world--to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.' (John 18:37-38)

As far as the question goes, 'Will only Christians be in heaven?' I agree with the comment of the late Archbishop Ramsay, 'When we get to heaven I suspect we will not only be surprised at who *is* there, but we may also be even more surprised at who *is not* there!' As Abraham said in his prayer to God, 'Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' (Genesis 18:25)

Guild

By the time you read this the clocks will have gone forward an hour and the days will be getting longer. Already we have been having some lovely days – as I write this article the sky is blue and the sun is shining! Let's hope this is a sample of what is to come in the summer.

Our Guild Programme is almost complete for this session. The last meeting, before I wrote this article, was a joint meeting with West Kirk Guild. We had as our guest speaker, Emma Doig, who gave us an interesting insight into the work of the Heart for Art Projects. This is an organisation working with people with dementia, encouraging them to express themselves through art. It was amazing to see some of the art work being produced. There are a number of such groups throughout Scotland. The closest one to us is in Broughty Ferry and many of their volunteers come from Dundee Art College. I think everyone agreed that the

joint meeting was a great success.

Our last scheduled meeting is on Monday, 13th April at 7.30pm and starts with our AGM, when we will deal with the necessary business to end the session and also prepare for our next session. After the work comes the rewards – we hope to have some nice eats and fun and fellowship to end the session. Looking forward to seeing everyone then.

It has been a very busy year for the Guild. We still have one more fund raising date in our calendar: Saturday 25th April when we will have our Soup and Pudding Lunch. Tickets will be on sale soon. Please come along if you can. We have some great cooks in our Guild!

Thanking all our members who come along each week (sometimes in not so nice weather) making our Guild a welcoming place where we enjoy our time together.

Always remembering our Guild Motto "Whose we are and whom we serve".

Volunteering Vocations

As I write this, I'm thinking about the very early start I'll be making tomorrow morning – 06.37 train to Edinburgh! Talk about a rude awakening!

But my hope is that it will prove to be a thoroughly worthwhile journey. I'm going to be part of a team which will spend the day interviewing young people who have applied to The Church of Scotland's brand new Volunteering Vocations programme. This is essentially a gap year opportunity for young men and women who would like to spend some time considering what their futures might hold, and whether or not a call to Christian ministry might be part of that.

The exciting news is that The Church of Scotland has decided to make St. Andrew's, Arbroath one of the two sites for this pilot year of the new programme (the other one is in Glasgow.) They have recognised that our congregation might well offer an ideal opportunity for young people to immerse themselves in the ministry and mission of the church, to see firsthand if it's something that they'd like to

pursue. All going well, this will be a programme which will become established and which will see a steady stream of young Christian men and women coming to share a year with us. Beyond that, the hope is that it will lead to an increase in the number of young people coming forward to offer themselves as ministers.

Practically speaking, the national Church will fund this programme, meaning that it will not impinge on our finances. We are presently working with Angus Council to secure a property in which the young people will live. If everything falls into place as is hoped, the programme will begin at the start of September, at which time we will welcome up to three of the applicants, the others being dispatched to Glasgow.

Isn't this exciting! What a wonderful opportunity for us – to benefit from the input of these young people and to be blessed by having them around. But beyond that, what a privilege that we might get to play a part in the formation of these young people and in helping them to discern God's call upon their lives.

Martin

Clerk's Corner

Church of Scotland Information from The Stewardship and Finance Department

Arbroath St Andrew's: The total contribution to Ministries and Mission for 2015 is £93,023

The Ministries part – 86%. £80,000 of our total contribution goes towards the cost of providing over 1,000 ministers (which includes Martin) and other parish workers. This contribution also assists with the costs of recruitment and training. The 2014 cost of a parish minister at the top end of the stipend scale is £40,411 (stipend plus the employer's

national insurance and pension contributions). As our contribution is above this figure, we are meeting the full cost of our minister and supporting other congregations.

The Mission part – 14%. £13,023 of our total contribution will be used to support the church's work in: resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach; providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people in need; accompanying partners around the world on our shared missionary journey; contributing to the Church's opinion in public debate and on issues affecting Scotland and the World; providing central day-to-day service work in administrative, financial and legal matters; and in planning the General Assembly and ensuring the Moderator represents the Church.

Holiday Club

By the time you read this, the chances are that our Holiday Club will be about to start, or will have already started. Every year, we can't wait for the club to come around, and lots of children are feeling exactly the same thing!

A big 'thank you' to all of you who have done your bit in terms of gathering in resources. We were concerned that asking for five hundred empty milk cartons and one hundred shoe boxes might have been a step too far. We should have known better! You never let us down. In the end, we gathered more than enough – and all of the other bits and pieces as well. 'Thank you,' too, to those who were unable to help with these things but were kind enough to make financial gifts. It really is gratifying to see the congregation rallying together in this way.

Watch for a full report on the club in next month's QUEST.

Big Day Out 3

The Presbytery of Angus, of which we are a part, is delighted to announce the third Big Day Out, to take place on Saturday 9th May, in our own church and in Old & Abbey Church, as before. These have proved to be super occasions with inspirational speakers and a range of educational, stimulating seminars to choose from.

Opening worship will take place in our own church and the keynote address will be given by the Very Rev. Lorna Hood, immediate past Moderator of the Church of Scotland. Lorna never misses the mark and with a combination of humour and hard-hitting messages she is someone that every will benefit from hearing. The seminar programme is being published shortly but features church leaders and ministers from across Scotland, each of whom will bring a different perspective on the stepping out in faith theme.

Yet another 'put it in your diary' upcoming event!

7th Arbroath B.B.

It is now just a couple of weeks until the Easter Break and then it will be time to arrange our end of session events.

Over the winter months the boys in all sections have been working hard and having fun in all the achievements we have set them to do. There are a few happy mothers of Junior section boys who undertook household chores for their badge work!

On Thursday 12th of March we had a visit from Mr Peter Donald from Gideon International who presented New Testament Bibles to the Officers and Boys of Junior and Company section. They are lovely books with the B.B. Badge on the front cover. All B.B. companies in the UK were to receive these books.

When we come back after the Easter break we will be meeting at the Lifeboat Shed to have a look around and find out about our local Lifeboat Station.

This is the year of our sponsored event instead of a trip away. We will be doing a walk round Crombie Park followed by burgers and games if weather permits. This will take place on Saturday 16th of May from 12pm.

The Officers and boys would like to thank the members of the congregation who have supported us financially during this past year. Your thoughts for us have been greatly appreciated. Our end of year Display Night and Awards will be on 21st Of May at 7pm.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

(See back page for pictures.)

Heart and Soul 2015

Once more, we'll be running a bus to Heart & Soul, the Church of Scotland's celebration day in Edinburgh. As always to coincide with the General Assembly, this year's event is happening on Sunday afternoon, 17th May.

To allow for getting there in time for the start, our own morning service will begin at an earlier time on that day and there will be no evening worship service.

The event is free of charge but obviously there will be a charge for the bus (£8.) Booking will open after Easter.

Church at Home

There have been several pieces in QUEST in recent months concerning our new media ministry. We've been streaming our services on the internet for just over three months now and indications continue to be very positive – concerning how much people are appreciating the service and in terms of how many people are using it. Numbers vary from week to week but usually we're seeing over one hundred households watching the service on 'catch-up' and an average of seventy-five watching live. Wow! That has to be seen as an amazing response, far surpassing our initial expectations.

While we're delighted to hear about people watching from afar, and about some people watching our services who would never

ordinarily think about attending church, it's a delight to us all that many of our viewers are our own members who, for whatever reason, have been unable to attend. In some cases that's because of serious illness; in other cases it's about people now being able to join us online who through age and infirmity have had to drop away from regular attendance. Isn't it great that new technology is being employed to allow our members to be included!

Anyone can enjoy the new service. All you need is to be able to link to the internet using broadband through a smart TV, computer or laptop, or a tablet (iPad, Hudl etc.) or smart phone.

And, of course, the service is open to folks who have no connection with our, or any, congregation. Why not point it out to a friend, neighbour or colleague? Might it be a first step for someone who is some distance away?

Playing Your Part

(Written on the evening before the launch of Easter Code 2015.)

This evening, a group of people gathered in the sanctuary to get things ready for Easter Code. Amongst them, a primary seven boy, a seventeen year-old, several folks in their seventies and lots of people in between! And though there was a lot to be done, the work was completed quickly because such a great team was present to do it.

It's great when people play their part.

A different set of people, joining together with members from other congregations, will come together to actually run Easter Code - a

big undertaking, with around 280 children taking part, spread over four days. Stuart has planned the event and without his input, it wouldn't be happening. But beyond that, it's volunteer-led and without volunteers there would be no Easter Code.

It's great when people play their part.

A different set of people again have been praying for Easter Code for months - some privately and others at the weekly Thursday evening prayer gathering. Those who are going to be running the event are hugely encouraged that a 'cloak of prayer' has been thrown over the event. We're grateful to have a team of dedicated 'people of prayer' meeting faithfully, week by week.

It's great when people play their part.

Some Eco-food For Thought

Here's a new take on the beatitudes - some eco-food for thought and reflection from John Polhill, a member of the Iona Community:

Blessed are those who use low-energy light bulbs, for theirs is the light of God's wisdom.

Blessed are those who travel by train, for their lives are on God's track.

Blessed are those who use a car with low fuel consumption, for they are in God's fast lane.

Blessed are those who insulate their homes, for theirs is the warmth of God's love.

Blessed are you when you put yourselves out to use energy from renewable resources, for you have kindled the flame of the future.

The Things Children Say

Casey asked her Sunday school teacher a question: "If the people of Israel are Israelites, and the people of Canaan are Canaanites, are the people of Paris called Parasites?"

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him, "How do you expect to get into Heaven?" The boy thought it over and said, "Well, I'll just keep running in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Jimmy, come in or stay out!'"

LOOKING AHEAD

APRIL

Maundy Thursday 2
7pm Worship with
Communion

Good Friday 3
7pm Reflective Worship

Sunday 5
8 am - Easter Sunrise Service
11 am - Easter Family Celebration,
with all-age Communion
6.30 pm - Easter Evening
Worship

Sunday 12
11 am - Worship Service
(with Holiday Club Finale)
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 19
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 26
11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - **MESSY CHURCH**
6.30 pm - Evening Worship in
Community Spirit

MAY

Sunday 3
9.30am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 10
11 am - Worship Service with
special guests
John and Kirsty Wilson
6.30 pm - Evening Worship
with
John and Kirsty Wilson

Sunday 17
10.30 am - Worship Service;
Early start to allow for bus
departure to 'Heart and Soul'
6.30 pm - **No** Evening Worship

Sunday 24
11 am - Pentecost Worship
Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship -
Pentecost Special

Sunday 31
11 am - Worship Service, with
special guest, Mark Fleming
(Sports Chaplaincy UK)
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.**

100,000 The Moderator's Member Challenge

The Moderator, John Chalmers, has challenged the Church to attract 100,000 new members in the next ten years. That's 10,000 each year which sounds like an enormous number. Then you remind yourself that there are

1,000 congregations within the Church of Scotland and so actually the requirement is only for 10 new members per congregation for each of the next ten years.

Suddenly it sounds much more manageable! Surely it's possible!

You'll be hearing more about this, for sure, but for now let the idea play in your imagination. Ask yourself, how would a congregation like ours go about attracting 10 new members in this coming year?

The Moderator's Munro Challenge

As well as the member challenge, John Chalmers, Moderator, is supporting Christian Aid's '70 Munros Challenge.' Here's what Christian Aid has to say:

'In 2015 we turn 70. That's 70 years of walking with our partners in solidarity; 70 years of struggle to overcome poverty; 70 years of believing that the mountains of inequality, corruption and injustice can be moved.'

On this, the 70th anniversary of the founding of Chris-

tian Aid, then, we're being invited to climb 70 Munros – not on our own but as part of the whole campaign! Though there are dates throughout the year, our Moderator is trying to encourage members of the Church of Scotland to climb all 70 of the nominated Munros on the same day. What a great idea and a great challenge!

The date in question is Saturday 2nd May. The Moderator, and Moderator of the Youth Assembly, will be climbing Ben Lomond. We, as St. Andrew's Church, have signed up to take part but are still to decide which Munro(s) we'll be tackling. If you are interested in joining our team, please speak to Martin by the middle of April so that we can finalise our plans.

The Moderator's Golf Challenge

Our present Moderator, John Chalmers, is something of a golf nut! Much as he's enjoyed his year as Moderator, he'll be looking forward to the General Assembly in May, which will mark the end of his term, so that he can get back on to the golf course on a more regular basis!

It's no surprise then that John has instigated a Golf Challenge Day – and no surprise that he's combining the golf with fund-raising for Crossreach, the Church of Scotland's Social Care wing and one of John's favourite charities.

The good news is that St. Andrew's Church will be represented at the Golf Challenge Day. With our minister driving the team onwards, victory is assured!

Youth Representative

Though our minister attends the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland every four years, and an elder from our Kirk Session attends every four years in-between, we're delighted that for the first time in many years, one of our young adults is going to the General Assembly as a Youth Rep. For quite a few years now, young people have been part of the GA and their role has become increasingly valued. So to have one of 'our own' being part of that is hugely encouraging.

The person in question is Adele Ramsay. Adele has nearly completed her time at Edinburgh University and so the timing for her is perfect. The Presbytery of Angus, as with every Presbytery, gets to nominate one rep. and they

were delighted with Adele's well put-together application.

But this will be no holiday week! On the contrary, the youth representatives work harder than almost any of the adults who attend. They have a number of planning sessions and then every evening, they prepare for the next day's business by going over all of the lengthy reports in detail.

So as well as what Adele is able to contribute, this experience will be an excellent one in terms of immersing her into the life of the Church – giving her real insight into the debates taking place, the issues causing concern and, most importantly, the direction in which the church is moving as it seeks to become more mission-focussed.

Watch out for a report from Adele about her General Assembly experience in a future edition of QUEST.

A BUMPER HARVEST Of stamps, that is!

Over the recent winter months, just over 3 kilos (7lbs) of donated stamps have been trimmed, sorted into categories, and shared between Leprosy Mission, Mercy Ships, and the Church of Scotland's World Mission - a massive increase on donations made in the previous two years since the project was set up.

Then, in mid-March, just as one thought that the project

would free-wheel gently through the year until the next Christmas peak, came an unexpected gift 7 kilos (15lbs +) stamps from anonymous donors. It looks like 2015 will be a record breaker!

Thanks too to all those who have so generously donated their postcard collections (some obviously amassed over a lifetime) to raise funds for Leprosy Mission.

And a big thank you to Margot (C) for transporting boxes of stamps and postcards to Leprosy Mission's HQ in Stirling, thus saving considerably on postage costs.

Pat Clegg



Members of the Boys Brigade received a special Gideon bible from Mr Peter Donald of Gideon International



During the 'I am' series of sermons, a vine was created

Martin's family of 'Taters'

Jill Finlayson and Lucy Mineard help lead our singing

Some members of our Youth Group enjoy a time out at the West Links

