



## Ministry Team Changes

At this time last year, our long-term Youth Worker, Sheila Dunphy, announced her retirement from the role and stopped receiving a salary at that time. She has continued to work with our young people in the year since, but all the while preparing the ground for her full stepping down. That time has now come and by the time you're reading this, Sheila will have hung up her youth work gloves for good. That said, there's no doubt that she will continue to have the best interests of young people close to her heart. Once a youth worker, always a youth worker!



We could hardly begin to document the extent of Sheila's work. She has never given anything less than everything she has and there is a generation of young people who will testify to Sheila's witness as being important in their respective faith journeys. (Sheila will continue to give a lead to the Malawi Project Team which oversees our ongoing work in Malawi.)

At the same time, Kim Marr is stepping down from paid employment as our Pastoral Care Organiser. Kim's role has evolved through the years and more recently, her efforts have been chiefly directed to the establishing and successful running of our 'Mum n Me' programme. That it has become such a success is in no small part down to Kim's professionalism and commitment. Kim will continue to lead that piece of our work while we, as a congregation, develop new ways of offering pastoral care across the whole congregation. Al-

ready, the Kirk Session has given attention to that very matter.

Nothing stays the same forever. Here we are saying farewell to two individuals who have brought so much to the Ministry Team throughout the last chapter of our story. We thank Sheila and Kim for all their dedicated work and pray God's blessing upon their future service.



And, we look forward to the beginning of a new chapter in our work among children, families and young people.

After due process, it is anticipated that our very own Adele Ramsay will assume these responsibilities, beginning in a part-time capacity. Having completed her degree in Youth and Community Work from Edinburgh University, Adele is rarin' to go! Having come to Christian faith within St Andrew's Church – following a Holiday Club – she has matured into a fine, young Christian woman. Now, we look forward to offering all possible support when she takes up this new challenge.



## Easter 2015

Along with Christmas, Easter is, of course, the key festival in the Christian calendar. As always, we ensured that there was a range of worship opportunities to allow people to experience all of the highs and lows of the last fateful week of Jesus' earthly life.

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we shared very powerful worship experiences, with the emphasis being on stillness, reflection and participation rather than on words. Worshippers left afterwards having had the sense of being with the disciples as they spent these last hours with Jesus.

On Easter morning, we began with a shared service at the Abbey. Around one hundred worshippers gathered at 8am, with the service being led by Dolly Purnell, minister at Old & Abbey Church, Dave Webster, pastor at Arbroath Town Mission and, of course, our own minister. The service was followed by breakfast in our halls.

The 11am service saw our sanctuary being packed almost to capacity, with extra chairs having to be brought forward in the minutes leading up to the start of the service. What a joy, in the climax to the

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**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**

**April 2015**

**Baptisms** - Kiannah Simmers, daughter of Michelle and Stephen

**Blessings** - None

**Weddings** - None

**Funerals** - Mrs Mary Huggins

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**JUNE 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 22nd May (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 26th May (Word-Processed file)

**Malawi Fundraising**

Sunday 10th May – **Soup Lunch**

Friday 15th May – **Murder Mystery** –

Anyone willing to help with acting please speak to Sheila. Tickets £12 which includes a 3 course meal.

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.

**Thank You**

I would like to express my grateful thanks to everyone who has helped me to move house – it was a long and tough job, but with all your kind help I have made it!

I would like to specially thank Martin and Stuart for all their help.

Thank you for all the cards, well wishes and for remembering me in your prayers.

Please feel free to call in and visit – you'd be most welcome.

Beatrice.

**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

May 2015

Dear friends,

During the weeks between Easter and the summer holidays, we're going to focus our thinking on how it is we go about sharing our faith. In a study of the post-Easter events as recorded in the Gospels, we see very clearly that, as soon as the disciples saw for themselves that Jesus was alive, they could do nothing other than share that with other people!

So much for the first disciples. Now, the more important questions is: what ways are we finding to share our faith with people around us?

That we are called to share our faith is unquestionable. Even so, most of us would sign up to almost anything else before agreeing to speak about our Christian faith to another person. Many of us struggle to talk about our faith to other Christians, never mind talking to friends or family, neighbours or colleagues about our beliefs!

Why are we so reticent? What's the problem with talking about our faith? Are we embarrassed about it? Do we tell ourselves that this or that other person wouldn't possibly be interested? Have we bought in to the philosophy that religion is 'private' and, therefore, best kept to ourselves?

Here's the thing. There are churches in Scotland which are growing rapidly - not many, but some. And the common factor in these particular churches is that the members are good at sharing their faith. More than that, sharing faith is the number one priority in these growing churches.

As part of our series, we'll be welcoming a number of guests to Arbroath. These are people who have built up a wealth of experience in the area of faith-sharing; people who are driven by the desire to share the Good News of Jesus with other people.

Might it be that we have something to learn from such people? Might we become inspired to be faith-sharers?

If we ourselves hadn't been introduced to the faith, where would we be? Each of us can be grateful that someone, or some people, took the time to tell us about Jesus - his life, death and resurrection. In days to come, might it be that someone will look to you with the same kind of gratitude - because you shared your faith with them?

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family

[martin.fair@sky.com](mailto:martin.fair@sky.com)

## Who 'nose' what's next...

As I write this I am one day away from minor surgery. By the time this is printed I hope to be well on my way to recovery. I am in for what is termed 'Rhinoplasty'. That sound ominous and perhaps like something you might visit the zoo to see. However, I am reliably informed that it is very straight forward and all they will be doing will be sorting out a part of my nose so that I can breathe better.

Even though it's pretty minor it still weighs on your mind. As I get ready for it though, I am minded of many others who have had, or are awaiting far bigger operations with greater implications. One thing that is a great encouragement is the

way people have been asking after me and wishing me well - something that I know many others have experienced too when they've also been awaiting hospital treatment.

Particularly in the post Easter accounts, we see many occasions where the disciples are all gathered together. Whatever we are facing it is great to see how we can be around and encourage one another. It has been a privilege to be the recipient of such encouragement and I pray that many others also feel as uplifted as I have been in this time.

Thanks for your prayers, encouragement and support

Your Friend and Associate - Stuart

### (Continued from Page 1)

service, to see young and old coming forward together to share in the Lord's Supper.

In the afternoon, several of our members did what they do on the first Sunday of every month; they went to Lunan Court Retirement Home to lead a worship service for the residents and staff. Over recent years, we've built up an ex-

cellent relationship with the home and it's an important part of our outreach that we share a worship opportunity with those who are now no longer able to attend church.

Easter Day finished with our evening worship at 7pm - a well-attended vibrant service with contemporary music and passionate preaching. It was the perfect conclusion to the day - a day of rejoicing in the truth that 'Jesus is Alive!'

# Ask Theophilus

## Question :

The second commandment in Exodus 20:5 states that God will visit the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation. Does this mean that children and grandchildren will suffer for their fathers' and grandfathers' sin? It seems very unjust to me!

## Theophilus answers :

First, this is not God's word to the children, rather it is directed to parents to restrain them from the mad folly of doing wrong without any thought of the possible consequences for their families.

Second, the Bible makes it very clear that God never punishes anyone for the sins of another. 'The soul who sins is the one who will die. The son will not share the guilt of the father, nor will the father share the guilt of the son.' (Ezekiel 18:20) So the second commandment is not

saying that children will bear their parents' guilt.

Third, where children imitate their parents—how much little ones learn from father and mother, whether for good or ill—and then follow their example knowing it is wrong, then they will deserve and receive God's just chastening.

Finally, in the Old Testament days the 'Land' was inextricably bound up in God's dealings with his people. Part of God's chastisement was often to allow his people to be defeated by their enemies and so deprive them for several generations of their Land. When that happened, then the children and grandchildren had to live with the consequences of their fathers' sin.

Therefore, let us not bring a charge of injustice against God on account of the second commandment. It stands as a reminder for all time of the way in which our folly and wilful disobedience can deeply scar our children and grandchildren. No sin is ever private. All sin has the 'domino effect', and nowhere else more tragically than in the family.

## Making It All Worthwhile

Our Havilah work is nothing if not tough – because there are so many disappointments to cope with. Time and again, we make great progress with an individual or a family only to see them fall back into harmful patterns all over again.

But because of our Christian conviction, we never give up on anyone. No one is a 'lost cause.' Beyond that, because disappointment is commonplace, successes are warmly celebrated.

One of the young men we've worked with almost from the beginning of the project has been, throughout that time,

a constant source of frustration! And yet, even he has in recent times made remarkable progress and is now well on the way to recovery from addiction.

At last, he's managed to stay throughout a period of residential rehab and is now clean. He met a girl a while back and the two have become engaged to be married! And now, he's been given a job – the first time he's been in paid employment, and off benefits, for over a decade.

That's what Havilah is all about; saving and transforming lives. We're in the business of supporting people to make the move towards life in all its fullness. And every time such a success is recorded, you can be sure that there is great rejoicing in heaven.

## 7th Arbroath B.B.

As I write this we are still on our Easter Break. We return for a few weeks on Thursday 23rd of April when the Company are visiting the local Lifeboat Shed. This will be a very interesting evening for the boys.

We are almost at the end of our session and we have a sponsored walk at Crombie Park on 16th of May starting at 12pm followed by games and a BQ weather permitting.

Our Annual Display and Awards Night will be held on 21st Of May at 7pm . A full report of all these events will be in the June Quest.

Captain W.H.Ewart

## A Volunteer's Perspective

"Send the crowds away, so that they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food". Were the disciples getting fed up with these people who were using so much of Jesus time? Jesus response was: "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat".

Since becoming a volunteer at Havilah, some years ago, it was evident that it was not just about "giving them something to eat". It was so much more.

Most of my teaching life was spent with children and teenagers who often were from disadvantaged backgrounds in Glasgow's East End. In Havilah there are many similar stories. To be disadvantaged means many things, and our young people and older ones come from a huge variety of backgrounds just as in any crowd in Arbroath or in Galilee.

This diversity is also found in church congregations. The important point is: Jesus didn't say "Feed those who deserve it, don't give anything to those who've been foolish with their money, or who are on benefits".

In Havilah I've made some good friends among the staff and also the clients. The latter have lived very different lives from me but accept me although we might seem to have nothing in common. I value their friendship.

Of course Jesus wasn't only interested in feeding the crowd, his compassion meant that he healed them, talked with them, listened to them, and loved them. He never patronised or made them think he was better than them. The staff at Havilah attend clients' weddings, go to football matches, are invited to be babies' god parents, and stand with families at gravesides. We call it a privilege.

Isobel Reynolds

## Clerk's Corner

In a past edition of Quest you heard that there had been a review of the remits of the Core Groups. One group whose remit has remained virtually the same since the beginning is the Fabric Core Group.

Each of our own houses requires regular repairs and maintenance, and so it is with this very large house of God that is ours. It is probably the case that at most times, there is very little in the way of repairs necessary that are visible. However the amount of work that is being undertaken behind the scenes voluntarily and requiring a considerable amount of commitment of time and expertise is truly incredible. As far as possible, there is a very quick response to any need. Listed is some of this which has been carried out within the timescale of just **a month or so**:

- ◇ Major repair to the servery (after it had been severely damaged by being sat upon)
- ◇ Metal strip fitted to edge of servery (where the veneer was being pulled off by sliding off after sitting on it)
- ◇ Control board installed for the projector unit
- ◇ Bulb renewed in rear projector
- ◇ Considerable amount of work needed to detect and repair a fault in the original wiring to a front projector (also requiring erection of scaffolding).
- ◇ Projectors checked, filters cleaned and cobwebs removed.
- ◇ Intercom (Crèche to Balcony) built and installed
- ◇ Speakers cut for new cones to be installed
- ◇ Band area door repaired
- ◇ Repair of sound system in hall and erection of speakers
- ◇ Ongoing work for the remote control heating system
- ◇ Repairs to the floor in the small halls (to be continued - and the same for the main hall - major work)
- ◇ Kitchen door frame repaired (near collapsing)
- ◇ Repairs to other door frames
- ◇ Automatic closers adjusted

- ◇ Session room handle/lock repaired
- ◇ Metal strips attached to doors etc to prevent damage
- ◇ Repair (replacement) of the finger plates in the new halls
- ◇ Longer door hooks fitted to sanctuary side exit doors
- ◇ Painting repairs in rear passageway and balcony
- ◇ Glenview gate painted
- ◇ Plumbing repairs
- ◇ Construction of a container for the mower
- ◇ White safety marking on front steps
- ◇ Opaque glazing to end window in main hall
- ◇ Dove and Eco award mounted in hall vestibule
- ◇ Missing part of Dyson cleaner replaced by a rescued part of a similar machine at the skip (Shhhh!)
- ◇ Manse gate repaired
- ◇ Completed insurance claim forms (and follow up) for manse waste pipe flooding the downstairs bedroom
- ◇ Questioned and pursued bill for £1,000 from alarm company - now reduced to £300!
- ◇ All new equipment serial numbers, and costs, noted and logged on inventory for insurance and Presbytery
- ◇ Regular testing of fire alarm points
- ◇ Clean-out of many storage areas
- ◇ Arranging work, and access, for external tradesmen repairs .....

Etc, etc .... It is never-ending, and that is **not** a particularly exceptional time either. In addition to this, other volunteers tend the gardens at the front, side and rear of the church.

You will immediately be aware that the saving of money in all this is huge and, while these folks are happy to be in the background, it is very important that we acknowledge their work. However, and it is a big however, the Fabric Group members will not be offended if described as getting a bit long in the tooth!

**We need some younger blood to volunteer to help out in this Core Group.**

## GUILD NEWS

Well doesn't time fly! Last Monday was the last meeting for this session and so it was our AGM. The committee for next session was approved and reports for the year were read. Martin came along to oversee and give our members encouragement and support for the work done by the Guild within the church and nationally.

Our various fund raising efforts throughout the year enabled us to again give £500 each to another two of the Church of Scotland Guild Projects – firstly, *Out of Africa into Malta* which helps people fleeing from Africa etc. for a better and safer life (as I write this article hundreds such people have drowned trying to escape). The second is *Heart for Art* which helps people with dementia in this country. We have a sponsored child in Malawi and the Guild enjoys hearing how our boy is doing. Money was also given to organisations etc. within the church and charitable organisations who have given talks at our meetings

i.e. Church heating and lighting, Youth Group, Havilah, Messy Church, Flying for Life and Street Pastors. After the business we enjoyed delicious puddings, a chance to chat with friends and look at photos members brought in of themselves when they were a bit younger!

We hope to have a few meetings during the summer. The first of these will be our chippie tea in the hall on 15th June and the bus trip is planned for Saturday 12th September. Please look out for these and other dates in the Church bulletins or magazine.

Church Boxes were returned and counted in March. The magnificent sum of over £1,000 was again raised this year!! A big thank you to all Guild and Church members who contribute in this way and thanks to Joyce McPherson who coordinates this effort.

Wow! It has been a busy year. I think all our members deserve a rest. Hope everyone has a lovely summer and can come along to some or all of our summer get togethers. Never forgetting our Guild Motto -

*“Whose we are and Whom we serve”*

## Heart and Soul 2015

Once more, we are 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 the earlier time of 10.30am 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 is now open through our Church Office.

## Soap Sunday

Soap Sunday is May 31st. On this day members of the congregation are invited to donate a bar of soap. The collected soap will be boxed and sent out in the container to Malawi.

Last year two large boxes were filled with soap and they were received with great delight by our Malawi family.

Let's try to do the same again this year.

Soap may be left at any time in the cupboard in the small hall.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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' in Edinburgh  
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

### JUNE

#### Sunday 7

9.30am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Worship Service with Guest Preacher, The Very Rev Bill Hewitt, Former Moderator of the General Assembly  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service; with Sunday Club Prizegiving  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service  
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.**

## 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!

## Some Clever Church Posters

"Carpenter requires joiners"

"This church is prayer conditioned"

A big sign by the roadside - "Coming soon". Some yards down the road another sign - "The Greatest Story Ever Told". Half a mile later, outside a church, was "Easter April 6-9".

(For Wimbledon) "In tennis, love means nothing - in Christ it means everything"

"Come to church early and avoid the Christmas rush"

"If you feel too small to make a difference then you have never been in bed with a mosquito"

"Yesterday was history, tomorrow is a mys-

tery, today is a gift and that is why it's called the present"

"If you are too busy to pray, then you are indeed too busy"

"Have we got pews for you - come in and take a seat!"

"Come in and Have Your Faith Lifted"

A church in Barnet displayed on its notice board: "Last services before M25"

Three signs at a church near Lyme Regis:

(Last Christmas) "We would love your Christmas Presence"

(At Easter) "Land of the Rising Son"

(Recently) "What's missing? CH??CH"

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

### 10th to 16th May

This year, churches in Arbroath will get together to host a Coffee Morning on Saturday 23 May 2015 in the Town Mission from 10am to 12noon.

The following stalls will also be available:

Books, Craft and Jewellery  
Grocery and Sweets  
Fruit, Flowers and Veg.  
Baking  
Coffee

West Kirk  
St Vigeans and St Thomas  
St Andrews  
Knox's  
Old and Abbey and St Mary's

Here at St Andrew's we will also have a retiring offering on Sunday 10 May and envelopes will be available.

## Successful Easter Code

Quite simply, this year's Easter Code could not have gone better! With 280 children in attendance, spread over six sessions, the potential for chaos was great; thankfully everything fell into place magnificently. For that, we are grateful to Stuart, our Associate Minister. He had overall responsibility for this project and was able to liaise with all of the ministers and different primary schools, and with the large volunteer team, in such a way as to agree a working timetable. Thereafter, everything fell beautifully into place and every one of the teachers who accompanied the children commented on the excellent organisation. What a delight that all of the churches came together to work together on this project!

But beyond that, the Easter Code is an opportunity for children to come to an understanding of what Easter is really about. The programme is thoroughly educational and the teaching elements cover aspects of the Jewish background – the Passover Festival – as well as all of the main events of what Christians refer to as Holy Week.

That the children learn is unquestionable. Our prayer is that something of what they heard about Jesus would sink in and cause them to come to a realisation of his love for us all.

## Popular Holiday Club

With a total of seventy children signing up, this year's holiday club, Polar Explorers, was hugely popular and, once more, proved to be a huge success.

On each of the days of the club, the children learned the stories of Peter, Stephen, Philip, Saul and Timothy – some of the key characters in the life of the early church. And alongside the learning, there were lots of fun and games, all designed to make sure that the children had a wonderfully happy experience. We can never be sure whether or not we'll ever see any of these children again and so we make it our aim to ensure that their experience will be an entirely positive one.

The finale of this year's club took the form of a 'breakfast church' held on the concluding Sunday morning in the main hall. This service ran parallel to our main service in the sanctuary and it was a delight to us that both services were very well attended.

In the weeks and months ahead, we're going to explore various ways of following up with the children and families who came to the club. Please do your part by continuing to pray for all of the children who came both to Polar Explorers (and to Easter Code.)

## Update on Malawi

Just a quick update on Malawi. As you know, there was extensive flooding a few months ago. This, as we mentioned before, caused many homes to fall down, wells to be contaminated and crops to be destroyed.

Our centres at Thyolo and Kambilonjo are thankfully well built and built on the hillside and so have been spared much of the damage. They have, however, had much of their crops destroyed and are expecting less than half of the harvest that they usually would expect. It should be noted that this is in fact much better than harvests of most of the villagers around. When planting, we use hybrid seeds which produce a higher yield, but these seeds tend to struggle more with the fluctuations in weather. However, remarkably, our seeds seem to have yielded despite the un-

favourable conditions.

The money raised from the flood appeal has now been sent and is being used to buy relief maize as well as rebuild the homes of some of the children under our care.

The children at both Thyolo and Kambilonjo are now off on holiday for their Easter break; they will therefore be helping in the fields with the preparations for harvest and tending the vegetable gardens which are good learning opportunities in various different types of agriculture. They will also be practising some tailoring and knitting skills with some local tailors. We have also arranged for extra lessons for the children during this time to prepare them for their final exams. The schools in the local area around both centres are fairly poor and the results from our students have reflected this in recent years. We are doing all that we can to improve upon this with extra tutoring.

## The Cupboard Doors Puzzle and a Flood Narrowly Averted

For several weeks, the cupboard doors under the servery were not closing properly (nor was the glass sitting flat on top). On working round to effecting repairs, and on deeper investigation, we discovered that the sink end of the servery had collapsed by about an inch, and only the general paneling was preventing it from a further complete and ruinous collapse.

**The wood supports at that end had completely split open due to people sitting on the servery.**

We have also long known that, despite repairing the edge veneer several times, it was continuing to be further damaged as people slid back down off the servery.

It was fortunate indeed that the plumbing pipework had flexed sufficiently to narrowly avoid bursting and flooding the gallery. But whoever was sitting on it at the time of collapse must have heard the wood cracking and must have felt the servery give way under them.

Sadly, this was not reported and therefore could have led to a complete collapse and, ultimately, a very costly flood plus the replacement of the entire servery. (Original cost - £10,000) **Please do not sit on the servery!!!**

# EASTER CODE 2015



Martin explaining the feast of the Passover, Dolly Purnell being the servant and, below, Stuart with the P7 pupils



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A young Polar Explorer

David McColgan, Jim McLeod and Kieran Pannell were gunged. The theme of Polar Explorers produced these aaawww pictures!



At the recent Guild meeting, Shona Kemp was presented with a bouquet by Wilma Beattie in grateful thanks for her excellent work as President throughout the year.



Our Flower club ladies produced wonderful displays for Easter



A team of Ian Drever, Martin Fair, Blair Fletcher and Ken Miller had a hard day at the office in helping at the Moderator's Golf Challenge. The day raised over £5,000 for the Moderator's favourite charity - Crossreach.