

Refugees and Relays

There's nothing more rewarding than seeing our young people moving on in their faith and showing such desire to make a difference in their world. Rachel Stewart got herself involved in 'Angus Solidarity for Refugees' and spearheaded local efforts to support those tens of thousands of desperate people who have been arriving in Europe. Together with our three Vocations Volunteers, Rachel decided that something had to be done – beyond the talking of the politicians – and went ahead and did it. No one asked her to do it; it was her own initiative.



Chris Palmer, Amy Duffin, Rachel Stewart and Matthew McKenzie with refugee parcels

Then, at more or less the same time, a seven-strong group of our teenagers formed a team and entered the 'Relay for Life' in aid of Cancer Research UK. Their team was called '3D' with the 'ds' standing for 'Dedicated,' 'Determined,' and 'Driven.' Again, it was entirely their own idea – no prompting from elsewhere.

At St. Andrew's Church, we can be justifiably proud of our young people – not just the present ones but the many who have gone before them, including those who continue to support our Malawi work following their trips there in years gone by. Let us continue to invest in the young and may they never be in doubt about how much we value them and love having them around our Church.



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Linda Hunter

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

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Rev Stuart Irvin, BD

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ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

September 2015

Baptisms - None

Weddings - Andrew Plaxton and Julie Wilson

Funerals - Mary Moug

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER 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 16th October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th October (Word-Processed file)

Malawi Fundraising

Sunday 11th October – Soup Lunch

Sunday 8th November – Soup Lunch

Saturday 21st 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

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)

THURSDAY

10.00 am – Parent and Toddler Group – L Clark (437758)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – N Watson – B Gerrard, secretary (552727)

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

October 2015

Dear friends,

In last month's QUEST, we shared with you for the first time our plans to hold a St. Andrew's Church Gift Weekend, to take place over the weekend 28-29th November, the weekend closest to St. Andrew's Day. As your minister, I am hugely excited by this initiative and want to encourage you to embrace it, as the Leadership Group of the congregation has so readily done.

The idea is not a new one. In fact, lots of congregations do something similar. Essentially we want to ensure that we are as well-resourced as possible for the conducting of the ministry and mission that we feel God has called us to. I'm sure many of you feel, as I do, a restlessness that won't allow me to be satisfied with what we've got. Sure, we're doing okay but is 'okay' enough?

A properly resourced congregation is one that senses God's leading and, having done so, decides to 'go for it.' On the other hand, under-resourced congregations are those which find themselves concluding, 'We'd love to be able to do that but we don't have the money or the people to make it happen.'

Of course we are just one congregation in one small town on the East Coast of Scotland. Our dreams and visions need to be appropriate to our size and setting. God is at work through hundreds of other congregations across the land and through hundreds of thousands of congregations across the world!

Even so, our desire is to be all that we can be. Our vision is much larger than simply 'making ends meet,' important and vital as that is. We want to be in the position of advancing some of our ministries, expanding some of those things that are already up and running and doing well. And, how we need to find some new and creative ways to reach the 95% of people in Arbroath who never come within the reach of the Church and who know little or nothing of what we mean when we speak of God's love in Jesus.

It seems somehow 'right' that we choose to do this over the weekend closest to St. Andrew's Day. In practical terms we're asking that each member of the congregation give a financial gift to lend further support to our work. This is something that we're hoping will become an annual Gift Day – a way of making a special offering to our congregation over and above our weekly or monthly giving. Our hope is that all of our members and associates will respond as they are able and that such a response will benefit us immensely in our moving forward.

Next month's QUEST will include materials specific to the upcoming Gift Day. In advance, I commend these to you and look forward to sharing this special weekend with you.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

martin.fair@sky.com

Preparing to Part

As I've remarked in the past I am quite a last minute person when it comes to certain things. Packing for holidays would be a classic example of this. When people ask if I am ready and packed yet – especially as it gets closer to the leaving date – my stock response is to say 'no'; but with the caveat – 'I will be'.

I'm not there yet – I am not at the point of leaving nor have I taken my eyes off the task that is in hand here in Arbroath. However, I know that in the not too distant future I will need to get towards that point. As noted in my title, I am preparing to part, although in reality at this stage it is mostly just thinking about it rather than doing anything specific.

If I'm honest, the thinking about it does fill me with a bit of dread. Have you got an attic similar to mine that accumulates 'stuff' to be sorted? I guess that will need tackled at some point. Or what about the list the length of my arm of companies that I will need to contact to tell them that we're moving? Practical matters aside, I know that for the

Irvin's there will be tough good-byes ahead – we're not looking forward to that!

Yet what strikes me is that as tough as moving on is – overall – there is a spiritual dimension to it that is so vital. A few weeks back we looked at Abraham, where his faith is pointed to with the fact that he was called from his homeland to a place that wasn't his own – and he went. I daren't put myself on a par with Abraham and his faith. However, I do look to him as an inspiration when it comes to someone who heard God's call and went.

No doubt for Abraham there would have been practical matters to attend to as we're told he took all his possessions and household with him – though I'm dubious about the attic and mail directing. The assurance in all of these things, whether we are looking ahead, or in the midst of it, is that God is leading, guiding and sustaining in these chapters where we prepare to part.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Your Friend and Associate,

Stuart

HomeCARE

Many of you will know that important changes are taking place right now with regard to how social services are being delivered across the nation. No longer are services such as the 'Home Help' service being delivered exclusively by local councils. Indeed, Angus Council is ceasing its Home Help service at the end of October.

Clearly the need for such services has not gone away and so new means of delivering them are being developed right now. Under the direction of Voluntary Action Angus, for example, a new home help-style service is being developed, to be known as 'Care About Angus.'

It's against that backdrop that we have been considering a service of our own – a Church-run social care enterprise. Indeed we're getting closer to the point at which this proposal might become a reality – not there yet but getting close.

In short, St. Andrew's Church is investigating the viability of running our own care service. The service would be similar to what home helps have traditionally offered but

with additional, unique adds-on. Under this proposal, Church members and others would have the option of choosing to have the Church deliver their at-home care – yes, home help services but also pastoral and prayer support, runs for coffee, accompaniment to social gatherings and much more.

It is our belief that we should, and will be able to, offer a service that is the match of anything else that will be available. Compassion is at the heart of all good caring and though Christians don't have a monopoly on compassion or good-heartedness, we certainly aim to exemplify it in all we do.

This is a subject that you'll be hearing much more about in the coming weeks and months. For some of you, it won't seem particularly relevant to your life circumstances – though you might find a volunteering role within the service! For others of you – whether for yourself or an ageing relative – this may have immediately caught your attention.

If you'd like to know more, please contact the minister and, as we conduct the upcoming needs-survey, please help us as you are able.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

The last question was about the 'Shrewd Manager', a parable recorded in Luke 16:1-9. We saw the meaning was (a) that material possessions don't belong to us, they are only on loan during this life and (b) that we should use them to prepare for eternity by using them to bring others to Christ.

This month's question is: 'Whatever does Luke 16:11-12 mean?' If you have been not been faithful with unrighteous wealth, who will entrust you with the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?

Theophilus answers :

Verses 10 to 13 form a statement about the relationship between material possessions and spiritual growth. In verse 10 'very little' refers to material things—our bank accounts, cars, houses, clothes and so on. Being 'faithful' in our stew-

ardship of these things means using our material possessions for the Lord. Generosity for Christ's work, not self-indulgence for 'me'! By contrast, 'much' means our love for, and walk with, God.

That brings us to verse 11. The 'true riches' are spiritual understanding and depth: progressing to ever greater maturity in Christ. Obviously, 'that which is another's' means material wealth which is only on loan to us during this life, while 'that which is your own' refers to what we will take with us when we die and leave all our earthly possessions behind for ever.

The final paragraph of Luke 16, the parable of the rich man and the beggar, illustrates Jesus' point exactly. Though he lived with great wealth, after death the rich man was now a miserable tormented pauper - whereas Lazarus who in this life had been a suffering pauper, in heaven was lavished with comfort and blessing. In other words, 'We cannot serve God and money' (v. 13). And remember, many who have very little money are still deeply in love with it. How else would the lottery raise billions?

Friends Club

The Friends Club opened the first meeting of the new session with a visit from the choir "In Harmony". A lovely afternoon was had by all 50 club members who enjoyed the

singing which was followed by tea and biscuits. Our October meeting is a talk by our own Sheila Stewart. We meet on the first Thursday of each month and new members are made very welcome.

Why not come along and join in the fun?

7th Arbroath BB

This is the start of our 55th year and we have 12 Anchor boys, 8 Junior boys and 4 Company boys.

As usual we have a full programme of activities for the boys to enjoy in each section.

We have a break at the school autumn holidays and then we re-start on 22nd of October which will include our En-

rolment service in the church at 7.15pm. An invitation to join with us is extended to all the congregation.

We then have our Fancy Dress night for Halloween on 29th of October. As Bonfire Night lands on a Thursday this year (5th November) and with the impending Fireworks for all the town taking place on that night, there will be no BB, leaving folks free to attend, if they wish, and not miss out from our programme.

From All Officers.

GUILD NEWS

Our annual trip took place at the start of September when we visited The Scottish Tapestry in Kirkcaldy and had a lovely high tea in Leven. The day started dull and a bit wet but when we set out for tea the sun came out and we had a nice run with beautiful views over the Tay.

We had our first meeting of this session on Monday 14th September. This meeting took place in the Sanctuary where Martin, our minister, conducted our Dedication and Communion Service. During this time he gave us many words of encouragement for the work the Guild does throughout the year raising funds etc for Guild Projects both at home and throughout the world. Thanks to Martin for coming along, such times are much appreciated and enjoyed by our members. After the service we went through to the hall where tea was served and we had a chance to catch up with friends and find out what was planned for the coming year.

Our second meeting will have taken place by the time the magazine is published. At this meeting we will hear of the life and dedicated service of Mary Slessor a Scottish Missionary who was born in Aberdeen and spent much of her childhood in Dundee.

Dates for October:

12th October 2015 Theme Night - Go in Peace

26th October 2015 This meeting is to be a joint meeting with West Kirk Guild (to be held at West Kirk) when there will be a speaker from one of our projects for this year - **Breaking the Cycle of FGM**

There will be a fund raising event on **Saturday, 31st October 2015**. Details of this will be in the Church Bulletin nearer the time, and tickets will be on sale from members. We very much appreciate the support we receive from the congregation for such events.

Our Guild meets on alternate Monday evenings at 7.30 pm. We have a lively and hard working membership but are always delighted to welcome new members. Anyone interested please come along to see for yourself if it is something you might like!

Guild Motto: Whose we are and whom we serve

Getting To Know You

We've been delighted at how quickly our three volunteers have settled in so well to our congregation and community. We asked them each to say a few words about their 'first impressions.'

My name is **Matthew McKenzie** and I am from Maryhill in Glasgow. I have been so overwhelmed by the warm welcome I have received from everyone in Arbroath St Andrew's and have had some great discussions with members about just how much is happening within the church and the community.

Since arriving it has been a roller coaster ride of activities and meeting new folk. Amy and I arrived on the 1st September and by the 3rd we had had an asylum seeker and her 2 year old daughter living with us! That was a great way to offer help and it was great to see the church support this person in her time of need.

I have enjoyed getting to know people through pastoral visiting and the different groups going on in the church and have loved being given the opportunity to help lead worship with the praise band and reading the lesson. I feel this is going to be a great year for me to develop experience and find out what my true calling may be in the future.

I'm **Amy Duffin** from Loanhead, Midlothian. I have been welcomed into St. Andrew's with warmth from everyone. Since day one, nothing has always gone to plan with

us. We had a woman and her daughter come stay with us! This was a real eye opener and an experience I'm glad I've been through. Sometimes the people in the hardest places have the strongest faith. Two weeks later we were helping collect packs of blankets and clothing in order for these to be taken to the refugees.

Although most of my work is now in routine with just the odd change, the variety of work ensures that no two days are ever the same. I look forward to many more surprises in my next ten months.

Greetings, friends! If you've been wondering who the new guy is who speaks with an American accent, then wonder no more. My name is **Chris Palmer**, and I'm one of the new Vocations Volunteers. Although this is my third year living in Scotland, I'm originally from a town right outside of Philadelphia in the USA.

The short few weeks that we've spent getting acclimated to life at St Andrew's Church have been packed full of new experiences. Between going around town to visit members of the congregation, to helping gather over one hundred donation packs for the refugee crisis and participating in various youth events, Martin sure does keep us busy.

Even from the get-go, it's easy to tell that St Andrew's is full of exciting ways to get involved, both inside and outside of the Church walls. Moving forward, I'm hoping to help lead worship for Sunday services, as well as spend more time with the nice folks at Havilah. It's going to be a good ten months, so please, if you see you me wandering about the halls don't hesitate to say hi!

Clerk's Corner

The members of the Contact Team carry out the first step in ensuring that we have an efficient pastoral care scheme.

The team, while faithfully delivering Quest, had not met together for some considerable time. There have been several changes to the team and so a meeting was held recently to make sure that everyone knows exactly how the system works. The form which is used to record visits has been revised and this needed some explanation.

Needless to say, this dedicated band of volunteers set off for their next visit with the usual enthusiasm.

When the recording forms were returned, it was clear to see that there was an increase in the amount of information about pastoral need and we have been able to respond to this immediately with visits etc.

In addition, the team will be helping with the gathering of some important information in the coming months.

Currently the Pastoral Care Team is being enlarged and it is hoped that more news about this will be available next month.

A big thank you to the Contact Team!

Church Hogmanay

Last year, for the first time, we hosted a Hogmanay party. The response was most gratifying with well over one hundred people in attendance, from tiny tots to some VERY senior citizens! Many commented that 'this is what Hogmanay should be all about – everyone coming together!'

Given the success of last year's event, the 20/20 Group* has taken on the organising of this year's version. It will be quite different but will still be suitable for all ages and will be open to those who want to drop in for a while and for those who want to arrive early and leave late!

*The 20/20 Group is for young adults, predominately those between 18-25 (with a few exceptions either side!)

An Evening with C.S. Lewis

Over the last few years, we've staged some wonderful concerts and events, bringing to Arbroath some of the best known and top performers in the Christian world.

Well, get ready for another cracker coming up this session! On Tuesday 8th December, we're hosting the ONLY Scottish date of the 'An Evening with C.S. Lewis' tour.

C.S. Lewis is widely recognised as being among the key Christian figures of the 20th Century – as a brilliant academic and as someone who helped ordinary people understand the Gospel. It was the excellent 'Shadowlands' film, starring Anthony Hopkins as C.S. Lewis, which brought his life story – not least his marriage to American, Joy Davidman – to more recent audiences. Following her tragic death, he wrote the hugely moving 'A Grief Observed' in which he documents his own journey through bereavement.

In this one-man theatrical performance, the role of Lewis is played by British actor, David Payne. He has performed the role over five hundred times to critical acclaim and to appreciative audiences the world over.

What a treat, then, that this show is coming to St. Andrew's Church. Put the date in your diary NOW and watch for the 'tickets on sale' notices coming soon!

LOOKING AHEAD

OCTOBER

Sunday 4

9.30 am - Traditional Worship
Week 3 of E100
11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 11

11 am - Worship Service
Week 4 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 18

11 am - All-age Worship
Service
Week 5 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 25

11 am - Great Communion
Service. Week 6 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

NOVEMBER

Sunday 1

9.30 am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service; with
Guest Preacher,
Doug McRoberts
(‘Out of Africa’)
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 8

11 am - Worship Service;
Week 7 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 15

11 am - Worship Service inc.
Sacrament of Baptism
Week 8 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 22

11 am - Worship Service and
Guild Week Sunday
Week 9 of E100
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 29

11 am - All-age Advent
Service, with Communion for
all the family
Week 10 of E100
4 pm - Messy Church

N.B. As well as the services above there is the following:

**A 40 minute service every
Wednesday morning
at 10.30 am.**

Service Core Group - ECO TIPS

Did you know that an average family can save approx. £40 per year just by switching off appliances and not leaving them in standby mode?

NOOR MINISTRIES PAKISTAN

Sajida's Visit 2015

This year, because of circumstances beyond her control, Sajida's planned visit to the UK had to be put forward to August. Also, as a result this, her third visit to Arbroath was briefer than originally envisaged.

At the mid-week service on 26 August and later on that same afternoon over a convivial afternoon tea, Sajida was able to expand upon the current work of Noor Ministries in bringing the Good News of the Gospel message and education to the most persecuted, vulnerable, and marginalised peoples of Pakistan. In the eight short but action-packed and often grueling years since the charity was established, the school rolls have expanded from a modest 14 to well over 200.

Every penny to fund and build and run the schools has to

be raised - there is no government funding in Pakistan for Christian minorities. The bulk of that funding is given by Christians in the UK.

In 2014, members of Arbroath St Andrew's Church raised money to buy a photocopier for the Life Transforming School in Akhtarabad - thus saving a 24km round trip to Renala Khurd, usually - and frustratingly - to find a power cut in that town.

Now the 2015 donations (£255) will be used to equip a classroom for the Grade 9 students so there are increasing physical links as a reminder between our church and LTC.

How good it was to see images of these young people, now on the verge of adulthood, bright, confident, articulate, well fed - and armed with a first class education - to take them on to the next stages their lives. Life transforming indeed!

Out of Africa

For three years, Guilds across Scotland – our own included – adopted 'Out of Africa' as one of their projects. This is a project located on the island of Malta. It was established by the Scots Kirk, St. Andrew's, under the leadership of Rev Doug McRoberts, who was at that time minister of the congregation. Doug is now retired and living in Inverness but we're delighted that he has willingly agreed to come to 'our' St. Andrew's Church to be our guest preacher in November.

During his morning with us, Doug is going to focus on the work of 'Out of Africa' – a work that has never been more relevant than it is now. Essentially, it is a project designed to offer hospitality to those refugees fleeing Libya and other such troubled lands, seeking to make their way to Europe. As we have seen on our TV screens, for many this proves to be a hazardous journey and Malta has served as a staging post or as temporary destination for many.

Of course, there are huge geo-political problems to sort out. What's to be done about the ongoing wars in Syria and Iraq? What can be done about the lawlessness and anarchy that has taken a grip of Libya and other countries like it following the so-called Arab Spring?

And what's to be done about the persecution of minority groups and the poverty facing whole populations across large parts of Africa? No one, it would seem, has easy answers to these problems.

But as Christians, we are mandated to welcome the stranger in need. Others will make the far-reaching decisions that will affect our world in the long term but in the hear-and-now, our role is to meet with open arms those whose desperation has forced them to seek refuge.

That's exactly what the Scots Kirk in Malta did. Make sure you're present on Sunday 1st November to hear Doug McRoberts tell the story of 'Out of Africa' – Christian faith in action.

Thank You

In June, an appeal was made for sanitary products for the girls in Malawi. Many packages have been left in the cupboard in the small hall and, without a doubt, these will be greatly appreciated by the girls.

Another year has passed and, yet again, it has not been

necessary to make a special appeal for toiletries for the Women's Refuge. Toiletries are left throughout the year in "the cupboard" and once again we have 60 bags to deliver to the Refuge.

A very big thank you to everyone who has so kindly donated either toiletries or sanitary products throughout the years. We shall continue to collect both.

How To Get Followers (Without Facebook)

For those of my older generation who do not really comprehend why Facebook exists - it's a way of sharing your life with thousands of others, and making new friends and followers.

Presently, I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the SAME PRINCIPLES. Therefore,

every day I go down the street for several hours and tell the passers-by what I have eaten, when and what I am going to eat next, how well or unwell I feel, what I have done the night before that was silly, and what I will do tomorrow night that will be even more silly. Then I give them pictures of my family, my dog and cat and gerbil, and my garden. I also listen carefully to their conversations with me and with other people, and I tell them that I love them.

AND IT WORKS! I already have four persons following me: two police officers, a social worker and a psychiatrist!

More of Recent Baptisms



Above : The Friends Club enjoyed fellowship and then entertainment from the 'In Harmony' choir.

Left : A group of members and friends enjoyed the Church Golf Competition at Letham Grange