

A Gift Day For Investing In The Future

When it comes to charitable giving, two approaches are possible. People can avoid the street collector, turn away from the television appeal and, if all attempts to wriggle off the hook fail, grudgingly give some loose change, all the while muttering something about charity beginning at home! Or, folks can view appeals for giving as a wonderful opportunity to share some of the good things that God has blessed you with.

It would appear that the early Christians in Macedonia had adopted the latter approach. Paul says of them that, 'Their giving has been extremely generous' and that 'they gave as much as they could.' Even more than that, Paul tells us that 'they begged us and pleaded for the privilege of giving!' (2nd Corinthians c8)

Those who have so generously supported the work of St. Andrew's Church through the years have clearly been cut from the same cloth. When opportunity has presented itself – for example, when we first took the decision to employ ministry team members or when we embarked on the refurbishment programme – our committed members have indeed been 'extremely generous' in their giving and have 'given as much as they could.'

One example of our more specific work in the local community is via Havilah - which is largely supported by external grants - but, even here, members have given additional generous support. And in the wider world, your giving and support to the work in Malawi is outstanding.

And so it is with encouragement that we are presenting to you, the members of the congregation, this special, annual opportunity to support our more general shared ministry and mission. We have decided to build this Gift Day into the weekend closest to St. Andrew's Day and to use it to ensure

as much as possible that our general work is sufficiently resourced.

On occasions such as this, people are want to ask, 'How much should I give?' The answer to that is, of course, personal and will depend on individual or family circumstances.

Nevertheless, we would like to suggest the sum of £50 as being appropriate. Some may find that sum impossible and others will be able to give £50 easily and so may choose to give more but for many, £50 may be just about right – within reach but involving a degree of sacrifice.



Sadly, it is likely – based on previous experience – that a proportion of our 600-strong membership will choose not to support this Gift Day. There's nothing we can do about that; offerings must come from those who choose willingly to give. But if even half of our members do so, and gift an average of £50, a total of £15,000 would be realised which would be of great benefit to us in our ongoing work. Anything above that would, of course, be greatly welcomed.

You may choose to be part of the Gift Day and to make your gift in various ways. You can come on Saturday 28th November, between 10-12noon, and present your gift in person. Coffee will be served throughout the morning. If you're unable to come on the Saturday, you can bring your gift in the specially marked envelope on the Sunday morning. If you are also able to Gift Aid your offering, then please fill in the relevant details, allowing us to reclaim the tax from the government. If you are unable to come in person, gifts can be handed to magazine distributors or posted to the Church Office.

It goes without saying – but will be said anyway, LOUDLY AND CLEARLY – that your support for your congregation is a cause for rejoicing and much thanksgiving.

In the name of the Kirk Session

Martin



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

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Jane Miller : 875235

TREASURER

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BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Linda Hunter : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

October 2015

Baptisms - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - None

Thank You

A very big THANK YOU to all the ladies who knitted beanie hats for Malawi.

We needed 300 but we were able to send 420.

Thank you all very much.

Jennie Mill

Malawi Fundraising

Sunday 8th November – Soup Lunch

Saturday 21st November – Thanksgiving Meal

Sunday 13th December – Soup Lunch

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER EDITION

(NOTE - There is NO January 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 20th November (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th November (Word-Processed file)

Church Hogmanay

In case you missed the notice in last month's QUEST, we're delighted to announce that we'll be hosting another Church 'Hogmanay Party' to take place on – you've guessed it – Hogmanay!! Festivities will begin at 8am and there will be elements for all age groups, from the youngest to the oldest. It's coming soon and we can't wait!

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 - 12.00 – 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

November 2015

Dear friends,

There are days when I say to myself, 'There must be easier ways to make a living!' Occasionally critical voices are to the fore, negativity abounds and little of what you attempt seems to come to fruition. Maybe it's a Sunday service that was sweated over, planned and prepared for, that just seemed to fall flat. Or maybe it was something that you said that was misunderstood leading to some kind of ruction! I'm thankful that such days have been for me few and far between! Most of the time, leading St. Andrew's Church has been straightforward.

But not all of life can be plain sailing. You can't possibly get by all of the time riding on the crest of a wave with everything magically falling into place. Sometimes you've got to grind it out, working hard for every inch of progress. Sometimes you've just got to accept that no matter how hard you try there will be little apparent progress – that it will feel like running to stand still.

It seems to me that, actually, you find out more about a person in times like these than when everything clicks into place. Jose Mourinho, manager of Chelsea FC has had an amazingly successful career in football management, winning silverware at all of the clubs he's worked for. Never a shrinking violet, famously he described himself as the 'special one!' But this year, his team is really struggling. They seem to have lost, for now, the winning formula and players who were unstoppable last season seem to be low on confidence and underperforming as a result. Now, we'll find out what Jose is really like. How will he cope when things are going wrong? How will he react to the criticism that will come his way?

In the same way, the Christian life will involve us having to keep going when all of the cards seem to be stacked against us. There are few qualities as important as 'perseverance' if you want to follow after Jesus because, sometimes, following him will mean hanging in there when quitting would be by far the easier option. The writer to the Hebrews puts it beautifully simply when he says, 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' (Hebrews 12:1)

Maybe you're struggling a bit right now? Maybe you find yourself in darker moments wondering what it's all about? If so, now is the time to hang in there and to remember that you're not walking alone. Those who persevere will not, in the end, be disappointed.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

martin.fair@sky.com

Buildings and Bikes:

A Cause for Lament or a Call to Action

Recently Lynne and I were driving through Crieff. As we turned up off the main street we noticed an empty church building; our simultaneous thought was 'how sad'. Right enough, it was quite depressing to look upon. It had all the characteristics that you would expect of a nice church building however it had a lack of signage to tell you when the service was and there was an abundance of overgrown weeds that made it quite clear that this was an empty building. The same day that we saw the empty church building we found ourselves in a cafe that had bikes as wall decorations. At one end was a vintage 'time served' bike and at the other end was a brand new bike. They were perched at such a height that it was clear that these bikes were not going to see tarmac any time soon. I thought it sad for the bikes that they had become decorations instead of means of transport and fun. But who was missing out – the bikes? In reality what had become a decoration was something that could have been used and enjoyed by someone. I should have been sad for the person that perhaps once (with the vintage bike) or could have (with the new bike) been their cyclist.

Back to the church building that I saw. Should I have been sad for the building? It was my first instinct but, as I

reflected further, I wondered if it should have been, and I began to be challenged about my mentality. What should have caused me to lament more were the people that the building represented. What about the people who had belonged there and used to gather in worship? Or, what about the people who could have come to belong there?

From that day, there were two reflections from the Bible that I came to settle on – conveniently they both link to the two bikes that I saw! Firstly, the vintage bike – it was a Raleigh Chopper. In Psalm 42:4 the Psalmist laments as they remember how things used to be when they went together to God's house. Looking at that building perhaps there was a place to be sad for those who had once gathered there – just at someone had once cherished that bike. Secondly, the new bike and the reason to think about those that could have cycled it. Rather than look back at the building, I should be reflecting on those out there who have never heard of God or know who Jesus is. This is much more of a cause for reflection and indeed action. In Matthew 9:37 we are reminded of the plentiful harvest. There is great potential – just as there was in that never-ridden bike – when we look out beyond the building to the people of Crieff, Arbroath, Scotland and beyond.

Your Friend and occasional cyclist

Stuart

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Why do the Roman Catholics and Episcopalians call the piece of furniture at the front of the sanctuary the 'altar', though we Presbyterians call it the 'Communion Table'?

Theophilus answers :

This is a hugely important issue and in the past many of our forefathers have been martyred because they refused to call the 'Holy Table' an 'altar', but insisted it was not an altar, only a 'Communion Table'.

The word 'altar' implies a place where a sacrifice is offered. Roman Catholics believe that when Jesus instituted the Communion Service and said as he took the bread and wine, 'This is my body... this is my blood', he meant that literally. In other words, as the communion bread and wine are consecrated, they actually become the 'flesh' and 'blood' of Christ, because in the sacrament he is being sacrificed for sin all over again. This teaching is known as 'Transubstantiation'. That is also why their clergy are called 'priests', because a priest's main function is to offer sacrifices.

The reformers argued from the New Testament that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was 'once and for all', and could never be repeated: quoting from Jeremiah 31:34 (a passage where the New Covenant is being promised), the apostle wrote: "'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.'" And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin' (Hebrews 10:17-18).

So the reformers understood Jesus to be referring to a spiritual participation in the Body and Blood of Christ. As John Knox wrote in the Scots Confession of 1662, 'The bread remains bread and the wine remains wine.' But the reformers also insisted that Communion was more than just 'a memorial'; it was also spiritually receiving Christ and all the benefits of his death and resurrection. Nevertheless his sacrifice could never be repeated—it was 'once and for all'.

So that is why we Presbyterians insist that sacred piece of furniture in the sanctuary's chancel is the 'Holy Table' or the 'Communion Table'. However, at communion we do make an 'offering' or 'sacrifice': it is the offering of thanksgiving, and flowing from that offering of praise must be also an offering of 'doing good and sharing with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased' (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Youth Work Update

If you connect with St. Andrew's church Facebook page, you will be aware of the Youth Group's Food Frenzy afternoon, held a few weeks ago. It consisted of all things edible including our own Bake Off challenge, fruit mocktails and Bible scenes made from bread and jam. Everyone who took part had a great time, including the leaders! (Photos on back page.) We look forward to doing more themed afternoons in the future. In addition, after the success of our Glasgow weekend away, we are currently organising an overnight retreat to Banchory West Church in the coming months.

This term our work in Arbroath Academy is stepping up

a notch with a lunchtime stall in the social area called Refresh. The chaplaincy team, including ministers from around the town, our Vocations Volunteers and I, will be available every Friday lunchtime with free hot chocolate and a variety of activities. Our aim is to chat to the students and begin building relationships with them in order to fulfil what has become our new motto: 'here to help'. If you are an Academy pupil, please come and say hello.

The 6 to 7 club proved great fun last term for the children who came along, learning about Noah, the Tower of Babel and much more. Keep an eye out on Facebook and the bulletin for further information.

Blessings, Adele

GUILD NEWS

Time to write the article again - it's difficult this month as we have a lot happening later in October but I can't write about them before they happen! Suffice to say we will be working very hard and hearing about a very difficult subject.

26th October is our joint meeting with West Kirk where we will hear about our Guild Project:- Breaking the Cycle of FGM - (Female Genital Mutilation). A difficult topic but something that even happens in our country today.

On Saturday 31st October we will have had our Stovie Lunch - which will have been hard work and hopefully fun as well.

You may have noticed Guild Women in Church on Sun-

day 1st November as this will be our Service for Guild Week, which because of circumstances is happening a little earlier this year.

Thankfully November meetings will be less challenging :

Monday 9th November 2015: We will have as our guests local Line Dancers who will show us their moves and perhaps ask us to join in!

Monday 23rd November 2015: Our own Flower Club will give us a demonstration - we might get a few ideas for Christmas.

Hopefully we will have met with friends and members at some or all of these events in our busy calendar.

Guild Motto: Whose we are and whom we serve

Thank You

A great big 'thank you' to everyone who donated and gathered in the great mass of aid that is even now on its way – by land and sea – to our partner communities in Malawi. And a great big 'well done' to Sheila and the members of the Malawi Team together with Stuart and our volunteers,

Amy and Chris, who worked with some willing helpers from RM Condor to load the 40ft container. There is no doubt about it – everything that we've sent will be pressed into service in Malawi and will be gratefully received by one and all. Let's hope that the consignment will arrive in time for Christmas so that the children will be able to open their presents on time! (Photo on back page.)

Putting Christ into Christmas!

There are few indications to suggest that Christmas in Scotland this year will anything other than hectic – just as it has been for many years. That makes it all the more important that, as Christians, we ensure that we make time for worship celebrations – and not just that they be ‘squeezed in’ but that they be central to our festivities!

Our weekly services throughout December will take us through the Advent journey and right into the heart of

Christmas. Our special services on Christmas Eve – at 6.30pm for all the family and then at 11.15pm – will be joyous occasions when together we can celebrate the Good News of Jesus coming into the world. On Christmas Day itself, we will gather at 10.30am to receive the greatest gift of all!

And don’t forget our Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving – a service particularly for those who have suffered a bereavement or have found 2015 to be a difficult year. Putting Christ into Christmas – that’s what we’re all about.

What would you do if

*a knock at your door announced the arrival of masked men who demanded that you hand over your daughter to them.

*you were falsely accused of blasphemy and were separated from your family and held in prison for 5 years.

*you were attacked by your siblings after your conversion to Christianity.

*your parents were both killed by terrorists and you became the family breadwinner.

*you had to stand by and watch whilst your church built by sacrificial gifts, was bulldozed to the ground.

All questions demand an answer. The majority of people would turn to a higher power for help, be it Allah, the Buddha, Hindu philosophy, Confucius or the One that Christians revere as the Creator and Eternal God who allows access to His Presence through the death of Jesus, His Son.

Many of those living through the above scenarios are too distraught or depressed to pray for themselves. Could we invite those of you who are concerned about the above situations to join us for one and a half hours a month at our Persecuted Church meeting? We have coffee/tea and fellowship for 15mins. and then seek to “lift up the weak in Jesus’ Name.” As Jesus said to His disciples: “Could you not watch with me for one hour?” Let’s not fail Him or our wider church family.
Sue Pritchard

More VV Blogs

Amy

One of the best parts of working at St Andrew’s Church is that no two days are ever the same! This month, I got involved in the Malawi shipment as well as creating the Walls of Jericho! These were both great experiences. The Malawi shipment involved two days of shifting boxes and tables etc. It was amazing to see how the community comes together and gives so much for Malawi – to the extent that not everything can make it into a 40foot container, no matter how well Sandy Bowie packs it from floor to roof! The work that goes on for Malawi is spectacular and it is amazing to see how much everyone cares about not only their sponsor child but every child out there. I’m glad I got to be a part of this and send help out to those who need it – even if it was hard work that left us only good for bed!!

Chris

A friend of mine, shocked as they were by my religious conviction, once told me that two hands working for social change could do more than a million hands clasped in prayer. I was shocked by the hostility that this person showed towards this Christian discipline, but it fuelled me to spend all the more time engaging with God in prayer. I have been overjoyed by the enthusiastic welcome that I have received from the prayer group here at St Andrew’s. Our time together - whether in silent or spoken prayer, fellowship or hymn-singing – never ceases to be spiritually nourishing. I’m so encouraged by this group and their conviction that God really does listen to the pleas of His people to bring about goodness in Creation. So pace this friend, I look forward to continued participation in the prayer group, as we give our thanks and lamentations to the Lord as an affirmation of the Lord’s continued work in our world. As the Psalmist says: “Let my prayer be counted as incense before

you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!” (Ps. 141:2)

Matthew

As you may have seen in our blog, one of my true passions is the Boys’ Brigade. I have really enjoyed getting to know the guys at both St Andrew’s and Old & Abbey Church where I serve as a Boys’ Brigade officer. My first night at Old & Abbey was great fun - we had cake, did some colouring in and then played some games and I ended up with the title ‘king of dodge ball’. I am so happy I get the opportunity to work between both companies and build relationships with the guys who attend both of them. I am looking forward to my first enrolment service which will be at St Andrew’s on the 22nd October, so feel free to come up and ask me how I found it as it is not something we have done back home and I am always up for talking about the new experiences I am getting from being in Arbroath.

If you want to keep regularly up to date with what Amy, Chris and Matthew are doing you can sign up to their ‘unofficial’ blog at:

www.oneblogthreevoices.wordpress.com

where there are weekly thoughts and reflections about what the volunteers are doing; you may even see some familiar faces from across the congregation! You can subscribe using your email address and whenever a new post comes up it will be emailed directly to you!

Service Core Group ECO TIPS

In most homes lighting accounts for 10% to 15% of the electricity bill. Switch to energy saving light bulbs and you’ll be amazed at how much you can save.

Church – On Demand

For younger people, so much of their lives are lived ‘online’ that the idea of Church services being available over the internet doesn’t seem like as big a deal as all that. For others, it sounds like something from a futuristic science fiction movie! Perhaps because of that, there were some who wondered why we were investing in the technology to allow us to operate such an outreach ministry here at St. Andrew’s.

Here are the comments of just three of the many hundreds who have shared our services online since we started streaming last December. They help to illustrate that this service is being appreciated by all kinds of people in lots of different circumstances.

During my recent holiday in Hungary I watched the service on the Internet on two Sundays and was much impressed by the quality of the sound and vision. I was also much comforted by the feeling that I was right there with my church family taking part in the worship. It really is a wonderful service our church is now offering to those who for whatever reason cannot attend the church on a Sunday” – Bill Marshall (elder)

“Being so far away from home is a big change and at times can be challenging, but being able to watch the Church services online is a true comfort and something I look forward to each week.” – Jill Finlayson (living and working in Hong Kong)

“For several months now I have been worshipping with St. Andrew’s on Sunday mornings. I learned from Martin’s parents (who for many years have sat beside me in my local church) that the services were being broadcast.

Early this year I became ill and was unable to get out. So on Sunday mornings I watched people go past my window heading for church – and then I settled down with my iPad and joined in your services of worship.

Over the months I have felt most welcome and have appreciated all aspects of your worship – the music, the prayers the sermons and talks by your many visiting speakers, also the flowers and decoration for special services.

Please keep up this valuable ministry. Although I am now much better and able to get out again, I am sure there must be many people who are as appreciative as I have been. Thank you to everyone who makes it possible.” – May W (Glasgow)

Tim Mineard

As many of you know, Tim Mineard has spent recent times considering a call to ministry – something that we’ve been keen to encourage him in. He has recently completed the Church of Scotland’s Discernment Process and the great news is that he passed through it with flying colours. He is now readying himself for a full Selection Conference to take place early in November.

We wish Tim well and will continue to

pray for him and Fiona and the girls as they seek God’s call.

This, of course, is part of a much bigger question. The Church of Scotland, as with most Christian denominations, is facing a serious shortage of ministers – particularly younger men and women. So we rejoice that Tim is considering this calling but we must pray that many more will do likewise.

(Photo of Tim and family on back page.)

An Evening with C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis stands out as one of the ‘giants’ of 20th Century literature – a crafter of wonderful children’s stories (Narnia etc.) and an advocate for the Christian faith like few others before him or since. And yet he came to faith somewhat later in life and only after a considerable struggle. But it was a faith that was to see him stand firm through the storms of life, not least when losing his American-born wife, Joy.

‘An Evening with C.S. Lewis’ is a brilliant one-man show which brings to life Lewis’s life and work. That this theatrical production is coming to Arbroath is a special occasion indeed and is the only Scottish performance of the tour!

Get the date in your diary now – Tuesday 8th December – and book your tickets, through Eventbrite.co.uk or at the Church Office.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

10.50 am - Worship Service; beginning with Act of Remembrance.
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

DECEMBER

Sunday 6

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

Sunday 13

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

Sunday 20

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

Christmas Eve 24

6.30 pm - Christingle and Nativity Service
11.15 pm - Traditional Watchnight Service (preceded by Coffee and Mince Pies)

Christmas Day 25

10.30 am - Christmas Day Service for all the family

Sunday 27th

11 am - Worship Service.
Week 6 of E100
6.30 pm - Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving

N.B. As well as the services above there is a 40 minute service every Wednesday morning at 10.30 am.

First impressions of St Andrew's Church

by Karen McGavock

Welcoming, vibrant, creative, dynamic, faith-full – just some of the adjectives which convey my very positive impressions of Arbroath St Andrew's! I have thoroughly enjoyed my first couple of month's attachment at the church as I continue to discern God's Call on my life. It has been a valuable period of reflection but one enriched by active participation - this is a church where everyone is invited to get involved and, in so doing, Arbroath St Andrew's is impressively reaching out to people both near and far - living out the Gospel.

Mother Teresa once said that, "the problem with the world is that we draw the circle of our family too small" yet my impression of Arbroath St Andrew's is that of an inclusive church which reaches out to people whatever their need. This is a church which lives out the gospel, which draws the circle of family wide, surrounding people in

God's love - one which fulfils the mission of service and social action. Jesus called St Andrew, along with his brothers James, Peter and John, to be 'fishers of men' and true to its namesake's mission, this church casts its net widely, inspiring people to follow Him in ways which compel them to respond to God's Call on their lives.

Arbroath St Andrew's does not exist on a 'one hour on a Sunday' basis – it lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. God's presence in this place is tangible – in the caring ways in which it welcomes strangers, in the variety of services which strive to meet the faith needs of people of all ages and in the inspiring, dynamic and committed leadership of Rev Dr Martin Fair, whose vision, compassion and commitment represent a shining example of ministry in the 21st century.

There is something for everyone here. It impressively builds on its heritage but looks to the future and it does, I believe, signal very positive ways ahead for the Church of Scotland. Thank you all for so warmly welcoming me into your church family and into the community that is Arbroath St Andrew's!

Back to School

We are very fortunate that we have been able to build and maintain excellent relationships with local primary schools and with Arbroath Academy. We're continuing to develop these relationships and our youth worker, Adele, together with our three Vocations Volunteers, Amy, Chris and Matthew, are going to push this work forward – not least the elements of it that Stuart brought into being.

By way of new initiatives, we have just launched 'Refresh' at the Academy. We're going to be present in the

Academy's social area every Friday lunchtime, serving hot chocolate or, in warmer weather, fruit cocktails. Principally, this is to allow our team greater opportunities to develop relationships with pupils and to make themselves available wherever the need might be. We've had special 'hoodies' made up which have 'here to help' emblazoned on the back. That really should be the motto for all Christians and it certainly is when it comes to chaplaincy.

Please pray for our schools team in all that they will seek to do in this coming year.

E100 Bible Reading Challenge

Hopefully you're now well into the E100 journey through the Old and New Testaments. If so, you'll have re-acquainted yourself with familiar and well-known passages AND come across passages with which you're much less familiar. If you're in a Home Group, you'll have had opportunity to share insights with others and if you're with us on Sunday mornings you'll have heard Martin and Stuart unpacking the messages from the relevant passages.

The point of any Bible-reading programme, such as E100, is that we might get to know the scriptures better. But even that goal is only a means to an end. Ultimately, we read scripture to listen to God and to allow him to guide and direct our lives.

If you've missed out on E100 until now, then why not join us after Christmas as we move into the New Testament section? Ask at the Church Office for details of how to get involved.

Vital Security

It is with regret we have to report that the Fire Exit door in the small halls was left open again overnight.

THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME IN THE SPACE OF TWO MONTHS!!!

This door must only be used in an absolute emergency. If we were to have intruders who stole our technical equipment (at least £20,000) or, far worse, were to vandalise our premises or start a fire, then we would have no recourse to our insurance. Imagine a 3 million pound building going up in flames and no cover from insurance because we are failing with our security!!!

After the first occasion that the door was left open, the Fabric Group fitted an alarm that sounds when the door is

opened. **Despite that, the door was left open a further twice.** And now, despite taping a paper 'barrier' with a warning across the door, we have had **another** recurrence - and we are now having to spend even more money on equipment to try to ensure this ceases to happen.

We would therefore ask that all users of this hall, including parents who allow their children in there unsupervised, should please check that the door is secure before leaving. We must all play our responsible part in ensuring that there is no further recurrence.

In general, when leaving the buildings, please check that all lights and appliances are switched off, all internal and external fire doors are closed, and external doors locked.

Thank you in anticipation of your cooperation.

Fabric Group.

More In Pictures



Malawi

The medical centre that we are building is making good progress.



Condor Marines helping Sandy Bowie and Stuart Irvin to load the container.



After the devastation of the floods last year, there is much rejoicing as progress is made in rebuilding the many fragile homes that were destroyed.



Above: Tim Mineard, with Fiona and family



Above and right: The Youth Group Bake-off was a great success



Amy, Chris and Matthew built a magnificent wall of Jericho and Linda Hunter and her husband made a 'Golden calf'. Then the trumpet blew, the army shouted, and the walls came tumbling down



Amy and Matthew with the ten commandments (modern version!)