



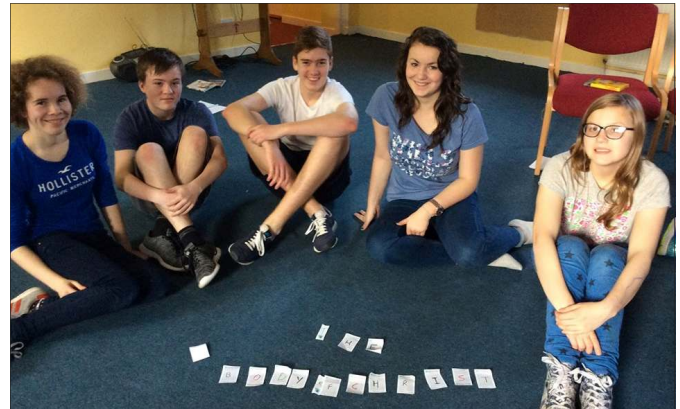
## Youth Work Making Good Progress

Our '6 to 7 Club' is going well just now as we are beginning to see the regular children bringing friends along, increasing our numbers. I am pleased with how this group is running as there are a couple of children who come along every week and get a great deal out of it. One child in particular tells us he is bored every week but rarely misses a session. If you know of any P6 or P7 who would like to come along don't hesitate to call me for more information.



Amy and the Youth Group enjoying the Banchory trip

Refresh is our newest venture this year, where the Chaplaincy team takes hot chocolate to the social area in the Academy for the pupils on Friday lunchtime. As with anything being offered for free by strangers, the young people were a little reserved to start with but we are now having more in depth conversations. The hoodies have been a great



investment as they make us visible to the young people, identifying us as people they can safely talk to.

As for the youth group, our trip to Banchory was successful as I feel I am getting to know the young people much better by having a chance to talk to them during meal times and games. Our focus on 'The Body of Christ' gave the whole group and chance to reflect on their place in the church, the skills and interests they have and the importance of fellowship. We are now looking forward to one of the highlights of the year: the trip to Edinburgh's Christmas Market.

Merry Christmas to you from all of our young people!

Adele Ramsay



## Logan's Baptism

There's nothing much to match a baptism by immersion to vividly and dramatically represent initiation in faith. And so, what a delight it was for us to celebrate Logan Lorimer's baptism in that way.

Of course, the water is only symbolic and so it really doesn't matter how much water is used. A person is just as baptised whether immersed in gallons of water or sprinkled by a few drops! The Church of Scotland uses both methods and so it comes down to individual choice and a decision made in consultation with the minister.

We asked Logan to write a summary

of what has led him to the point of wanting to be baptised. Here's his story so far:

I have been going to Church ever since I was little. My family started coming along to St Andrew's about 9 years ago. In Primary School I enjoyed the Sunday Club and although I knew all the Bible stories I wasn't quite sure what being a Christian was all about. I loved going along to the Bible Class once I got to secondary school, but when I stopped attending that in 3rd year I wasn't sure about what I believed and didn't come along to Church as much.

(Continued on Page 7)

**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

**YOUTH WORKER**

Adele Ramsay : 07762 740 317

**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**

Janis Clark : 878594

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Linda Hunter : 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR/CDs**

Ken Miller : 875235

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**

**Parish Records**

**November 2015**

**Baptisms** - Logan Lorimer, Brooke Findlay, Nala Smith

**Weddings** - None

**Funerals** - Lil Tosh, Ron Tasker

**Malawi Fundraising**

**Saturday 12th December**

Kids Mystery Adventure  
3-5pm for primary school children.

A childrens' version of our popular Murder Mystery. A chance too for adults to leave the children and do a bit of last minute Christmas Shopping. Cost £5 which includes a 2 course meal. Please book at the church office.

**Sunday 13th December**

Soup Lunch

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**FEBRUARY 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 22nd January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 26th January (Word-Processed file)

**Service Core Group  
ECO TIPS**

Try not to wash clothes on a setting above 40C. Washing at 60C uses 30% more energy just heating the water.

**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

December 2015

Dear Friends,

It's become commonplace for Christians to spend most of December complaining! We complain about the rampant commercialism and we complain that people 'out there' neglect Jesus who is, as we say, the 'reason for the season.'

Let's see if we can manage to do less complaining this year. We live in a secular society and the vast majority of people aren't particularly bothered about Jesus – that's the way it is. As for the commercialism? Sorry but, again, that's part of what it is to live in a twenty-first century post-industrial country. Society survives by selling and buying stuff, most of which we don't need. None of that's going to change anytime soon and having Christians moaning about it won't make any difference.

So, what to do? There's a simple answer. We can opt out of the rampant commercialism and we can put Jesus at the centre of our season – and we can do all of that without haranguing others for doing differently! You see the problem is, if we spend all of our time complaining we give other people the idea that Christians do nothing but complain AND we rob ourselves of the joy that should be ours at Christmas!

Here's what it's all about. God loves us so much that he chose to enter our world, our existence, in the person of Jesus. There's a story of shepherds, wise men and innkeepers; who among us doesn't love to see the story unfold in our annual Nativity Play? But the message of the story is the same as it's always been – God loves us so much. Let me make it even more personal and say: God loves YOU so much that Jesus came into the world – to live and to die that YOU might have life in all its fullness, life eternal.

And there is the source of what should be our joy! We are loved! Why not let THAT define your month? Why not make God's love be what you focus on this year? Maybe, just maybe, we might make more of an impression if we did more JOY and less complaining!!

Let's let people see that we really have been transformed and that 'Joy to the world, the Lord is come' makes all the difference in the world.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

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

## Bubblegum and Fluff

By the time you read this hopefully Bubblegum and Fluff 2015 will be in full swing. For those of you not familiar with it – Bubblegum and Fluff is a Christmas Event where we welcome local Primary 6s to the church to learn about the meaning behind Christmas. There is craft, puppetry, storytelling and much much more!

As with previous years I am excited about this event because we are able to welcome these young people into the church and make them feel welcomed as they learn about the Christmas Message. Specific to this year's event though there are quite a few things that I am really encouraged by. The first revolves around my new found love of plastic crates!

As a parent I have really come to appreciate the value of a plastic crate since the volume of 'stuff' in our house has increased exponentially. In the ministry context, especially relating to the different school events that we do, we are now the proud owners of a dedicated fleet of crates keeping all our resources (stuff) well organised as they reside in the

organ store. There is a debt of gratitude to those who have helped me come to appreciate this medium of storage! I know that being able to lay our hands on these 'tools of the trade' makes life so much easier, but also helps to future-proof these events beyond my tenure here.

The final thing that I would like to point to that excites me about this year's event also relates to this event being something that will continue to run for years to come. This is by way of the increased uptake of other churches and schools. This year's event will see us welcome 300 Primary 6s representing 8 schools and they will be hosted at 5 different venues – including our own St Andrew's where over a hundred of those primary 6s will be with us. This is really encouraging and the seed bed for this goes back to the vision and commitment of those who first supported what we were doing and helped us get up and running with the resources that we needed to get started.

God Bless

Stuart

P.S. No news yet on where we are going next – but we will keep you posted! Thanks for your prayers and support.

## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

In Genesis 9:4, God said to Noah--you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it. Does this mean it is wrong to eat roast beef or steak that is under-cooked? Some people like it that way, with blood oozing from it. Personally I prefer it well done.

### Theophilus answers :

This is an important question because it's the beginning of a trajectory that progresses right through the whole Bible, until it finds its ultimate 'target' in verses such as, John 19:24: One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. Or, Romans 5:9: We have now been justified by his blood... . Or again, 1 John 1:7: The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. These are only a few of the scores of NT references to the blood of Jesus.

Literally, the verse you quoted in your question reads, You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. Our forefathers didn't understand this verse, because when someone was sick, right up to Victorian times, the doctor

would 'bleed' the patient, sometimes bleeding them to death, because 'their life in their blood' was being drained away. The emphasis on Christ's blood in the New Testament simply means that when he died and shed his blood, he sacrificed his life for those he loved.

After Christ's death, resurrection and ascension, Christians realized that the Old Testament rituals of sacrifice and ceremonial cleansing had been prophetic, pointing forward to Jesus; he had now fulfilled them, so they were no longer necessary. But at the Council of Jerusalem when the apostles and elders discussed all these OT laws, they agreed they were no longer needed; however, for the sake of Jewish scruples, they asked the new non-Jewish believers 'to abstain from blood' (Acts 15:29). The Church has accepted since the days of the apostles that where Christians are living amongst Jews, they should still abstain from eating blood to avoid giving unnecessary offence. Nevertheless, the Mosaic food-laws no longer apply today.

One last point: Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions because of this Mosaic Law. They are mistaken. The blood used in transfusions is not from a life that has sacrificed; rather someone is sharing with the sick person the life in the blood given.

## Havilah Gold

St Andrew's Church has a reputation for generous giving. You only have to think of Malawi, Caring for Life etc. I love and support these wonderful projects, but we have in our church a project much closer to home. I mean Havilah at Community Spirit at Fisheracre.

Havilah opens five days a week, Monday to Friday from 12 till 2pm. It offers a warm welcome, tea, toast, coffee,

soup and most of all a listening ear to anyone in need.

Tracey, Jim and Karen form the admin team helped by a goodly number of volunteers, who provide the soup, make the tea and coffee, wash the dishes and just talk to everyone who comes. (Speaking of soup, more people are needed to provide soup on a monthly basis. Can you help in this way?)

Who are these volunteers? What else do they do? Why do they do it? Next month I hope to find out more.

## GUILD NEWS

A big thank you to everybody who supported us at our Stovie Lunch on Saturday, 31st October. We raised the super sum of just over £650.00. We very much appreciate the help we received on the day and the lovely home baking and donations given which made our day a great success. Thanks again.

In November we had a lovely evening of tuition from the Flower Club. (You can see the result on the back page.)

Our only date in December is Monday 14th when we have our Christmas Party. Our party is to be held in Darlings on the High Street. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

**Guild Motto: "Whose we are and whom we serve"**

## 7th Arbroath B.B.

Another year is almost nearing the end. The last few weeks have been very challenging for the B.B. Officers who have attended training courses and give of their time so freely.

We held a Halloween Party on 29th of October, our numbers being depleted as we were competing with a school disco that night. A bit of communication from parents would be appreciated as we do not know what goes on at school. For the boys who did turn up, a great night was had by all. Winners of the fancy dress were - Anchor boys: 1st Delivery Mail - John Webster, 2nd Pack of Cards - Noah Webster. Junior section: 1st Back to Front - Daniel Webster, 2nd Vampire - Lewis Robb. The boys have been work-

ing very hard towards their first badges of the year and we thank Amy and Matthew, our young people who are here enquiring about the Ministry, for their weekly input to our company evenings.

As I write this we are all deeply saddened at the passing of one of our retired Officers, Ron Tasker. We give thanks for all he gave to our Company to nurture our boys and under his guidance we achieved a few Queen's Men. To all his family we pass on our condolences at this sad time.

We are not too sure as to when our last meeting is to be held before the Christmas Holidays but we will re-start on Thursday 7th of January.

Seasons Blessings to one and all.

Captain and Officers

## Christmas 2015

With the visit of the Bellshill Salvation Army Band, our Advent and Christmas celebrations will get going in grand style! And from then until the very end of December, there will be a wonderful array of worship services, outreach activities and parties to keep everyone happy!

Sunday morning and evening and Wednesday services will continue throughout the month, with striking messages, poignant prayers and much-loved songs and carols. Watch out too for our extra services – the Nativity Service and Traditional Watchnight Service at 6.30pm and 11.15pm respectively on Christmas Eve and our Family Celebration on Christmas Day at 10.30am. The evening service on Sunday 27th December will take the form of our annual Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving, designed especially for those who suffer heavy hearts at this time of year.

By way of outreach, we're going to be involved in four different activities:

On Monday 14th, our Service Core Group will be distributing Christmas tray-bakes to all branches of the emergency services – our way of saying 'thank you' to them for

all that they do for us

In the middle of December (agreement having been given!) we're going to stage a live nativity scene in Morrisons! Shoppers with children (and perhaps not!) will have the chance to 'step into' the scene and have a photograph taken – giving them a lovely Christmas memento, a contact with St. Andrew's Church and, who knows, cause to think about the coming of Jesus right there in the heart of the shopping frenzy

Also in the middle of December, we'll be staging a 'manger scene' on the High Street with a challenging message about making room for a baby to be born

Just prior to Christmas we'll be distributing invitations to all of the households at the new Monarch's Rise development.

Last but not least, various of our groups and organisations will be enjoying Christmas meals, parties and trips. So whether you're at the Sunday Club party on the 13th, the Youth Group trip to enjoy the ice-skating and Christmas markets in Edinburgh on the 19th or at the Friends Club Christmas Dinner being hosted at the British Legion, have a very merry Christmas!!

## Christmas Devotional

### Putting faith first in our celebrations

In the lead up to Christmas, we'll be publishing a daily devotional on our website and Facebook page. We talk about the all-consuming onslaught of commercialism at this time of year; this daily input will help us to make sure that Christ is locked into our Christmas celebrations.

These devotions will begin on Sunday 13th December. You'll be able to access them on the front page of our website and by signing up to our Facebook page. For those who don't have access to online resources, paper copies will be available from the Church Office on Sunday 13th.

Why not give it a go? Let's see if we can keep our eyes fixed on the One who came to save the world.

## Prayer for Peace

Can there be anyone who isn't deeply troubled by the state of our world at this time? Of course there have always been wars and atrocities but with the wall-to-wall media coverage and the global reach of terrorist organisations, none of us remains unaffected. Mindless slaughter is as horrific in Beirut or Baghdad as it is in Paris but because few of us have been to the Middle East and, in contrast, many of us have walked Paris's tree-lined boulevards, the feeling of insecurity rises considerably.

It's with this in mind that we are going to open our Church for a full twenty-four hours of reflection and prayer in the week leading up to Christmas. Beginning at 8pm on Sunday 20th December and until 8pm on the Monday evening, church members and members of the public will be able to come into the sanctuary, whether for ten minutes or for an hour or two, to sit quietly or to pray. The space will be sensitively lit and appropriate background music will make for a welcoming, reflective atmosphere. A rota of stewards is being established to ensure that all who come will be made to feel welcome.

It's important that in the midst of our Christmas celebrations we don't allow ourselves to be blinded to what is going on all around us. Certainly there are practical steps that we can take to stand with victims – such as supporting the refugees fleeing from war-torn Syria and from IS-inspired madness across the region. But so too we can pray. More than that, we are called to pray – to cry out on behalf of those whose suffering is beyond our imagination. And perhaps with the Church being open in this kind of way, we'll find people coming in to seek stillness who would never ordinarily come?

If you'd like to volunteer to steward – whether in the morning or afternoon or middle of the night! – please call the Church Office to offer your help. But just as important, please come to reflect and pray.

'When I was in deep trouble, I searched for the Lord. All night long I prayed, with hands lifted toward heaven.' Psalm 77:2

## Clerk's Corner

### Pastoral Progress

Now that our Contact Team is functioning at full strength its members are bringing back very valuable information on the welfare of some of our members. This information can include requests for ministerial visits, details about illness and an additional feature – suggestions from the Contact Team for names of those who might benefit from getting some flowers. Previously the flowers usually went to people who had been ill or perhaps bereaved. Now when we have enough flowers, others can get some, just to say that they are being thought of, that we know that you have been feeling rather low etc. etc. This little act of care has already been much appreciated.

The second stage of our caring for our members is carried out by The Pastoral Care team. This team which has been increased in number, is already partly in action and its volunteers have begun their visits. There is also efficient feedback on the visits being recorded by each volunteer. Both the visitors and those visited have told

us how much they have enjoyed the times spent together.

Both the Contact Team and the Pastoral Care Team are organised from the office and any relevant matters should be referred to our Administrator, Linda.

### Fabric Footnotes for 2015.

To add to the never-ending list of jobs carried out regularly by the Fabric Core Group, the following tasks, among others, have kept them busy:

Quotes and meetings etc. for manse replacement windows (now installed), cleaned gutters above the gallery door and at the rear of the building; replacement wooden planters acquired for the area in front of the small halls (and thanks to Jack Clarke for filling these and maintaining the garden at the front of the church); new crash bars and timed door closures fitted to the small hall exit fire door and to the kitchen passage fire door, (thus hopefully eliminating a security problem); cables replaced on two Dysons; winter tidying in the Glenview garden, blinds installed to hide 'black' windows. Strength to your arms and legs for 2016!

## More VV Blogs

This month, we've asked Amy to share a short reflection on something of what she's seen at St. Andrew's as she's gone about her work. Here's what she wrote:

'Life in the church never stops! There's always more that can be done, meaning our days are jam-packed with many different activities. Everyone in the church is always chipping in help for different things. One of

the most amazing things I've seen is the welcome given to people. I managed to convince Jim (a Havilah 'client') to come to a service and sitting beside him gave me such faith in St Andrew's. People came over and spoke to Jim making him extremely welcome. Similarly Dean came along to an evening service and no one hesitated to sit at the table with him and engage in conversation with him. I think this is an amazing trait for the church to portray, making St Andrew's welcoming for all.'

## That's What It Means To Me

Brand new for 2016, under the auspices of the Worship Core Group, we're launching a feature called, 'That's what it means to me.' You'll find it each month in QUEST and on our website and social media channels.

The idea is a very simple one. Each month, we'll be featuring a member of our congregation – young, old and in between! – who will share a favourite Bible verse or hymn or song. The ministers and a few select others get to do that kind of thing regularly! But what about others within the congregation? Almost certainly, most of us have something to share, but we'd be reluctant to stand at the front and talk about it. In this format, we'll all be able to benefit and be edified by the reflections of our brothers and sisters in the congregation.

What Bible verse most speaks to you at this stage of your journey? Or, is there an old hymn or a new song that helps you to express what you feel about your Lord? The first instalment of 'That's what it means to me' will appear in the February QUEST, the first one of the year, and simultaneously online.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Please note: as is our normal practice, there will be no 10.30am Wednesday Service on either the 30th December or 6th January.

### DECEMBER

#### Sunday 6

9.30 am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Worship Service;  
2nd Sunday in Advent -  
With special guests, the  
Bellshill Salvation Army Band!  
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  
6.30 pm - Service of Memorial  
and Thanksgiving

### JANUARY

#### Sunday 3

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

#### Sunday 10

11 am - Worship Service; 6.30  
pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 17

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 24

11 am - Worship Service with  
special guest Gordon Cruden  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 31

11 am - Worship Service  
4 pm - Messy Church  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

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

(Continued from front page.) My Mum was great and although she was a little disappointed she did not argue the point but kept on encouraging me so I could make my own choices. In the middle of 4th year I felt that I wanted to start coming back to Church. I couldn't say why, but I just felt that I needed to go back as I had so many questions and doubts and didn't know what to believe.

I didn't really attend the Youth Group as I just didn't feel very confident and was very shy.

I was angry with God lots of times especially when things weren't right between my Mum and Dad – I prayed and prayed for them to stay together but unfortunately they split up in 2014. I was in 5th year during this year and I found everything so hard – trying to study, wanting to be there for my Mum and leaving school, not really knowing who I was or what I was supposed to be doing. I was going to go to University, and I had a plan, but God had another plan and I left school at the end of 5th year. Still I prayed, but still the wrong answers kept coming - or so I thought!

Looking back at these last few years when things weren't right I realise that God's answer was for my Mum and

Dad to part and having left school I realise that that was right for me. I see that He is in control and all things do work out for the better - but it doesn't always seem that way. I hope to join the Police in the future.

As for Youth Group, I am now a volunteer there and really enjoy encouraging other teenagers in their faith journeys as I know how hard it is to be a teenager and have a faith.

Over the last year or so, I have been supported by all my St Andrew's family especially Tim, Jim and Stuart who have listened to me and prayed with me and for me. My Home Group really has been instrumental in encouraging me to grow in my faith and ask questions. I am not afraid to ask when I'm not sure and when I am struggling I know that they will support me. All these different people and situations God has given me have been part, I feel, of how I have come to the decision to be baptised. I know that God is committed to me and being baptised into His family I want to show my commitment to Him.

Even when things are tough I know that God is always with me.

Logan Lorimer

## 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!

As last year, this event is free though those who come will be able to make a donation to cover food costs etc. And though free, tickets need to be bought in advance to allow

the catering team to properly prepare.

The theme running through the whole evening will be 'Board Games' – though it's very unlikely that anyone will actually be bored!! Scattered among the interactive games, including our very own 'Cluedo Live,' will be dancing, supper, music and, in the lead up to the bells, a short reflection from our minister.

(For the avoidance of doubt, this is an alcohol-free event meaning that anyone can come, including those who need to avoid the temptation of alcohol.)

## Alas – No Bus!

I am writing to say thank you very much for all the effort invested in collecting, cutting out, counting and sending in all those tokens for the Courier Mini-Bus Competition. Alas, as you will have gathered from the title, we did not succeed in winning the bus. However that being said,

there are certainly some positives that we are left with. It was great to see the momentum and enthusiasm with which folk got behind the competition. Also, we are of course really excited for the winners: RockSolid Youth Project, Dundee who meet at Douglas and Mid Craigie Parish Church. We wish them many happy mini-bus miles.

Stuart

## STAMP APPEAL

**Church of Scotland World Mission ..... Leprosy Mission ..... Mercy Ships UK ...**

2015 has been a bumper year for used stamp and postcard donations - so much so that a "Working Group" was swiftly established at the beginning of the year deal with the massive increase in the volume of donations. By July, 2015, over 9lbs weight of stamps had already been processed.

Special thanks must go to team member, David Watson, who has spent many patient hours sorting, trimming, and bagging stamps - and to Margot Cunningham for delivering stamps and postcards to the Leprosy Mission (Scotland) office in Stirling.

Currently, the money raised from the Church of Scotland's Stamp Appeal is helping to fund HIV programmes in Scotland and through its sister churches overseas. Sadly, despite anti-retroviral medicines, 1.5 million people die annually from HIV / Aids and a further 2 million individuals are infected - leaving many thousands of children orphaned or vulnerable.

So - thanks to all of you who have so generously donated stamps and postcards this year so far. We now look forward to receiving your Christmas stamp donations!

In 2014, £4600 was raised by churches throughout Scotland. Let's see if 2015 will bring another bumper harvest!

# More In Pictures



## Malawi

With Christmas fast approaching we are very excited to say that the container is nearing its destination and we are very hopeful that it will arrive in time for Christmas. Thanks again for all those who gave Christmas Gifts and to those who donated goods for the container.

Fraser has just returned from Malawi and, although there on business, managed to fit in trips to both our centres. At Kambilonjo the clinic has only the finishings to do and

equipment to be sourced – some of that is in the container. We are now about to start building the staff houses.

At Thyolo reconstruction of houses continues. Fraser was able to visit one of the families who excitedly showed him their new home. This time it is more solid and should be able to withstand anything the rainy season can throw at it! Thanks to all those who contributed to the flood relief. Your money is rebuilding these houses and providing the much needed maize relief.

Sheila



**Clockwise from above left:** The Guild enjoyed an evening of tuition from the Flower Club ladies and produced an excellent display of Christmas decorations / we showed our support and prayed for the French Nation, and Parisians in particular, on the Sunday after the atrocities / Havilah held a Christmas Craft Fair and Coffee Morning where fun was had by young and old(er) alike. Cathie Black, Beatrice Gerrard,



Helen Wallace, Roberta Brand and Tania Lorimer are happy to be photogenic, but for some reason (and much good fun) **MAY SMITH** wishes to remain totally anonymous!

