

## Prayers For Peace

For the first time ever, we opened our sanctuary for a continuous 24 hours of prayer, the focus of the prayers being for peace in Syria and across the Middle East. The prayer time commenced at 8pm on Sunday 20th December and ran through till 8pm on the Monday night. The amazing thing was that there was hardly a time when there weren't at least some people in the sanctuary engaged in prayer and reflection. Everyone who commented spoke of how much they appreciated the stillness and appropriate music and lighting.



The 18-year old who saw the church opening advertised on our social media sites and chose to come down and sit for half an hour. As she was making her way out, she spoke of the important life decisions that she is having to make and of how coming into the church had helped her greatly to feel at peace.

The 25-year old man who was walking past at 2.30am in the middle of the night and who asked if he could come in to pray. Again, he

spent a short time in the sanctuary and as he was leaving told us that he had lost his sister seven years ago that very night and of how it had helped him to be able to come into the church.

And what about the 40-something year old who contacted us at 4am in the night via Facebook, to tell us that she'd love to come to pray but couldn't. Here's what she shared with us:

**(Continued on page 5)**

For example:

## Christmas 2015

We had a wonderful Christmas season and were much encouraged that attendance at all of the various services was notably higher than in recent years.

We kicked things off with the visit of the Salvation Army Band from Bellshill, our guests on 6th December. Unsurprisingly the sanctuary was packed as members and visitors streamed in to enjoy the wonderful seasonal music of the band. The good news is that we're working hard to bring the band back this year and are hoping that they'll join us on Sunday 11th December.

On Christmas Eve, our children produced a wonderful Nativity Play and Christingle procession which had us laughing and crying as we were treated to yet another new 'spin' on the timeless account of that first Christmas. The Church was filled right to the back with family members from near and far joining us for the festive celebrations. Similarly at our Watchnight Service, the church was very well filled and the strains of traditional carols eased the assembled congregation into Christmas morning.

Our family service on Christmas Day saw one of the biggest attendances we've ever had on Christmas Day as did our Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving on the evening of the 27th December.

All in all, much for us to be heartened about and much to build on as we go on into 2016.



**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

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**LEADER**

Tracey McLeod : 434088

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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**

Ken Miller : 875235

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**

**Parish Records**

**December 2015 / January 2016**

**Baptisms** - None

**Weddings** - Adele Ramsay and Michael Marr

**Funerals** - Margaret Powell, Jim Sandiman

## Thank You

I would like to thank Martin and Stuart and those members of our congregation here at St Andrew's church who so kindly offered their condolences and sent cards and flowers after the death of my mum on Christmas morning .

Your thoughts and prayers have brought great comfort at this sad time and I am truly grateful for your support.

Carole Downie

## IMPORTANT DATES

### MARCH 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 19th February (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd February (Word-Processed file)

## Service Core Group ECO TIPS

Turn down your heating by 1.5C and save around 10% on heating bills. Set your thermostat at 60C but turn it down to 55C when you go out.

## 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)

### 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

February 2016

Dear Friends,

Those in trouble will always find comfort in Christian faith. But the opposite is also true – those who are overly comfortable will find that Christian faith troubles them!

And so it was that on Sunday 24th January we were joined by Gordon Cruden from Teen Challenge (NE Scotland) who spoke to us about his experiences of sleeping rough for a whole month on the streets of Britain's biggest cities – and most certainly we were challenged by what he shared. That's how it should be; when the Gospel is preached and when its application is spelt out, we should feel it deep within ourselves, in a thoroughly uncomfortable kind of way!

Perhaps the most uncomfortable moment of all was when Gordon told us where his help came from and where it didn't come from during his time in London. He told us that he was made welcome at the Sikh temple, where they spoke of their 'culture of love.' But he told us, too, that on the Sunday morning he sat outside one of the UK's biggest churches – 5,000 strong – with a 'hungry and homeless' sign displayed but that not one of those gathering for worship bothered to stop and speak to him, let alone offer to help. That left Gordon feeling thoroughly disappointed and disillusioned.

For my own part, I knew I was going to have to take Gordon's challenge seriously. Through my work for the national church, there's rarely a week when I'm not down in Edinburgh or in one of our other major cities. And when there, it's impossible to walk the main streets without seeing homeless people crouching in doorways or sat in front of shops.

That's what happened two days after Gordon's visit. I arrived in Edinburgh at 9.30am and began to make my way from Waverley Station to the church offices at 121 George Street. And sure enough, outside the Starbucks coffee shop on George Street, there was a young man sitting on the pavement, wrapped up in a coat and blanket and with a paper cup in front of him. This was the day when 'Storm Jonas' was blowing through Britain and the wind was howling down George Street and the rain was lashing down. He looked utterly miserable – as we all would have. I couldn't walk by. Neither, though, did I opt to give him some money. Instead I asked him if he wanted coffee and he responded enthusiastically. I went in to Starbucks and bought a latte and a blueberry muffin and these I gave to the man. I spoke with him for a while asking him where he slept at night and so on. And then I was on my way – into the comfort of the church offices.

I don't expect a badge for helping that particular man. Really, I felt that I had no choice. It's impossible to stand in church and talk about caring if, when opportunity arises, we don't put that caring into action. That's how we worship – how we show that we love our Lord – by caring for the 'least of these' (Matthew 25:31-46.)

I'm not saying that everyone should do the same; we all need to work out our own response. But ignoring the challenge of the Gospel is the one response that's not available to us. What will you do?

Wishing you all a blessed and 'challenging' 2016!!

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

[mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Almost Farewell!

By the time you read this I will be in the final weeks of my time here at St Andrew's. Has three years really gone by that quickly?

At present I am head first into church applications and making good progress. I've often commented on the fact that I've a few 'pots on the boil' or 'irons in the fire' in terms of different churches that I've applied to. When I feel more mischievous (which is most days if I'm honest) then I joke that I need an agent to keep me right in the process of finding my next post. What title would such an agent be given? Answers on a post card please! In truth though, I

know that God has a call on my life and though I don't know where I will end up, I know that I will know and that is enough for me.

I am so encouraged by all the prayers and support that folks have shown me and the family in this time. This affirms me that wherever I end up I will know the love and support of the kind folks of St Andrew's Arbroath and for this reason I look forward to being able to share the news with my Arbroath family as to where I am going to be headed next.

Yours in Christ,

Stuart

## Christmas Offering

As is our usual practice, our Christmas Offering is given in its entirety to charities and causes chosen by the Kirk Session. The great news is that around £1,200 was raised and this was split evenly between a fund to aid Syrian refu-

gees and the Tearfund programme 'No Child Taken' which combats the global problem of child trafficking.

A big 'thank you' to all who contributed, proving once again that St. Andrew's members are not slow to put their hands in their pockets.



## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

When Jesus was baptised and a voice from heaven spoke to him and the dove alighted on him, was he the only person who heard this and saw the dove? (Matthew 3:16-17.)

### Theophilus answers :

It is easiest to begin with Matthew's words, 'he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending on him [Jesus] like a dove and coming to rest on him'. It would appear that this was an actual event, because not only does Matthew tell us that John the Baptist saw the dove, but elsewhere John is quoted as saying that he witnessed this happening: he says, 'He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptises with the Spirit"' (John 1:32-33). So as well as being a sign to Jesus of his anointing by the Spirit, the dove was also a sign to John of Christ's true identity. The Greek

word 'Christ' (its equivalent in Hebrew is 'Messiah') means 'the Anointed One'. John knew therefore that he was being given this clear message that his cousin, Jesus of Nazareth, was indeed the Messiah, that is, the Christ.

But the question was about the voice. Matthew tells us that 'the heavens were opened to him [Jesus]'. It is uncertain whether that means the heavens were also opened to the bystanders. The 'heavens opening' is a kind of code meaning a vision was being given. (See Ezekiel 1:1; Acts 7:56; Revelation 4:1; 11:19; 19:11, etc.) While I suspect the voice Jesus heard was for him alone, on two other occasions when a voice from heaven spoke, it appears that those present also heard it. Indeed, we read in John 12:29, 'the crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered'. (See also Mark 9:7.)

While my view is that at his baptism, it was probably only Jesus who heard the voice, on the two other occasions in Gospels, we are to understand that others quite clearly heard something. I hope that helps. Sorry I can't be more definite!

## Youth Work Update

Our Youth Group enjoyed a great trip to the Edinburgh Christmas Market at the end of December, with the highlight of ice skating at St. Andrew's Square. As in previous years, it was a great success that we hope to continue in the future.

Looking towards the next few months, we are starting a new series for Sunday evenings entitled 'World Issues' by Urban Saints. With so many conflicting influences in young

people's lives, our aim is to present them with the Christian perspective on topics such as, war, prejudice and the environment. In addition, we are preparing for a weekend at Teen Ranch in March where we will be doing activities such as horse riding and archery. This was always a fun-filled weekend for the youth group in years gone by and so I hope our current young people will have the same experience.

Blessings,

Adele

## GUILD NEWS

By the time this magazine reaches your homes we will have had our first two meetings of 2016. It was good to meet up again on Monday, 11 January. Gaynor Scott gave us a very interesting insight into her work as our Presbyterian Representative. Gaynor told us how the Church of Scotland Guilds, like all other organisations, are always keen to welcome new members and encourage younger ladies to come along to meetings to see the good work Guilds do and hopefully discover that these meetings are indeed good fun and something they might like to join!! Our Guild is no different. We would love to welcome ladies and gentlemen (as men are now allowed to join) of any age to come along to our meetings to see what we are about. I think you might be surprised - we have younger and older members and lots in between. We raise money, learn a lot and have lots of fun.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

**Monday 8th February** - The Gallus Boys will entertain us (some well known faces in our church)

**Monday 22nd February** - Craft Night when we might learn a new skill!

**Monday 7th March** - Project Night - when we will have a speaker from Church of Scotland Project: All Friends Together

**Monday 21st March** - Tai-Chi (Something new for me)

In these cold dark nights at this time of year, when we begin to wonder if Spring will ever come, it's good to get out and meet up with friends. Please come along and join us if any of these evenings are of interest to you. Looking forward to seeing old and new friends.

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

## Acts of Random Kindness

From time to time, we reach out into the wider community with 'acts of random kindness' – ways to show that we care, and to bless people who might otherwise go unthanked.

This year, in the run-up to Christmas, we took great

quantities of tray bakes to the various branches of the emergency services. Letters and expressions of gratitude have been received, making it clear that our baking was hugely appreciated – not surprisingly given the prowess of our baking team!

But more importantly, our kindness was noted and at Christmas time that's exactly what we should be being noted for.

## Prayers for Peace

(Continued from page 1)

Here's what she shared with us:

'I'm not a huge God fan, perhaps my job or should I say former job makes me look at reality but yet I and my oppos always say 'dear god' or God help us' etc etc. But we always put on a tough exterior whether male or female.

But your 'thing' came up on Facebook about 24 hour peace pray or whatever it was ( sorry it got lost in the tears) not sure why it affected me but I so wanted to come and just sit and reflect, but I lost my hubby to ptsd (he also served) and I have to be strong for my girls and not show weakness.

So tonight I sit in a new town (Arbroath) after 2 weeks being and knowing a few people from 20 years ago when I

left on a journey. But yet I know nobody that I can truly talk too. I would at this minute jump in a taxi and come over but as a single former service mum - I cant! But I wanted you to know that through the power of social media your call out - whether attended or not - helped one person (although I do have to admit I would have liked to have had some me time for a good cry - then given my head a wobble. X'

We may never meet the woman in question but it was heartening to know that we had connected with her somehow even though she couldn't physically come to the church.

Perhaps as we get used to opening our church more frequently – at times other than traditional service times – we can expect more and more contact with those who come from well beyond our present reach. And, if we can help such people towards a sense of God, we'll have something to be thankful for.

## Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual meeting of the congregation is to take place immediately after worship on Sunday 13th March and as many members and friends of the congregation as possible are asked to attend.

With the change in constitution adopted several years ago and with the OSCAR regulations in force, these meetings have changed somewhat over the years. They do not

now involve the election of office bearers and neither does the congregation have to approve the accounts – that is done by the Kirk Session, the member of which are the trustees.

Even so, it's a meeting at which members of the congregation can hear for themselves how we've done financially in the previous year and of our plans for the future. With that in mind, your attendance is greatly appreciated.

(See the minute of last year's meeting on page 7.)

## Thanks From The Irvins

Recently at an evening service Martin asked folks to pray for me and the family - the title that we were ascribed was 'Stuart, Lynne and the boys'. It had a nice ring to it!

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of Lynne, myself and the boys, to thank you as our Church family for the kind and generous support shown to us upon the arrival of Gregor Robert Irvin. We have been so encouraged by the way in which people have helped us celebrate

this momentous occasion and we are very glad of the many kind gifts that people have given.

We have made an effort to thank as many people as possible in person or with a wee card. However, there were some gifts that we could not figure out who they were from, and so, if we have failed to thank you personally, please know that we really are grateful for all the kind support and gestures that we have been shown.

From – Stuart, Lynne and the boys (Better get used to saying that!)

## Quest Colours To Change?

It is interesting to note the climate changes that we are experiencing in relation to the masthead for Quest!

Several years ago, I decided to vary the look of our magazine by linking the masthead colours with the seasons. March has the colours of crocuses - purple and yellow ochre - April has the yellow and orange of daffodils, and May has the pink shades of apple blossom. June, July and September have a range of summer colours and, while October still has these colours, there are also the falling leaves and other colours of autumn. November has only the autumn colours and December is an earthy brown with some snow and some frost on the leaves - these took a lot of work! February (which prompted this article) is an icy cold blue which looks back to January and warns that February

can also still be the coldest month of the year. I recall one day in late February in Arbroath, many years ago, when the coldest day of many years gone by was recorded. Yet how things are changing so rapidly now, and I wonder, if I am still doing Quest, what kind of rethinking I may need to do in the future. Perhaps it should be a drab dreary looking grey to evoke the weeks of cloud and rain that we have been experiencing of late?!

Quite often, the colours come together nicely with what I choose to be the leading article and its associated picture - and this month is an excellent example. My thanks to Martin for using his iPhone to great effect in capturing a beautiful picture of the Prayers for Peace. Also, my very grateful thanks to Ray Reaney who is the main contributor of photos for our magazine.

(Editor)

## THE USED STAMPS PROJECT

The following two letters arrived in the Christmas post but, as there was no January edition of Quest, the contents and the season's greetings have been a little delayed but still worth sharing!

FROM THE LEPROSY MISSION  
(SCOTLAND)

Dear Friends,

Thank you for stamping out Leprosy! It is hard to believe that a used stamp can help to transform a life on one of the seven countries where the Leprosy Mission Scotland works. But the fact is it does.

Thank you for collecting so many stamps. The people of Arbroath St Andrew's Church are supporting people like Dilip - let me tell you his story.

Because of leprosy, Dilip was expelled from school and denied the basic right to education. Dilip's future looked bleak until he heard about the Bankura Vocational Training Centre. Thanks to individuals, groups, schools, and churches like you who

collect stamps, Dilip was given a scholarship to attend Bankura. He was overjoyed at being allowed to learn where leprosy is not an issue and does not deny him an education. He is training to become a welder to support himself and his mother. He wants a better future for his family and a society where his mother who had leprosy "is not treated like an outcast, but is accepted."

Thank you for stamping out leprosy!

Tom Hogg

Supporter Care Team

...and from MERIDIAN STAMPS

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Mercy Ships UK to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank you for your support in sending your used postage stamps to us. Please continue to save and send!

And as a footnote, your Christmas 2015 donations of stamps (and postcards) have now been sorted, graded and packaged and are ready for sending. So, yet another thank you - this time from the Service Core Group!

It is thanks to donations such as yours that this is possible. The support from the local community through charitable trusts, companies, individuals and groups is amazing.

We have recently completed the £2 million Special Appeal in memory of Dr Jacqui Wood who was chairman of Ninewells Cancer Campaign until her untimely death from cancer in 2011. The Jacqui Wood Cancer Centre on the campus at Ninewells is now a lasting tribute to her and will be a focus for future fundraising.

The Ninewells Cancer Campaign will continue as in the past and all monies raised will be spent at Ninewells. Details of past, present and future fundraising and how it has been used can be found at [www.ncc-dundee.org.uk](http://www.ncc-dundee.org.uk) but if you would like further information please contact Sheryl Morris.

(Note - £900 also went to Maggie's Centre and letter to be received. Well done, Neil.)

## Ninewells Cancer Campaign

A thank you letter to Neil Thomson -

Dear Mr Thomson,

Thank you very much indeed for your donation of £900.00 towards the Ninewells Cancer Campaign. Receipt details are on the reverse of this letter. Please send our thanks to everyone who attended your Tartan Day event at St Andrew's Church and donated generously to this cause. We greatly appreciate your fundraising efforts.

Ninewells Cancer Campaign has been raising money for cancer work at Ninewells since 1991 and in that time has raised more than £20 million for different projects which may not otherwise have been funded. The work being done is helping to transform lives and bring us closer to finding the causes of cancer and how best to treat it.

## Church Hogmanay

We ushered in 2016 with our second annual Hogmanay Party, again organised by our young adults group. And didn't they do a brilliant job!

Around 120 people attended the party - from Gregor Irvin who at that time was six days old to Iris Singers, past her 90th birthday!! There was much fun and laughter with dancing, games, food and refreshments. The organising

group had gone to great lengths to make sure that everything worked as planned - not least the 'whodunit?' murder mystery.

At 11.45pm the minister shared a short message and then we joined the BBC coverage to bring in the bells.

Thanks to our young adults and thanks to the clear-up team who turned out on Saturday morning to put the church and halls back into shape.

## LOOKING AHEAD

### FEBRUARY

#### Sunday 7

9.30 am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Worship Service,  
Week 14 of E100; including  
service of infant blessing  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service  
Week 15 of E100  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service  
Week 16 of E100  
Main service followed by  
short celebration of  
Communion  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service  
Week 17 of E100  
4pm - Messy Church  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

### MARCH

#### Sunday 6

9.30 am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Service of  
Communion;  
Week 18 of E100  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 13

11 am - Worship Service  
Week 19 of E100  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 20

11 am - Worship Service  
Week 20 of E100  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### Sunday 27th

8 am - Early-morning Easter  
Service (at Arbroath Abbey)  
11 am - Easter Celebration for  
all the family  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship  
(Note—NO Messy Church)

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



## Annual Stated Meeting

Printed below is the minute of last year's Annual Stated Meeting. We do this so that everyone can have the opportunity to read it before the meeting on March 13th 2016

The Annual Stated meeting was held after Morning Worship in St Andrew's Church on Sunday 15th March 2015 and was constituted with prayer.

**Moderator:** Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

**Sederunt:** 69 members of the congregation were in attendance.

The minute of the Annual Stated Meeting held in St Andrew's Church on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 was approved on the motion of W Ewart and N Beattie.

**Moderator's comments:** These were focussed on our three WWWs – Welcome, Worship, and Witness.

**Welcome:** A recent visitor had commented that he had never ever found himself as welcome as he had on attending St Andrew's. It was noted that we strive to ensure that a warm welcome is extended to all and it is good to have feedback on the success of this.

**Worship:** The statistics in relation to the streaming of our services show that currently around 300 people each month are worshipping with us from their homes. Some of these are our own members who are unable to attend and others are from much further afield. There is a tremendous opportunity for mission in this and also in reaching those who would not normally cross the threshold of a church.

**Witness:** The response to the appeal following the floods in Malawi resulted in the staggering sum of over £10,000 being raised. This shows a real commitment to witness.

**Finance Report: the presentation of the Accounts for 2014:** The accounts for 2014 were scrutinised by the Finance and Administration Core Group, approved by the Kirk Session and finally examined and approved by the independent examiner.

Scott Anderson, leader of the Finance and Administration Core Group presented the detail of the figures for 2014 using both an extract and the relevant sections from the main accounts as they are prepared for OSCAR. The full version was made available for those who wished to have a copy.

Beginning with the figures for the Big Picture, the Statement of Financial Activities for 2014 showed all incoming and expended resources. Explanation was given about the Jean Glen Fund where all the income did not come in in one year, nor was it spent in one year. The effect of this is to complicate the figures, whereby in 2014 there was more expenditure than income. In addition, the increase in offer-

ings as a result of the Stewardship Project was less than originally projected. As a result, the overall shortfall has been covered by the use of the General Reserve Fund and the Jean Glen Legacy.

Detail was provided of the substantive funds comprising the General Reserve Fund, the Ministry Team Fund, the Fabric Fund and the Havilah and Malawi Project funds. It was noted that there has been an increase in the income from lets. The contribution to the Mission and Ministry Fund is currently £93,000 – a sum very significantly higher than any other church in the Presbytery. It is hoped that some adjustment to this figure may be possible later in the year.

It was initially hoped that the cost of the post of Associate Minister could be substantially met from the General Funds. However, it was evident that this expenditure could not be sustained by this fund and any reserves, including designated funds to support this post, will be depleted at its conclusion in early 2016.

Scott indicated that there are priorities, particularly with regard to staffing, to be studied by both the Leadership Group and Kirk Session. Our exceptional available monies are now close to being used up and, where we previously had reserves, we now have to look to ensuring that we live within our means. He was very positive about how much we have achieved in all aspects of the vision for St Andrew's Church.

Questions were asked about the statement of any shortfall and that the details of the General Account should be made available to the congregation separately. However, it was felt that the publishing of one single account does not present the true picture.

The Moderator thanked Scott for his clear presentation of the figures, and the Finance and Administration Core Group for their work in overseeing the financial aspects of St Andrew's. The Treasurer, Susan Godsall, was warmly thanked for her considerable commitment to the complexities of her ever-increasing role and Heather Black was thanked for her valuable role as deputy.

**Thanks:** The Deputy Session Clerk, Joan Hainsworth conveyed the deepest thanks of the Kirk Session and congregation to Martin for his inspired teaching throughout the year and in particular the effectiveness of the themes for study chosen. Throughout these, we have been challenged, inspired and encouraged. Our appreciation of all the work which our Associate minister, Stuart Irvin has undertaken was recorded and mention made that around 280 children would be attending the Easter Code. She wished every blessing on Martin and his family and on that of our Associate Minister, Stuart Irvin and his family. Joan's final prayer concluded the meeting.

### Stop! Think! Check!

Thankfully, at St Andrew's, we have lots of inventive minds at work, and new ideas create new and different 'events' which are very much appreciated by all. However, our Fabric Group would be greatly helped in working to keep our premises tidy if we tidy up as soon as possible afterwards! (Easier said than done - we know - particularly after working hard in the first place!) If you are responsible for an item, please try to ensure that it is promptly removed

and/or stored once an 'event' is over. For potential storage, please consult with Janis Clark, our Church Officer.

One other request - we are still regularly switching off lights and closing doors that have been left jammed open. Two lights to mention in particular are in the single toilet in the flower room and the one outside the kitchen back door.

**When leaving the building, or an area, please -  
Stop! Think! Check!**

Thank you for your help.

Fabric Group.



# More Christmas In Pictures

