SC005478 April 2016

## **Men's Retreat Success**

As always, this year's men's retreat was a great success. The mix between fun and laughter and serious spiritual engagement is a potent one.



Perhaps what is most remarkable about the retreat is the mix of ages and backgrounds of those attending. This year we had teenagers AND men in retirement and men of EVE-RY decade in between. To have fellowship across such a broad range of ages is rare indeed and is much to be treasured.

The Bible study theme this year was the Parable of the Prodigal Son and over four sessions we considered each angle of the story, focussing in turn on the various leading characters of the parable. Few if any of those who attended failed to get something out of the talks and discussions – from those

only really exploring their faith properly for the first time to those who have been journeying for most of their lives.

A real highlight was when Ryan and Gareth – who had travelled from the south of Wales to be with us! – shared news of what they're now doing. Both these young men are Havilah 'graduates' and are now living clean from drugs and making a genuine difference. Both of them are involved in

running halfway houses – that is, accommodation for young men who are striving to break free of addiction.

Isn't it marvellous to see these two young men now giving back, both of them having come to



The miracle of the levitating preacher!

realise how much others did for them? And the key? The love and non-judgemental compassion they were first shown at Havilah and their discovery thereafter of God's love – even for prodigal sons.

#### Teen Ranch - Our Youth Group enjoyed canoeing, archery, horse riding and more - full story on page 4.









**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135** 

#### **ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter

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

#### MINISTER

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

#### **SESSION CLERK**

Jane Miller: 875235

#### **TREASURER**

Susan Godsall: 430862

#### **FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

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#### HAVILAH PROJECT LEADER

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#### **ORGANIST**

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#### **FABRIC CONVENOR**

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#### **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 March 2016

Baptisms and Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Marie Baker, Nessie Robb

#### Thank You Mary Spink

For many years Mary has been taking our Quest to the printers in Brechin but is now retiring from doing this. Bless you and thank you Mary for all your humble service done quietly in the background.

#### Service Core Group ECO TIPS

Skip rinsing dishes before using your dishwasher and save up to 20 gallons of water each load. Plus, you're saving time and the energy used to heat the additional water.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### **MAY EDITION**

Handwritten articles should be handed in to the office by the <u>first</u> date and <u>not</u> to the Editor.

Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent directly to the Editor or via office by second date.

Please <u>avoid</u> embedding articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 15th April (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 19th April (Word-Processed file)

#### **Look Out For The Scammers!**

Have you ever received a letter saying you are the winner of a large sum of money, or that you have inherited a large sum of money from a distant relative? Too good to be true? Yes, it more than likely is - and it is certainly not true if you are being asked to send some money to release the funds. DON'T SEND ANY MONEY. If in doubt speak to someone else about it or give me a call. (Editor)

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**

OMETHING FOR EVERYONE

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 - M Laidlaw (07840 966438)

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

April 2016

Dear Friends,

I'm writing this a few days before Easter, as we enter the events of Holy Week and prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday, the day of resurrection. Throughout Lent, the seven weeks that run from Ash Wednesday, a group of our members has met faithfully every Wednesday evening to pray, to read scripture together and to reflect in music on the last journey of Jesus. Many of those who have come have been hugely moved by the experience and have found it to be most helpful in their preparation for Easter. I'm glad of that and it always makes it worthwhile for me, as minister, when people are built up spiritually speaking

I wonder what you did to prepare yourself for Easter? The fact of the matter is that we need to put ourselves in the right places and engage in the right practices if we are to grow closer to God and become more like Jesus (which should be the aim of every Christian.) Just as we water plants and put them on windowsills that they might enjoy natural light, so we need to create the right environment for personal spiritual growth. It doesn't just happen!

Throughout the centuries there have been those who have removed themselves from society to devote themselves to this end; some still do. During my recent trip to Atlanta, I had opportunity to spend some time at a monastery and to observe something of the life of a Cistercian monk. These men, like their predecessors, rise at 4.30am and begin the day with corporate worship and private prayer and study. Thereafter the day is split between regular gatherings for worship and prayer and contemplation and the more mundane tasks of running a community – the tending of the gardens, the work of the kitchen etc. Such a lifestyle requires great discipline and commitment.

Few of us are called to step back from society in that kind of way. Most of us are asked to live out our faith in the thick of it and, when needed, to get our hands dirty. That's right and proper; it wouldn't do at all if we all joined holy orders and become monks and nuns!

But given that our lives are lived out in the world and not in the cloisters, we need to work much harder at putting ourselves in the right places to allow for inner growth. Failure to do so most often results in spiritual dryness and a drifting away from closeness to God that we barely notice happening.

Some maintain spiritual health and wellbeing through a disciplined diet of personal devotions while others find themselves fed and watered in coming together with others. Of course there's no right or wrong approach – as long as you have an approach! As a congregation we offer a range of opportunities for spiritual engagement but in the final analysis the only person responsible for your spiritual wellbeing is yourself.

Lent and Easter are behind us now but much lies ahead. Why not journey with the Risen Christ and allow him in these coming days to inhabit more of your soul.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

## **General Assembly**

Martin, our minister, is this year to be a commissioner at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Once every four years each minister goes to the Assembly to take part in the deliberations and decision-making of the national Church. While some see it as a bit of a burden, Martin has always viewed it as a central part of his ordination commitment to serve within the structures of the Church.

This year, as always, the Church will be faced with a number of important subjects, each of which will require careful and prayerful consideration. In turn, you are asked to pray for the working of the Assembly, that God might guide the commissioners in their work.

Further to that, this Assembly will see Martin appointed as Vice-Convener of the Mission & Discipleship Council of the Church. This is an important role, carrying with it many extra responsibilities. But again, Martin sees it as his responsibility and considers it a privilege to serve. Having served in the parish for almost 25 years, he has a wealth of experience with which to work.

We wish him well as he prepares to assume this new role.

## **Ask Theophilus**

#### Question:

Yesterday I read 1 John 3:9: "No one born of God commits sin, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God." Wow! I often sin. Does that mean I am not really a Christian?

#### Theophilus answers:

I've checked the Bible version you have quoted and it's the old RSV (usually a very good translation). The King James (AV) has much the same wording. But a far clearer translation is in the English Standard Version (ESV) which reads: "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God."

In the original Greek New Testament, the verbs are far more sophisticated and precise than in English. In this verse the first verb, makes a practice of sinning, is in a tense that indicates 'a settled characteristic'. The second verb, cannot keep on sinning, is in a different tense which does not mean a certain one-off act (of sin) but rather 'keeping on sinning'. The distinction may not be easy to grasp, but it is there, nonetheless.

We should also notice that in chapter 1:10 John says, "If we say we have not sinned, we make him [God] a liar", but then he goes on to say in 2:1 that "if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous"

John is not contradicting himself, but he exposing two different errors. In 1:10 and 2:1 he is pointing out the foolish error of denying that sin exists. In his day there were those who were spiritual anarchists, who taught you could do whatever you liked. On the other hand, there were those who taught a different error; they argued that it was possible to live without ever sinning. There have always been small groups who claim to achieve sinless perfection.

In short, John's point in 3:9 is that habitual sin is plainly quite wrong for a Christian. We may well, and perhaps often do, commit sin. But when the Holy Spirit indwells us, he will convict us and bring us to pray for strength to do what pleases God.

## Youth Work Update

This month's update comes to you from a sleepy youth worker! The Youth Group have had a wonderful weekend at Teen Ranch enjoying canoeing, archery, horse riding and more. I can confidently say our young people are an asset to the church as their enthusiasm was unending and their behaviour was fantastic. After asking several of them which activity they liked best, I've decided to let their words describe the trip for you:

"Great weekend, great company, lots of fun."

"There was never a dull moment. I definitely recommend Teen Ranch to others."

"I enjoyed all of the activities...it was a lot of fun and I learned more about the Christian faith."

"It was a great experience to do horse riding...I also learned more about the Christian faith and I'd recommend going again."

"Teen Ranch was really enjoyable and brought many of us closer together...and along with all the fun activities we got to learn more about following God and the plan he has for every single one of us."

"I would recommend Teen Ranch to others as there is a good range of activities that I enjoyed very much. It is also a great way of spending time with friends and learning more about the Christian faith."

Thank you for your support over these last few weeks with regard to sponsorship and prayer for the young people and also for me, personally. As many of you know, it has been a difficult month for me and my family but being surrounded by such a lovely congregation and fabulous young people makes it a little bit easier.

Blessings,

Adele

## **Stuart Irvin**

As you will all know, Stuart was unanimously elected to be the new minister of St. Catherine's Argyle in Edinburgh. The further good news is that a date for Stuart's Service of Induction has now been set. He will become minister there on Thursday 28th April 2008. As promised, we'll be running a bus to Edinburgh for the occasion and no doubt many of you will want to be there to share in the evening. The cost of a seat on the bus will be £10 and seats can be booked now from the Church Office. (Please note: bookings must be accompanied by payment.)

For Stuart and Lynn, this has been an anxious period as they've waited for all the pieces of the jigsaw to fall into place. But now they can begin to look forward with excitement to all that lies in store as they get their own ministry up and running. We wish them every blessing.

Here is an update we have received from Stuart -

Hello All,

Just a quick update from the Irvins to say that we are now working towards a start date in Edinburgh of the 28th of April. We are really excited to get started. The time inbetween has been spent catching up with friends and family and also sorting out things around the house in preparation for our flit. It's safe to say though that with two young boys we are not short of things to keep us busy.

Whilst I am enjoying the down time I am really keen to get started. I am really encouraged about how God has called me thus far and I am excited to see what the next chapter will look like as we trust in his leading and calling.

God Bless

Stuart and the Family

# Whose feet are you going to wash?

If in the lead-up to Easter you were reading the Biblical accounts of what we refer to as Holy Week, you can't have failed to notice the washing of the feet as described in the Gospel of John. Former Moderator of the General Assembly, and much respected parish minister, The Very Reverend James Simpson had this to say about the washing of feet.

"Jesus, knowing that he had come from God and was going back to God..." (John 13:3)

I have always been struck by where John makes this cosmic introduction. We might have imagined it occurring before the account of the Transfiguration, or Jesus restoring life to Jairus' much loved daughter. But I believe it was not by accident that John included these words as the introduction to Jesus laying aside his garments and girding himself with a towel.

"Come from God....going back to God." Acts that win

for us prominence and applause we will gladly do. It is lowly acts of service, seldom commented on, that require depth of faith and character. If Jesus had asked the disciples to wash his feet, they would have been competing for the privilege, but washing one another's feet, that was a different matter.

Some Chinese Christians were once asked what it was about Jesus that had most impressed them. Various replies were given before one of them said 'The washing of the disciples' feet'. On hearing this there was general agreement that this incident was the most moving. That a revered teacher should overstep the boundaries of class and position and assume the role of a servant, moved them deeply.

"Do you know", said Jesus, "What I have done for you? You call me teacher and Lord, and you are right for so I am. If I then your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you ought also to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example that you should do as I have done unto you."

To those in the early Church, who wanted to reject the world and run off into the desert and lead a hermit life, St Basil said, "If you always live alone, whose feet will you wash?"

## 7th Arbroath B.B.

This month we just want to say a big thank to all those who took part in our Quiz night.

We raised £355 for company funds. W Ewart.

## **Switzerland**

The Church of Scotland has two congregations in Switzerland, one in Geneva and the other in Lausanne. Each year, they host a special weekend conference and invite a minister from Scotland to lead the conference for them. Martin has been invited to fill that role this year and so will

spend a weekend in Lausanne in mid-June.

The good news is that our dear friend, David Searle, has agreed to preach that day in Martin's absence. We know many of you will very much look forward to seeing David and Lorna again. More details nearer the time but put Sunday 12th June in your diary now to make sure you don't miss their visit!

## **GUILD NEWS**

When you read this article we will be coming to the end of our Guild Session. We only have 2 meetings in April. On the 4th of April we will hear about persecuted Christians throughout the world and this, I suspect, will be an interesting and at times disturbing meeting. Such meetings are sometimes necessary to remind us how fortunate we are in this country - where we can practise whatever religion we choose whenever we want. Our final meeting of the session is on 18th April and will start with our AGM. As always there is some business to get through but hopefully this will be followed by our usual fun, fellowship and food. Ladies what better way to spend a Monday evening - look forward to seeing you all then.

REMINDER: Christian Aid Week is in May. St. Andrew's Church has been allocated the baking stall this year. This is a call to all you bakers, and I know there are lots of you, to start thinking of what you can make. This is not only a call to Guild members, it is for the whole congregation. The Guild normally helps to serve teas and man the stall but we need to have the goodies to sell. There will be details in the bulletin and magazine in the coming weeks.

We still have our final fund raising effort to work towards:

#### **COFFEE MORNING**

### Saturday 23rd April 2016 - 10 am till 12 noon Tickets £1.50

Tickets will be on sale from Guild members and of course you are welcome to pop in for a coffee if you are passing. There will be lovely home baking for sale and other interesting goodies to buy. Please come along to support us if you can. Monies raised go to the Church of Scotland Guild projects, which are carefully chosen to cover causes at home and abroad.

It has been another busy year for the Guild. Thanks to our loyal members who have supported the Guild throughout the year. I know I have enjoyed our times together. Hoping you have too. Let's look forward to next session which hopefully will be even better - never forgetting our Motto:

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

## **Heart & Soul**

As in the last four years, we will be running a bus to the Church of Scotland's annual 'Heart & Soul' event. It takes place in Princes Street gardens, Edinburgh, from 1-6pm on Sunday 22nd May. To allow for a

timely departure, our morning service on that day will commence at 10.30am.

Bookings for the bus can be made at the Church Office any time from the beginning of April.

Visit www.heartandsoul.org.uk for full details.

### **Our Church Officer**

I was approached by Martin one Friday, asking if I would be interested in taking over from Ron.

I was still working at the West Links at the time and asked for time to think about it as I didn't want to let the Council down half way through the summer of my 11th year. I agreed with trepidation and between Alan McSkimming and myself took on the post full time in October 2006.

The hours were 10 per week, increasing recently to 12. Half of that time is used for setting up the church and halls on Saturday and tidying away on Sunday. The rest of the hours are for setting up/tidying halls and rooms and putting on heating.

I think it's the only job in which I have seen the clause "and any other duties"! Mindful of the fact the congregation pays all the salaries, I resolved to re-invest mine into Malawi, organisations within the church and to any good causes I heard or read about.

There are always plenty of small jobs needing done around the premises so in order to get on with these we visit B & Q on Wednesdays to buy what we need to get on, running it past Ray first of course!

Jane gave me an article about the history of Beadles which showed that in the early days they were indeed the power behind the pulpit! My experience is somewhat different, rather someone will come rushing up at ten to eleven saying "did so and so tell you about....?"

Since the refurbishment, security has

become increasingly important and, given the larger premises and how well used they are, various crises have been averted with doors/windows left open, taps running etc.

I find when preparing for special services like weddings or funerals, it is very important to have everything just right, be it a happy or sad occasion, it is for one family on that day. Setting up for the Communion services is especially therapeutic and restful. I am lucky to have the place to myself and although the two big services are more work, the sanctuary looks nice when dressed for Sunday. Martin used to comment on the fact that when the original group did the job we still had the pews.

During my time in the post, though I've not been at every service, there have been 47 weddings, 61 funerals, 14 adult baptisms, 33 child baptisms and 33 blessings. I can attend the funeral services because there is a duty group and the undertakers who all have their own duties, but I cannot for weddings when there are doors to be opened in the correct sequence, ushering to do etc!

I suppose under any other duties, I have inherited the banners job, sometimes fill in for events and lately stores shopping!
Each Sunday Martin and I wonder if we've done everything and I have to hope I don't fall up or down the pulpit steps whilst taking the bible in!

It's a great privilege to be around week by week - it's not just a job, it's certainly not about the money, it's what you put into it that makes it very satisfying for me. I say thank you every day for being fit and hope to serve everyone for the foreseeable future.

Janis Clark

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **APRIL**

Sunday 3
9.30 am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service,
including service of
Infant Baptism
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
4pm - Messy Church
6.30 pm - Evening Worship in
Community Spirit

#### MAY

Sunday 1
9.30 am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service;
including service of
Infant Blessing
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 8 11 am - Worship Service 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 15 11 am - Worship Service; Main service followed by short Communion 6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 22 10.30 am - Worship service; NB. Early start to allow for departure to Heart and Soul 6.30 pm - Evening Worship (Note - NO Messy Church)

Sunday 29
11 am - Worship Service;
with guest preacher,
Chick Lidstone
(Workplace Chaplaincy)
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.

## Havilah Gold

It was with sadness we learned of the death of Jim Sandeman. Jim was one of Havilah stalwarts, coming for nine years. He would swagger in with a cheery, sometimes cheeky quip. He was at home here.

Jim had more than a few problems but here he was polite and helpful and he had a big heart. He loved the helpers at Havilah. Every Christmas he placed a wreath on the

grave of a deceased helper. He sponsored a Malawi boy called Ephesians and discovered they were both interested in football. In no time at all Ephesian knew all about Dundee Football Club. It was Jim's wish to send him a Dundee shirt.

After the funeral Jim's brother visited Havilah to thank everyone and made the promise to continue the sponsorship and to send that shirt - what a legacy.

We miss you Jim. Rest in Peace.

# Words that Speak to Me by Breanna Lorimer

This month, we start what we hope to have as a regular feature called "Words that speak to me". First in line is young Breanna (picture on back page) and here is how she answered our questions and what she said about her particular choice.

## **Favourite piece of scripture, song or hymn?**Be Bold, Be Strong

#### Particular lines or verse that speak to me:

"Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you" Why this is significant to me:

This is one of my favourite songs because it tells me that, no matter what I do, God is with me and gives me strength and confidence even when I think I can't do something! Also, it is a very cheery song and everyone from young and old seems to enjoy it!!!

## Clash of Cultures

As the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, 'There's nothing new under the sun.' So when someone says, 'We've never seen anything like this before,' the fact of the matter is, we probably have!

I write this having heard much talk recently of the state of the world and in particular the problem of Islamic fundamentalism and the terror that flows from certain strands of such fundamentalism. I think Ecclesiastes tells us that the world has always been in 'a state!' Perhaps what is new is that modern media beams EVE-RYTHING straight into our front rooms.

That said, the rise of the so-called Islamic state and the reach of this new wave of terrorism requires a response. But it's the nature of that response which should most concentrate our minds.

There's the 'Donald Trump' kind of response which says let's keep all Moslems out and build walls to keep out others deemed 'undesirable.' The problem is that this is exactly what the terrorists want. They want to provoke such responses to stoke the fires of division.

The Christian will have nothing to do with this. Islama-phobia is sinful (just as homophobia is.) Our faith is different from Islam, there's no debate about that. We look to Christ in all things and should never compromise on that. But the world does not need more division right now. Rather it requires of us that we find common ground, based on our shared humanity. Bridge building is the only way in which, ultimately, the terrorists will be defeated.

The Church of Scotland released the following on the day of the Brussels attacks. The sentiments expressed should be taken to heart.

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has said he has been left "shocked and saddened" by the terrorist attacks in Brussels.

The Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison said his heart went out to all the families and friends of people who have been killed and injured.

He and Omar Shaikh of the Islamic Council stood shoul-

der to shoulder in Edinburgh today to condemn the atrocity and appeal to communities to work harder than ever before to build bridges.

Dr Morrison, who has said a prayer for all those affected by the atrocity, said: "The Church of Scotland is shocked and saddened by the terrorist attacks in Brussels today.

We must continue to reach out to all people .......

"For if we stop doing that then the ghastly evil that has visited us in our city today has won and the Cross will have been for nothing." "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have lost their lives and with those who are recovering from their injuries.

"We feel so sad that something like this has happened again.

"We have to work harder than ever to build bridges to one another in different communities to make sure atrocities like this become a thing of the past."

Mr Shaikh, an advisory board member, said 'we are all in this together' and promised that ordinary Muslims would continue to play their part.

The Rev Dr Andrew Gardner, who has been the minister at St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Brussels for nearly 12 years, said the atrocity had left him shocked and the city, which has had a heavy military presence since the Paris attacks in November, was once again in lockdown.

"As I think of those who have lost loved ones in the two attacks my heart is heavy," he added.

"There are whole swathes of people whose lives will never be the same again.

"There is deathly silence about the city broken by the sirens of emergency vehicles. The rumble of the trams that regularly pass near the manse has stopped.

"More than ever we need to hear of God's message of hope of resurrection life. We must continue to reach out to all people in Christ's name, care for people in Christ's name, share the gospel in Christ's name and like anyone else go about our business.

"For if we stop doing that then the ghastly evil that has visited us in our city today has won and the Cross will have been for nothing."



## More in pictures ....

Left - Breanna Lorimer (story on page 7)

Right and below -Archery and Canoeing were two of the favourite activities for our Youth Group to enjoy.









**More men madness!** - Chris shows off his agility at the high jump and Fraser even has enough time to give a wave. Below - Circus act, and part of the mad Christian Tartan Army.





Welcome ■ Worship ■ Witness