



## Fond Farewells and Warm Welcomes

What do you want first; the good news or the bad news?!! Well let's get the bad news out of the way. By the time you're reading this Amy, Chris and Matthew, our three gap year Vocations Volunteers, will have left us to take up the next stage of their respective journeys. They've been a real blessing to us and they're going to be hugely missed, across the congregation and wider community. On Sunday 19th June, we presented them with lovely prints of scenes of Arbroath and we hope that they will serve as happy reminders of their time here. They go from us with our prayers and with God's blessings heaped upon them.

The good news? Almost certainly, three new volunteers will start on 1st September!! They aren't coming to 'replace' Amy, Chris and



Matthew. They're coming to be Catriona, Fraser and Susan! They range in age from 20 to 24 and they bring with them a great array of gifts, talents and experiences. We hope and pray that their experience among us will be as beneficial for them as it undoubtedly has been for those who came first.

Our request of you? Simply that you go out of your way to make Catriona, Fraser and Susan welcome and to help them to see really quickly that they've made a great choice in opting to come to St. Andrew's Church!



Catriona



Fraser



Susan

## Happy Birthday Havilah!

Though it scarcely seems possible, this August we celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Havilah ministry! From very humble and simple beginnings, the project has grown remarkably and, as you all know, now runs out of its own premises, employs staff and utilises a small army of dedicated volunteers. Last year, the project gained the recognition that it richly deserved with the award of the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

But most important of all, those ten years have seen a long list of men and women who have been helped to break free from addiction and, thereby, enter into 'normal life' and,

yes, some of them into life in all its fullness as followers of Jesus.

It's right therefore that we give thanks for Havilah and ask God to bless it as we look towards the next years. With that in mind, we are holding a **10th Anniversary Celebration on Thursday 25th August** with a soup lunch on Sunday 21st. We'll be inviting those who have been supported by the Project, those who have volunteered in it or supported in any other way and a range of influential people from across our community – elected members, council officials etc.

Watch for more details as we get nearer to the date and come along to help us rejoice in all that God has done through this work.

## Muffins for Midwives

I am so excited to be able to tell you that the Muffin for Midwives fundraising event was a HUGE success. We don't have the final figure yet, but we do know we raised over £500! That means we can pay for a midwife for a year, plus help pay for the shipment of necessary supplies.

Thank you to all who helped raise this amazing amount of money – those who baked, who advertised and promoted the event, and especially all who donated so generously to this charity, that is so close to my heart.

If you missed the opportunity to support this event, it is possible to make a text donation by sending the message "MIDW50 £10" to 70070 and the amount can be £1 up to £10.

Or go to - [www.maternityworldwide.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/](http://www.maternityworldwide.org/get-involved/make-a-donation/)

Thank you. Kayleigh



**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

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark : 878594

**YOUTH WORKER**

Adele Marr : 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

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Iain Robertson : 877519

**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**

June 2016

**Baptisms and Blessings** - Myah Taylor,  
daughter of Hayley  
and Steven

**Weddings** - Ian Mill and Debbie Webster

**Funerals** - Norman Paterson

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**SEPTEMBER 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 August (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd August (Word-Processed file)

**Look Out For The Scammers!**

"Dear Joe, I am pleased to let you know that you are one of a select few who are in line to win £1,000,000." Well, not quite a scam, as such, but pretty close. What usually follows is that you are required to phone a premium rate number to find out what your prize might be. Of course, the cost of the phone call (which they largely pocket) is hidden in the 'small print' (that is, tiny print!). Also hidden there, can be the fact that you may only win one of a short list of tiny prizes (such as a pen), most of which have less value than the cost of your phone call.

An added variation can be that you need to go through many stages in order to claim your prize, or in order to be entered into the next stage of the draw for the big money prize. This, of course, can prove to be quite costly and will most likely still only lead you to one of the small prizes.

So there you have it - always read the 'tiny print' very carefully or, if you can't see it, then hopefully you have read this print! Best of all - bin these letters as soon as they come in. Many folks can get caught up in a cycle of replying to such letters, often because they are lonely, so we all need to keep an eye out for them not to become entrapped.

**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 – 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

July 2016

Dear Friends,

In the middle Sundays of May, a Scottish Church Census was held across the length and breadth of the country and across all of the many denominations which have a presence in Scotland. This census comes hot on the heels of the Social Attitudes Survey which was recently published and which makes clear that less and less Scots identify themselves as Christian – and yet, in some ways, a surprisingly large number still do so!

The census will tell us what we already know; that is, that fewer people attend church than once was the case. It will also tell us that those who do are largely older. Beyond that, it will provide us with some more nuanced information which will allow us to get a more detailed feel for the place of the church in modern-day Scotland.

Here's one statistic to conjure with; the average church in Scotland today has 83 people in worship on a Sunday morning. Of course there are many substantially bigger churches and in rural and urban deprived parishes there are many which are considerable smaller! But on average, there will be 83 people in a church on a Sunday.

Against that, our own census Sunday revealed 245 men, women and children to be present. On some Sundays we'll have more than that and on some Sundays less than that but on the day of the census that's how many people were in St Andrew's Church.

On one level, we can be pleased. We're running well above the national average and we have a healthier spread of ages than in most congregations. And whereas most churches have just the one service, we have two every Sunday and one on a Wednesday, meaning that there are options to be present in worship if Sunday morning is not possible.

But let us NEVER, EVER BECOME COMPLACENT. Our figure of 245 is less than once it was and it is strikingly obvious that we have fewer children present than was the case a few years ago. Of course, we are quite clear that there is much more to measuring the strength of a church than simply counting 'bottms on seats'! And our work among children is considerably wider than just what we organise on Sunday mornings. Even so, we long for more people to attend worship! We long for more people to become part of our family. And most of all, we long for more people, in our town of Arbroath, to come to a living faith in Jesus Christ and to receive him as Saviour and Lord.

It would be easy to look around and say, 'Well, we're doing better than most in terms of people coming to church.' I don't know about you but I'm not prepared to do that – because I see the huge, as yet untapped, potential and because, daily, I am in contact with people who know nothing of the saving grace of Christ or of his peace in their lives. For as long as that remains the case, God has work for us to do!

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

## Popcorn 'n' Cake

It all started with 'The Easter Code.' Then there was 'Bubblegum and Fluff.' And finally, 'Popcorn and Cake!' Put them together and you have three superb resources for p5-7 children.

We've got our former Associate Minister, Stuart, to thank for getting them up and running in Arbroath and now, with Adele Marr's lead, we've got all the churches involved and more pupils than ever coming along to enjoy the programmes.

These events really are the ideal mix of fun and games

AND proper learning of what the key Christian festivals of Easter, Christmas and Pentecost are all about. What a joy it has been to share with the young people of our town.

In an age when far fewer come to traditional offerings like Sunday School, it requires of churches that they be ever more imaginative in finding ways to work with schools and young people. That's exactly what we're doing!

A big 'thank you' to Adele, our volunteers and the wider team who made Popcorn and Cake possible during this Pentecost season.



## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

Last month, I visited my sister Elma in Glasgow. Her husband never goes to church, but because I was there for the weekend, he said he'd attend the Sunday service with us. He winked at me and said, 'It's worth a few Brownie points with Elma!'

The sermon was on Galatians 3:23-28. During his address he said we were free from the Old Testament Law, because Jesus said the only Laws were to 'Love God and love your neighbour'. All other Jewish Laws were abolished. At lunch that day, Elma's husband winked at me again and said, 'Love is the only Law, is it? I love putting a bet on the horses and attending the lap-dancing club! Your minister says that's alright, Elma, because I love it.' Is that what the minister meant? Are *all* Old Testament Laws abolished for Christians?

### Theophilus answers :

I can't for one moment think your sister's minister meant that we may do anything we happen to like doing! The Old Testament Laws of Judaism can be neatly broken down into three groups. First, the Moral Law—that is, the Ten Commandments; second, the Ceremonial Law—that is,

the Laws about sacrifices, diet, purification rituals, circumcision and so on; third, the Civil Law—that is, Laws about ordinary every day living, such as rules about property, inheritance, compensation for damage and so on.

The passage in Galatians refers to the Ceremonial Laws. They are abolished because, in different ways, they all were pointing forward to Christ and his redeeming work. He has fulfilled all the ceremonial regulations. Supremely, he was the Passover Lamb, the Passover and Day of Atonement being the Jewish festival towards which and from which, all other ceremonies flowed.

The Moral Law has certainly not been abolished. Usually when the New Testament is referring to the Ten Commandments, the word 'commandment' is used. See, for example, Romans 7:8-12, where the word 'commandment' is used five times; verse 12 reads, 'So the commandment is holy and righteous and good.' (See also Ephesians 6:2.)

A wise minister would, I am sure, point out this distinction, otherwise he might be misunderstood as preaching libertarianism! The libertarian advocates the freedom for everyone to do exactly as they please! Can anyone ever imagine that Jesus supported such views? Read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7)!!!

## Angus Bible Week

This year sees the second running of the Angus Bible Week, hosted by the Town Mission as a natural successor to the old-style conventions that ran for so many years under Mr. Clapham.

Dave Webster, the Mission's Pastor for some three years now, is keen to establish a new look event that might more

appropriately respond to the needs of this day and age.

The theme this year is 'Our Great God' and the event runs from 2-6th August. David Searle will lead bible studies every morning, and our own Martin is one of the invited preachers for the evening meetings (in his case, on the Thursday evening.)

If you're not away on holiday, why not put the dates in your diary and get along to the Town Mission to support them in this excellent initiative.

## Youth Work Update

As many of you will know, our Youth Group have recently been camping for the weekend just outside Forfar. This weekend proves to be one of the most enjoyable events in our calendar and feedback from the young people shows this year was no exception. The group decided they wanted a survival theme, so being married to an outdoorsman proved handy for me. We played group games, took on challenges, made rafts, kayaked on the pond and had a barbeque in the scorching sun. God gave us sunshine after the week of rain!

I felt the Old Testament is less well known by the young people so Michael, Amy and I shared several stories from this part of the Bible over the three days. With the theme in mind, we chose Daniel and the Fiery Furnace, Israel in the Wilderness, Noah's Ark and David and Goliath, focussing on peer pressure, earthly desires, trusting God and overcoming obstacles. Whilst spending time discussing God's

Word is invaluable, playing games and toasting marshmallows round the fire was so important for me during this trip. Getting to know our young people a bit better was just wonderful!

I would like to say thank you to the Skea family for their willingness to host us. Their kindness is so greatly appreciated by the leaders and young people.

Finally, I'd like to thank Chris and Amy for all they have done for the Youth Group over the last year. Their enthusiasm and hard work have not gone unnoticed. Having some extra hands during my first year as Youth Worker was especially helpful. From everyone at St. Andrew's Youth Group - we say thank you to Amy and Chris, and we wish you every success in the future!

Blessings,

Adele Marr

## Dalitso Project Progress

By the time you read your Quest the first fundraiser, a soup lunch and information day for the Dalitso Project, will have taken place in OBs and we will have had a group visit to our projects to check the progress of the centres and newly built clinic.

Dalitso, formerly St Andrew's Church Malawi Project, will aim to become bigger and better by informing and widening the area and range of people to know of the hardships of the Malawian people. We know the members of St Andrew's Church have taken them into their hearts by their generous giving which we hope will continue, but now we need to stretch further afield.

Most of the young people who have visited Malawi over the past nine years are on board, coming up with new ideas, not only for fundraising but ideas that may help with vocational training out in Malawi. Some are also very keen to return to Malawi and once again be 'hands on' with the

work out there.

Fundraising events will be held in various locations around the town as we try to capture a wider audience. We will continue to keep you all up to date by the bulletin, magazine or emails. So watch this space!!! We will be at Sea Fest raising the profile of the charity so please do come and say hi.

Please continue to come along to these events, tell all your friends and family, and pray for all the Malawian people, especially those in our care.

We are now on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/thedalitsoproject](http://www.facebook.com/thedalitsoproject)) and our website, [www.dalitso.org](http://www.dalitso.org), is coming soon.

Every blessing

Charis Bowie  
Chairperson  
Dalitso Project

## Thank You

The staff and customers of the Friday coffee mornings would like to take the opportunity to thank Brian Anderson and Linda Hunter for their help and guidance in Angus and Fraser's baking which was undertaken as part of their Duke

of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The donations were eagerly awaited each week and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone!

We wish the boys success in whatever tasks they tackle next!

## Food For Thought

### What is life about?

When I woke up this morning, I asked myself, "What is life about?" and found the answer in my room...

The fan said, "Be cool."

The ceiling said "Aim high."

The window said, "See the world!"

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

The mirror said "Reflect before you act."

The calendar said, "Be up to date."

The door said. "Push hard for your goals."

The floor said "Kneel down and pray."

(Unknown.)

### Nurture

A churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons.

But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all." This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing..... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and spiritual nourishment!  
(Unknown.)

## Clerk's Corner

### Data Protection

You will remember that some time ago, a special form was delivered along with your Quest asking you for details of name, address contact number etc. These details are held on the Congregational Roll and current Data Protection

regulations require us to seek your permission for this. Your response to this was very good and a large number of forms were returned. However, not all came back so we are now going to contact some of you to complete this necessary exercise.

One of the very good side effects of seeking this information was that we were able to update our records to account for changes. Thank you!

## The Queen's 90th Birthday

In common with groups and organisations across the nation, we took the opportunity to recognise a lifetime of service on the occasion of Her Majesty, the Queen's, 90th birthday. Whatever our political or constitutional leanings, we have much to be thankful for in having had a monarch with such clear Christian convictions – for over sixty years!

On the Sunday morning, our guest preacher was David Searle. Wasn't it great to welcome David and Lorna 'back home'! David preached a marvellous sermon, relat-

ing the life and experience of our Queen to three of the great accounts of queens in the Old Testament – the Queen of Sheba, Jezebel and Esther.

Prior to that, on the Saturday we held two events – an afternoon strawberry tea and an evening concert hosted by the Condor Military Wives Choir and featuring a selection of superb young musical talent. Both events were very well supported and everyone went away happy and having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, afternoon and evening.

Let us continue to uphold the Queen in our prayers (as we are instructed to do in the New Testament) that God might uphold her in her continuing service.

## New Alpha Course

The world-renowned Alpha Course, which launched in London in the 1980s, is about to take a giant leap forward. Already over 27 million people have attended Alpha in countries all over the world. But this year, following a complete overhaul, the course is set to attract people and reach communities like never before.

Hugely popular adventurer and celebrity (and Chief Scout) Bear Grylls is the face of what is going to be a global advertising campaign. You'll see ads for Alpha in cinemas, on buses and billboards, and as you do so you'll know that people in almost every country in the world will be doing the same!

And with hugely generous backers be-

hind them, the organisation has produced what is being called the Alpha Film Series, a brand new way in which the Christian faith is going to be offered to anyone who wants to find out more and to ask life's most basic questions. We've seen a preview of the first film and it really is brilliantly done!

So with this new launch, 2016 really is going to be the year of Alpha! and churches are now getting geared up for autumn launches – St Andrew's included! Those in our 20/20 Group (made up mainly of our young people aged 18-25) are going to be taking a lead in this and doubtless they will come up with imaginative ways in which we can get Alpha working in Arbroath.

As we like to say in QUEST, watch this space!

## Thank You from Arbroath Choral Society.

Thirty eight years ago the Choral Society held its first concert in St Andrew's Church and continued with a Christmas Concert and the main one in the Spring for a few years.

However, the comfort of the audience had to be considered when longer choral works meant sitting on hard pews for long periods and so the decision was taken to move to the Webster Theatre. This involved acquiring scaffolding and constructing a lid over the pit so that the choir and orchestra could be on one level. However, while the seating was more comfortable, we discovered one major disadvantage in that the acoustic of the theatre is nothing like the wonderful standard of that in St Andrew's.

Back we came and then when the church was refurbished it proved to be the most wonderful venue – comfort for the audience, enough room for the orchestra, that wonderful acoustic, and excellent facilities for catering etc.

So now, we regard St Andrew's as our home – we rehearse in the small halls on Sunday evenings for 30 weeks of the year and hold both our concerts in the sanctuary. This provides quite an income for the church in the charges for hiring the premises. For the concerts we have stewards from our Events Team and the Fellowship Group provide the catering.

At our Saturday rehearsal before the main concert, the Guild ladies have held a coffee morning on the same day and this allows us to be relieved of the task of providing refreshments for the choir and orchestra and allows us to contribute to Guild funds.

It is significant that other local musical groups now hold their concerts in St Andrew's as well.

Personally, being in such familiar territory is such a wonderful thing for me. Thank you for all your support and to the many of you who regularly attend the concerts. JM

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### JULY

##### Sunday 3

9.30 am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Worship Service  
led by Tim Milneard,  
candidate for Ministry  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 10

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 17

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

##### Sunday 24

11 am - Worship service;  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 31

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

#### AUGUST

##### Sunday 7

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

##### Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship  
(special joint 'Songs of Praise'  
for Sea Fest Sunday)

##### Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service; 6.30  
pm - Evening Worship

##### Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service  
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.**



## Come to Kilmarnock?

Earlier in the spring, Adele, our Youth Worker, and Martin were having a conversation about the possibility of our Youth Group offering some service to another church elsewhere in the country. We did a similar thing during the year of the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, running a holiday club for a south side church and campaigning on behalf of 'Stop the Traffic.'

Very shortly after that conversation, a youth worker from a church in Kilmarnock posted a message on Facebook, saying that they were very much in need of a team to help them with their summer outreach among children and young people.

It looked like a perfect fit! Adele contacted her col-

league in Kilmarnock and then travelled down there to make a better assessment of the situation. The end result is that we are indeed going to take a team down to Kilmarnock during the first week in August!

We're hoping that the team will comprise both some of our enthusiastic teenagers and some of our enthusiastic not-quite-so-young adults!! – in other words, the kind of great folks who step up to lead our own holiday clubs etc. Or, perhaps you've never done anything like that before but you'd like to come on a team like this for the first time? The good news is that for adults there will be actual beds to sleep in in actual houses – a step up from the floor of a church hall!

Please speak to Adele or Martin sooner rather than later if you'd like to join this team, or if you'd like more information.

## As we say farewell ....

### Amy

*As I come to the end of my time at St Andrew's, I am thankful for all the challenges I've faced and memories I've made. Although I am excited to return home I am reminded of all I am leaving behind. My work at Havilah has been challenging at times but has definitely been worth it, never failing to daily put a smile on my face. I shall miss these guys so much and have such a respect for the staff and volunteers there.*

*The youth group camping trip was also a great way to end with lots of fun and laughter had with all involved. St Andrews has an amazing youth group and I hope to see this continue. I now know I am returning to a job in the after-schools club although this is only a temporary stop in my working life. I am extremely thankful for everyone in and around St. Andrews for making me feel so welcome and giving me amazing life experience that I wouldn't have got elsewhere.*

### Chris

*Well, that's almost a wrap, folks! Ten months later, after gallons of coffee consumed at small groups, hours spent planning youth events, bowls upon bowls of soup served at Havilah, and many an evening spent writing sermons/prayers, we're officially done with our year of service here in Arbroath. Friends, this has truly been a blessed year!*

*There are so many different 'thank yous' that deserve to be given in person, but as the time of my departure from Edinburgh Airport is fast approaching, I'm afraid this will have to do. To all of you wonderful members of St Andrew's Parish Church: from the bottom of my heart, thank you. This year has been full of challenges, steep learning curves, some mistakes, and – on your part – a lot of grace and hospitality. As a foreigner, you've welcomed me into your home church and treated me as one of your own – letting me preach, study, and pray with you all on so many different occasions. I can't tell you how edifying it has been to have shared so many of these experiences with you. However unsure I might have been about God's calling in my life in September, my year among you has reassured me that I am being called to a life in the church.*

*Although as much as I would like to I cannot take you back to the U.S.A with me, I will take the memories of times spent here with me as I continue onto the next stage of life in ministry. Be assured that, despite the distance, I will hold you all even closer in prayer. St Andrew's Church, blessings on you all, and may you continue to be such a light to this community in such a myriad of ways. Shalom*

### Matthew

*Well what a year it has been. I have been so encouraged to be part of St Andrew's since the moment I arrived all the way back on the 1st September 2015. Since arriving I have felt so welcomed by the congregation and want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made an effort to make us feel welcome either by inviting us to dinner or just chatting to us and making us feel like part of the church family!*

*One of my main memories of this year will always be the Wall of Jericho! - that huge structure made using banana boxes and cable ties. If you don't know the story, basically, this involved me getting up at 6am every morning for around a week and a half to go gather boxes from supermarkets before they were put in the crusher. My only regret is as I was on the webcast desk that day I did not get to pull it down myself!*

*Looking back there has been so many good times and half of these would not have been as good if it wasn't for my colleagues, friends and flatmates. Yes, I of course am talking about Amy and Chris. They are so full of life and have a real passion for the work we have done this year and I wouldn't have changed this! I honestly feel I have made two new friends for life and hope we keep in contact as we move on to new ventures.*

*Looking forward, as I write this I am preparing to meet with two churches near Glasgow with the possibility of being employed as a youth worker at one of them. The experiences I have gathered through being at St Andrew's really put me in a good position for these roles and no matter what I do in the future my work will always be influenced by my time at St Andrews Church.*

*I hope that next year's volunteers will feel just as welcome in St Andrew's as I do and I pray every blessing on them as they work with the church in the coming term.*



# More in pictures



**Saying farewell to Candace**

**David Searle preaching on the Queen's Birthday**

**Strawberry Teas**

**Youth Group fun**

**Mary Scott's Homegroup enjoying a day out**

