

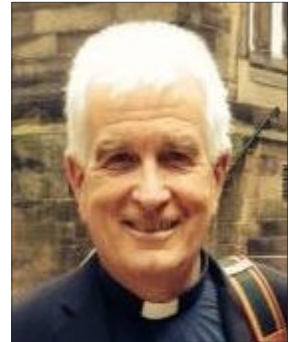


Exciting New Church Year Ahead

We're delighted to announce that the Kirk Session has decided to employ Rev Ian Gray as our new Pastoral Assistant. (Ian will work a variable week which will be part-time for around 9 hours per week.)

Ian is an OLM (ordained local minister) of the Church of Scotland and has a considerable track record of service within churches across Angus and beyond. But many members of St. Andrew's will remember Ian from the time when he did part of his training for ministry within our congregation – quite a few years ago now!

Ian is remembered fondly from these days and many of us have watched his progress with considerable interest ever since. It is with real pleasure therefore that we are ready now to welcome Ian back to serve on our Ministry Team.



Havilah@10

When a seed is planted, it is hard to imagine that, given the right conditions, it will one day grow into a plant or a lovely flower of even a mighty oak tree.



At the 10th anniversary celebration evening for Havilah, tribute was rightly paid to the founders - Tracey and Jim McLeod

In August 2006, our Havilah project was planted – a very small beginning, not much noted, but now grown into a truly life-saving ministry. This week we have received messages

of congratulations from, among others, our local MSP, the Lord Lieutenant of Angus and Peter Bailey, the Chief Executive of Crossreach. Crossreach is the social care wing of the Church of Scotland and with considerable skill, Peter has guided the organisation through some turbulent times, in the process turning it into the key third sector provider of social care in Scotland. Of Havilah, Peter writes:

'I would very much have liked to have joined you on Thursday evening (the night of the Havilah celebration) to bring the best wishes of the Social Care Council, but unfortunately I will not be able to be there.'

We have long admired the work of Havilah as a real expression of the Church of Scotland mission at local level. We know only too well of the commitment and hard work involved in maintaining such a high quality and successful initiative. To do so at a local church level for so long and so consistently is a tribute to all those involved both now and in the past. Those individuals have truly clothed themselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience and, as a result, how wonderful to hear of many lives impacted and transformed over the years.'

Congratulations from the Social Care Council of the Church of Scotland on your tenth anniversary and every blessing to you as you continue to serve God in such a practical way.'

(Continued inside.)

Vocations Volunteers

By the time you're reading this, our new volunteers will have moved into the flat on Townhead Road and will be raring to go! Sadly, Fraser, who was to have been one of the three was offered a full-time job and so has decided to give up his place on Volunteer Vocations. We wish him well.

The good news is that we still have Catriona and Susan with us and very quickly they'll settle in and will bring to us the kinds of gifts and experience and energy and enthusiasm

that our previous volunteers did.

Let's go out of our way to make sure

that they know themselves welcome in St. Andrew's Church. Make a point of saying 'hello' to them and think about having them over for lunch or dinner. Settling in is all about getting to know people. That's your job! Time to get on with it!



Catriona



Susan

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**

July/August 2016

Baptisms and Blessings - Brooke Napier,
daughter of
Kirsty and Fergus

Weddings - Jennie Marr & Nathan Christie;
Erin McDonald-Lee & Richard Miller

Funerals - Graham Whyte, Andrew Walker,
Moira Spray

IMPORTANT DATES**OCTOBER 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 16th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 20th September (Word-Processed file)

In the Courier Last Week

A 75-year-old Carnoustie man was robbed of over £4,000 after falling victim to a telephone scam. Police are investigating after the victim was contacted by a fraudster claiming to be from a debt collection agency. The fraudster threatened the elderly man by saying he would come to his house with sheriff officers to enforce the debt. The pensioner then transferred over £4,000 into an undisclosed account.

In another case, a 65-year-old woman from Forfar was scammed out of £2,000 after she was

phoned by someone claiming to be from the Inland Revenue. The caller extracted personal account data from the woman which allowed the criminal to withdraw the money from her account.

Never give out account or PIN number details to anyone over the phone. And remember that if they tell you to check by putting the phone down and then calling your bank, they will not hang up and they will then "answer" your call and pretend to be from your bank!

IF IN DOUBT - speak to another adult for advice or phone me, Ken Miller, on 875235.

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

September 2016

Dear Friends,

Recently I got to spend part of a day at Dunblane Cathedral. It was a retreat day for reflection, led by the Rev. Peter Neilson, and was attended by half a dozen ministers. Apart from anything else, it was one of those beautiful summer days when the skies are blue and when everyone seems to have a rosier outlook on life!

But more important, it was a wonderful opportunity to take time out of the usual schedule – and we all need to do that from time to time. To that end, we are going to punctuate this church year with several ‘retreat and reflection’ days that many more of us might have opportunity to step out of our usual routines and to give ourselves over to stillness and to being more consciously aware of God’s presence. Watch for more details of how these days will unfold.

But for now, back to Dunblane Cathedral. Those who know it will know it to be a glorious building, set above the river and having stood there for many, many centuries. To spend time in such a building is to become aware of one’s own mortality. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that we are no more than grass, here today and gone tomorrow. I was certainly struck by the thought of the countless generations of people who must have gathered here to worship the living God – and yet they are known no more.

In stark contrast, God endures ‘unchanging on’ and our great cathedrals seem to bring that thought to the fore.

In a world that is so keen on novelty and among a people who are so fixed on the latest thing, the Church must stand for that which endures. Of course, becoming moribund is not the answer. Changes in HOW we do things are inevitable and essential. But that we build on the timelessness of God, the enduring nature of his Word and the sameness of Jesus, his Son, yesterday, today and tomorrow, is equally essential. That’s WHY we do what we do.

All of this means that as the Church across the nation strives for relevance and impact amongst a population that has largely turned its back, we must never lose sight of our foundations. That’s why we at St. Andrew’s will head into this new Church year committing ourselves to what has always been important:

- extending a warm, embracing, inclusive WELCOME
- joining together to WORSHIP in spirit and in truth
- and reaching out into our world to WITNESS to the love of God made known in Christ

There’s nothing new or novel in any of that and yet it’s what we’re called to. Let us embrace these commitments with a renewed zeal, determined to be all that God means for us to be.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Havilah@10 - Continued from page 1

It is of course gratifying that Havilah has been so widely recognised – not least in the gaining of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service in 2015. The truth is, though, that we would have been doing this work even if not a soul outwith had noticed it. As Christians we are called to do the right thing and to do it without thought of reward or recognition.

Through the years, our Boys Brigade Company has used the well-known prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyala and it beautifully sums up the approach of the Havilah Project.

*‘Dearest Lord,
teach me to serve You as You deserve;
to give and not to count the cost,
to fight and not to heed the wounds,
to toil and not to seek for rest,*

*to labour and not to ask for reward
save that of knowing I am doing Your will.’*

The other prayer, equally applicable, is that of St. Teresa of Avila.

*‘Christ has no body now, but ours.
No hands, no feet on earth, but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which he looks
With compassion on this world.’*

As we give thanks for all that God has done through Havilah in these ten years – for all the lives transformed – let us continue to put compassion at the heart of all that St. Andrew’s Church is concerned with. In a world that is quick to judge, let us be among those who put judgement aside in favour of loving, gracious, caring – all in the name of Christ our Lord.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Sorry, but this isn't a question about the Bible. We had a hymn in church some time ago that had two lines that puzzled me. Can you tell me what they mean, please? (CH4 484, 3rd verse):

*We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat
And find you kneeling at our feet.*

Theophilus answers :

First, you are quite wrong thinking this not a question about the Bible; it is about the very heart of the Bible's message! In the Old Testament, the Tent of Meeting described so fully in Exodus tells us that the innermost sanctuary was called 'The Holy of Holies' (Exodus 25:10-22). The High Priest entered this inner sanctuary once a year on the Day of Atonement, when he went in with a Golden Censer in one hand in which a fragrant incense smouldered, and some blood of the Passover Lamb in the other hand. The incense symbolised prayers for God's people; the blood of the Passover Lamb symbolised sacrifice made to atone for their sins.

In the Holy of Holies was the Ark of the Covenant. God had made a covenant of grace with his people; the terms of the covenant were the Ten Commandments, and the stones on which these were engraved were kept inside

the Ark. But the people knew they often broke those commandments. (See Romans 8:7-10 where Paul admits his great sin was 'coveting'; the Tenth Commandment said, 'You shall not covet'.) So on the Day of Atonement the High Priest sprinkled blood from the Passover Lamb on the lid of the Ark.

The AV and ESV translate the word for that lid as 'the mercy-seat'. Some modern translations call it 'the atonement cover', because it covered the Ten Commandments, and therefore covered their sins. General Booth of the Salvation Army laid down that every Salvation Army Hall should have a bench at the front that would be called 'the mercy-seat'. Those who wanted to repent of their sins would come forward and kneel at the bench and pray there for forgiveness.

So when Brian Wren wrote hymn 484 and spoke of 'striving to glimpse the mercy-seat' he was referring to our yearning to kneel before the Lord, our Passover Lamb, and plead for his forgiveness. Yet, we discover that (as in John 13 at the Last Supper) Christ is kneeling at our feet, with the towel round his waist, washing away the defilement of our sins.

Two beautiful lines in a wonderful hymn! They should move us to tears, so eloquently do they portray the Lord's grace in humbling himself to bear our sins that he might wash us clean.

David Searle.

Dementia Drop-in

Few are the families which have not been affected by dementia in one way or another. It is a condition which is becoming increasingly prevalent and, without support, those who care for dementia-sufferers can find themselves very much isolated and involved in a daily struggle to cope which only gets harder as the condition worsens.

The good news is that support is available. Alzheimer Scotland is a wonderful such support service and the good news is that it is present throughout Angus with a special care centre situated in Arbroath, very near to our church. The even better news is that we are about to launch a partnership with Alzheimer Scotland to provide a safe-space, drop-in café for dementia sufferers and those who care for

them. Initially the café will run on a monthly basis and will be based in our halls. Staff from Alzheimer Scotland will be on hand to offer support and advice and a volunteer team from the church will be responsible for running the café and generally for creating a welcoming, conducive atmosphere. As always when appeals for help are issued at St. Andrew's, our members are not slow to respond and it was no surprise therefore that a large team of volunteers has come together and is now being trained by Alzheimer Scotland ready for this new project.

Please pray for us as we move towards getting started (expected in October) and ask God that through the café we would find another way of expressing his infinite love and compassion to all the people of our town.

Youth Work Update

During the school holidays, a group from St Andrew's Church, including youngsters and adults, went down to Kilmarnock to help New Laigh Kirk run their holiday club. This was a packed week of games, songs and crafts with over 100 children and youth.

Staying in host homes, we were welcomed into the family of the church and looked after very well. This was a great opportunity to meet Sara, Bethany and team from New Laigh Kirk, fostering new friendships for the future. It was also a chance for Kally, Lesley, Eilidh, Carla and I to get to know each other better whilst bringing us all closer to God through daily devotions.

Please see the pictures and feel free to ask me more

about the trip. It was a fantastic week!

As we look to the new term, I am looking to involve some of our older young people in the running of youth group. In giving them more responsibility I hope to see them flourish as young adults whilst becoming role models for the younger members. Please pray for this next step.

Alongside this, I would ask you to pray for those young people who are at a crossroads in life just now, whether making decisions about university and college or entering into the important exam years of school. Pray that they will take guidance from the Lord in all areas of life and that they will continue to grow closer to Him.

Blessings,
Adele Marr
Photo on back page.

National Commitments

As noted in earlier editions of QUEST, our minister has been appointed as vice-convenor of the Mission & Discipleship Council of the Church of Scotland, one of the main councils of the Church and the body responsible for energising and equipping congregations in the business of mission. This is a responsibility which will require him to be in Edinburgh more often than was previously the case, to attend meetings, conduct interviews and be part of the planning team charged with taking the work forward. As well as that, Martin will be asked to represent the Church of Scotland and various regional and national meetings, conferences etc. For instance this autumn, beginning in August, he will:

- ♦ be in Glasgow for three days carrying out a study on a new Church which is experimenting with brand new methods of mission and outreach

- ♦ travel to Shetland as part of a team hosting an Equip Conference, designed to encourage congregations to reach out and to point them to the resources that are available to do that
- ♦ represent the Church of Scotland at a two-day gathering in Birmingham at which national and international leaders will come together to consider what parishes need to look like in the 21st Century

Clearly then, Martin is going to be busier than ever but all of this is in line with his ordination vows which include a commitment to serve the Church nationally as and when called to do.

It is because of this that the Kirk Session (with some financial support from the national Church) has added Ian Gray to our Ministry Team, to ensure that the pastoral work of our congregation doesn't suffer. (See separate article on Ian Gray)

Church Family Trip

For quite a few years our annual Church Family Trip was to Wellbank, and we enjoyed some great days, even though the weather wasn't always kind to us. Before that we had gone variously to Letham, Carmylie and Crombie. Some of you will remember that before BBQs, we used to take paper bags with us – each filled with sandwiches, crisps and sausage rolls!

For a change of scene, we went this year to Edzell and

the unanimous verdict was that it made an excellent venue for our trip. And, yes, the sun shone for most of the day! Edzell Church hall was nearby if we had needed to run for cover in the case of inclement weather but, in the event, the activities unfolded outdoors and children and adults alike enjoyed what was a wonderful family occasion.

Thank you to Elaine and the Sunday Club team and to Ray and Karen for the catering and to everyone else who was involved in making the day such a success.

Here's to next year! (Photo on back page.)

GUILD UPDATE

A reminder to all our members, and an invite to anyone in the congregation who would like to join us, that our fortnightly meetings resume on Monday, 12th September at 7.30 pm. The first meeting is a short Communion and Dedication Service, lead by our Minister, Martin Fair.

The Guild Bus Trip to Kelpies and Tea in Perth is on Saturday, 10th September. The bus will leave the church at 10 o'clock and the cost is £23.00. Anyone who has not yet put their name down can contact Shona 878526, Joyce 431681 or Pat 07867 499871. Let's hope the sun shines. Look forward to seeing everyone then.

Clerk's Corner

Cleaning Groups

We are nearing crisis point because of the small number of people in these groups and would urgently seek your help to consider being a member of one of the teams. Each person is on duty once a month for approximately one hour on your choice of a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning. There is no heavy lifting involved. Please get in touch if you can help. In the meantime, we can all help by trying to keep our premises as tidy as possible in order to ease the work of our Church Officer and Cleaning Team.

Keys

Because of a recent malfunctioning of the lock on the gallery door, this has had to be replaced. This has provided the opportunity to look at the current key holders list with a view to cutting down the size of the list. It would also appear that there have been additional unofficial keys cut and some names do not appear on the list!

As a temporary measure, new keys have been issued to those who require frequent access, and to some organisa-

tions who rent the premises on weekday nights. In the meantime, for others who require access, we would ask you to collect a key from the office and return it after use.

The Fabric Group is exploring the installation of a fob system which would involve entry to the building being regulated and recorded. More details of this possible system will appear later.

Data Protection.

Below is what was printed in the last edition of Quest, but is still relevant.

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!

New Alpha Course

As previously announced in QUEST we are launching the brand new Alpha course this autumn. These are exciting times for the Alpha organisation. Following a complete makeover, the course is ready to be launched globally in such a way that it is anticipated that it will run in over 180 countries across the entire globe in the coming months. A huge awareness campaign is about to start. Headed up by explorer and broadcaster, Bear Grylls, it will include cinema adverts, bus posters and billboards in an attempt to get people talking about Alpha.

But of course it's not really about Alpha. The Alpha course is just a tool put into the

hands of local churches. More fundamentally it's an opportunity for people to ask the big questions of life and to get to hear about Jesus.

There are many such courses out there, some of them very good. Even so, it would seem as though God is most especially at work through Alpha and is using it to bring millions of people into a situation where they can hear properly what Christian faith is all about.

As we prepare to launch Alpha this autumn, let us pray that God would use it powerfully in our community and that it would provide us with opportunity to reach out to many. We believe that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. It's time for us to share that.

Dalitso News

By the time you read this we will have had our Malawi Feedback night held at OBs where the Dunphys, Sandra Bell and Caroline Farquhar will have given us an update on the projects and children in our care. It was great to have their assistance getting letters, weights and photos for all the report cards to be given to you in due course. It is a major operation but great to bring back to Scotland up-to-date news of them and the centres. More information will be given in the next issue of the Quest if you are unable to come.

We were grateful once again for all the gifts taken out from those who sponsor children. The kids were delighted though not that sure about the airline when they saw all the bags!!!

Since the last edition, the group had a successful weekend at Seafest, where the aim was to raise the profile of the new trust. With so much to pay for at Seafest, especially for children, we gave out free sweets and had games to play with, thus giving a blessing (Dalitso is blessings in the Malawian language of Chichewa) to the people that visited our stand. This also allowed

parents a free 10mins and gave us the opportunity to speak to them about our work with the children in Malawi. The stall was manned mostly by the young people who have been on Malawi trips 2007, 2009 & 2011.

Our next fundraiser will be in September during the Relay for Life weekend. We have manned the refreshments stall at the Cricket Club the last 2 years, so please come along for your soup, stovies or chips if you are there.

There will be details of other up & coming events in next month's Quest, bulletin or local press. We are hoping to have another soup lunch and quiz night.

Also we encourage you to support Cailin & Rebecca's events as they fundraise for their trip next year.

Finally, we are about to start a newsletter and those who sponsor a child will receive it in their normal paper or electronic format. If you would like to receive this newsletter to keep up to date with the Dalitso Project, please email us at

info@dalitso.org

or speak to Sheila or Doris.

Charis Bowie
Dalitso Trust Chairperson

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4

9.30 am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service
led by Keith Scott
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 11

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship;
guest speaker
Rev. Bob Mallison,
Menziesshill CofS

Sunday 18

11 am - Harvest Thanksgiving
Celebration; main service
followed by short Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship;
guest speaker
Matty Blakeman,
Hillbank Fellowship

Sunday 25

11 am - Worship Service
led by Tim Mineard,
candidate for ministry
4pm - Messy Church
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

OCTOBER

Sunday 2

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

Sunday 9

11 am - Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 16

11 am - Worship Service;
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 23

11 am - Worship service;
Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 30

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

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

7th Arbroath Boys Brigade

All sections recommenced on Thursday 1st September.

6 - 7.30pm : Anchor Boys (5-8 yrs)
6 - 7.30pm : Junior Section (8-11 yrs)
7.30 - 9.30pm : Company Section (11-15 yrs)

New members are always welcome!

Atalay/Bowie - Thank You

Leonie and Ufuk, Doris and Sandy wish to thank everyone who sent cards, text messages and emails on the birth of their son/grandson, Kuzey. He is adorable and a very good baby.

Looking forward to showing him off at Christmas time. Doris.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 18th September

Most of you will be aware that the work we are concerned with in Malawi is now run and administered by a stand-alone trust, the Dalitso Project. We have been clear though to encourage all of our members to back the new trust as the best possible way of continuing to support the children and communities in Malawi that we have partnered through the years. That can be done through supporting their fund-raising activities and through the child sponsorship scheme, which many of you have indeed done for a good number of years.

With that in mind, the Kirk Session unanimously agreed to direct our Harvest Thanksgiving offering towards the work in Malawi. Special envelopes will be provided.

In earlier times, congregations used to gather in tins and packets of foodstuffs and fruit and vegetables and distribute these to local people. Of course we still work hard – not

least through our food bank – to support needy local people. But our community is a global one nowadays and though people in our own country can fall upon hard times, few find themselves without food and water and without access to medicine and education. We are richly blessed to live in a country where such provision is standard and available to all at the point of need. Elsewhere in our world, many millions of people find that the daily struggle is simply to survive.

Harvest Thanksgiving is just about the oldest of all the festivals celebrated in the Christian Church. It dates back to the earliest of times when the people of God were establishing themselves in the Promised Land. At that time, they were instructed to give thanks to God, the provider of all good things, and to put aside a proportion of all that they had for those who had less. This biblical injunction we continue to honour today.

The Kirk Session commends it to you and thanks you in anticipation for your support.

It's Your Move

Scripture Union produces an excellent resource called It's Your Move, which is specially designed for children moving from P7 into secondary schools. For quite a few years, St. Andrew's Church has gifted these books to all the P7 children in the schools with which we are associated. This year was no different and Martin and Adele, our Youth Worker, took great delight in visiting the schools to distribute the books.

As part of the chaplaincy team at the Academy, both Martin and Adele provide a link and a familiar face to the children they have got to know in the primary schools – not

least through our three-part programme of Bubblegum 'n' Fluff, The Easter Code and Popcorn 'n' Cake. Moving to secondary school can be a daunting move for some young people and to see a friendly face can be a big help.

We pray that as all of these children make the move they will settle quickly into life at the 'big school' and that we will continue to connect with them through the chaplaincy team. Let us pray too for all of our teachers. In what has become another tradition, we went to the schools on the first day of term and gifted to all staff a wonderful selection of home baking for them to enjoy on their return to work. This little act of random kindness was, we know, hugely appreciated.

Church and school working together – a great partnership.

Gregor Irvin – Baptism!

Many of you will remember the wonderful day we enjoyed when Stuart (our former Associate Minister) and Lynn presented their first son, Douglas, for baptism. Then, on Christmas Day 2015, we were delighted to share in Stuart and Lynn's joy when Gregor was born to them. Who will ever forget Gregor's birthday!

Now of course the family live in Edinburgh, with Stuart

serving as minister of St. Catherine's Argyle. Please remember them in your prayers as they seek to grow their congregation and build a flourishing ministry. Pray for them also on Sunday 4th September when Gregor will be baptised! Our own minister, Martin, is delighted and honoured to have been asked to conduct the baptism and preach on that occasion.

May God continue to bless the Irvins in all the days to come.

Candace

St. Andrew's Church was much blessed to have among our members Candace Laing who, with her late husband, Eric, came to live among us following their retirement from the island of Bermuda. Some of you will remember that, whilst still living in Bermuda, Candace and Eric were wonderfully supportive of our congregation in financial terms and through their regular monthly gifts allowed us to do things that would never otherwise have been possible. (That came about through their friendship with Martin and Elaine which had flourished during the period 1989-1991 when the Fairs served in the Church of Scotland in Bermuda.)

Candace has now moved back to the United States from

where she originally hails. She has settled in Arizona to be with her mother who, though in her nineties, is still reasonably well and active. We're happy to report that having heard from Candace, she is settling in well and is sure that she has done the right thing at this stage in her life in moving back to America. Of course, she is having to get used to some differences – not least coping with regular daytime temperatures in excess of 100 degrees! As she settles in, she has made it a priority to find a church within which she can belong. We look forward to hearing about that church and to praying for it as Candace brings her lovely gentle witness to them just as she did to us.

May God bless her and her mother in all the days to come.

More in pictures



Left - Some of the group at Kilmarnock

Right - Nathan Christie and Jennie Marr were married in the summer



Prizegiving was followed by the family outing to Edzell

Sunday Club re-started with a surprise - bouncy castle fun - with one for the very young children and one for our older children - which was also used by our oldest children!!!

