

Making A Good Impression

Catriona and Susan have been among us for a month now and have settled in brilliantly, quickly finding their feet and slotting into the various roles asked of them. We have every expectation that they will make a significant contribution during their year here in Arbroath.

Martin, our minister, was coming through the supermarket check-out when the woman serving him (who he doesn't know) stopped him to say, 'That's two lovely young ladies you've moved in above us – polite and friendly – and they baked a cake for us. How lovely!'



Susan and Catriona are formally welcomed by our Session Clerk, Jane Miller.

Isn't it good that they've made an instant hit with the neighbours on Townhead Road! Thinking about it, that's the kind of impact we all should hope to make. What impression do your neighbours have of you?

Make sure that you make a point of saying hello to Catriona and Susan as they continue to settle in – and why not invite them to lunch or dinner? According to some Christian traditions, it is by our gracious hospitality that our faith shall be made known. Let's make sure that we put that into practice!

Linda McDonald

It was with great sadness – and yet with profound joy – that we gave thanks for the life of Linda McDonald at a service of thanksgiving held within the church on Friday 2nd September. With family and friends gathered from across the country – and with many others joining us on-line – there really was an expectant atmosphere as the service started. Many were wearing yellow, Linda's favourite colour, and the members of our Flower Club had created beautiful yellow arrangements to beautify the sanctuary for the occasion.



The service was devised entirely by Linda herself – a task she undertook some weeks before her death, while still able to do so. There was a mixture of traditional hymns, prayers and readings, together with addresses by Andrew, Linda's husband, Thea, her younger daughter, and Valerie Allen, Linda's great friend and former minister of Old and Abbey

Church.

But throughout the whole service, there was witness to the resurrection of Jesus and his promise that we too shall live, even though we die. Linda's faith shone brightly throughout her life AND was there for all to see in her passing into eternal life.

May she continue to be an inspiration to us all in her joy and in her passion for justice and for the care of creation.

(Continued inside.)



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

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LEADER**

Tracey McLeod : 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT
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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

September 2016

Baptisms and Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - Linda McDonald (at end of August)

IMPORTANT DATES**NOVEMBER 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 21st October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 25th October (Word-Processed file)

Service Core Group**Eco tips - Greener lawn care**

If you must water your lawn, do it early in the morning before any moisture is lost to evaporation. Have a few weeds? Spot treat them with vinegar. Not sure if you should rake? Normal clippings act as a natural fertilizer, let them be. If you've waited too long, rake by hand – it's excellent exercise.

**Services Live
or on Catch-up**

We no longer provide recordings of our services to our housebound members because we are now live on the internet on Sunday mornings. You can also catch up at any time through the rest of the week. Just go to our website at -

www.arbroathstandrews.org.uk

You can then join us live online or click on the **Media** menu button for our catch-up service.

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)

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)

7.00 pm – Church Prayer Group - D McColgan (07896 489282)

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

October 2016

Dear Friends,

As has been stated in recent editions of QUEST, I am now serving as Vice-Convenor of the Church of Scotland's Mission & Discipleship Council. The M&D Council is one of the two big councils of the Church and this involvement is, for me, both an honour and a serious responsibility.

Firstly, it is going to demand a significant proportion of my time. This will vary from week to week and through the seasons of the year but will average out to about a day a week, much of that time spent in Edinburgh. During this week, however (as I write,) I really am feeling the pinch! All day Tuesday was spent in Perth working with the staff that the Council employs. Thursday saw me in Edinburgh for an all day meeting of the full Council. Then, from Friday to Sunday, I was in Shetland helping to lead a series of meetings with congregations from across the Northern Isles.

So what does the Mission & Discipleship Council do? In some ways, it's quite obvious; it is responsible for re-sourcing the congregations of the Church of Scotland that they might be better equipped for reaching out in mission and making disciples. The Council seeks to do that in all manner of ways – by holding events and conferences, by producing resources (books, pamphlets and online) and by deploying staff to visit and support congregations the length and breadth of the country. As vice-convenor I am part of the executive and together we have responsibilities for a rather large budget, supervising and supporting staff across three different departments and envisioning the future of the Church.

The council is made up of some great ministers and elders and so the work is nearly always fun and energising. But it's also a heavy responsibility. Please pray for me and the Mission & Discipleship Council as we seek to serve God and his Church to the best of our ability.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Alpha 2016

We've been trailing our new Alpha course in recent weeks and are delighted now to announce that the course will begin on Wednesday 19th October. The venue is to be The Townhouse, on the High Street opposite the old court building. It might well be that some folks will find it easier coming to a 'neutral venue' than to what for some are the unfamiliar surroundings of a church building.

What's your part in all of this? You should be thinking and praying about whether or not there is someone you

could bring as a guest to this Alpha course. Is there a neighbour or a colleague or even a family member who might just be willing to say 'yes' to your invitation? You'll never know until you ask!!

Of course, Alpha is aimed at those who are presently beyond the scope of the Church – those who haven't developed a faith in Christ – but it's also open to people who want to do something of a refresher course.

Perhaps that's you? If so, sign up at the Church Office – or let us know that you're bringing a friend – and we'll see you on the 19th!

Linda McDonald

During Linda's time among us, she used her influence to make a genuine difference in our wider community - not least among the most vulnerable. She served for several years as our Community Development Worker and by popular acclaim did a brilliant job.

She started our Bite-sized Opportunities for Service slots in worship and, through these, many of us got involved in community groups and organisations such as Bar-

nardos and Angus Advocacy. She helped us make better links with local schools that led to initiatives like the paired reading scheme at Arbroath Academy. And further still, Linda had a huge hand in establishing the food bank, the Angus Credit Union, the furniture recycling project and StarterPacks.

Linda also made invaluable contributions while serving for many years on our Leadership Group. Wow!! What an impact! This will never be in doubt; Linda's life really mattered.

She made a difference.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

I noticed a hymn in CH4, number 117. Every verse begins, 'Mothering God...'. Are we meant to pray to 'God, our Mother'?

Theophilus answers :

The only place in the Bible that I know of where Jesus compared himself to a 'mother' is in Matthew 23:37 (=Luke 13:34): 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets... How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!' Nowhere else in the Scriptures do we find any suggestion of the so-called 'motherhood of God'.

But what we do find taught in the Bible is that the Church is our Mother. Her first responsibility (and therefore ours as church members) when she receives a new child of God is to feed that spiritual baby on the milk of the word. The church as our 'mother' should be caring for us, nour-

ishing us and teaching us, in much the same way as a human mother cares for her children.

Another interesting thought along these same lines is in 1 Thessalonians 2 where Paul compares himself as a pastor to a 'nursing mother, taking care of her own children' (verse 7); then to 'a brother' (verse 9); then to 'a father with his children' (verse 11). I like to think he was speaking as a representative of the family of the whole church. We are to cherish and look after young believers as a child ought to be cherished by the whole family.

Otherwise, I have never found in the Bible any other suggestion of God as Mother. There's plenty about him as a Father, but not in our human sense. God is a-sexual (without any sex) for he does not procreate his children as an earthly parent does, but creates ex nihilo—that means, 'out of nothing'! My own personal rule has always been, 'If it's not in Scripture, don't invent or impose it upon Scripture when it's not there.' Others disagree, I know. But I hope that helps.

David Searle.

Dementia Drop-in

We're delighted to announce that we are partnering with Alzheimer Scotland to launch a Dementia Drop-in Café. The café will operate on a once-a-month basis and will be staffed by workers from Alzheimer Scotland and by volunteers from our congregation.

The incidence of dementia in Scotland is increasing and there's hardly a family that hasn't been touched by the condition in one way or another. Many know the heartbreak of seeing a loved one slip away into 'another world' and no longer being able to relate or communicate as once was the

case.

Now is the time for us to offer a supportive response to sufferers and those who care for them. That's what the café is all about. It will offer a supportive environment where information can be shared, where worries and concerns can be heard and where everyone can be valued as a child of God, regardless of age and situation.

We have a great team of volunteers from among the congregation but if you're interested in getting involved, leave a note at the Church Office. At the very least, please pray for this new venture.

Youth Work Update

In the next few months, youth group have some exciting trips coming up:

October - Battlefield Live, laser tag in Dundee

November - Trip to Lunan Bay

December - Our annual Edinburgh Christmas market visit

If you'd like to know more about any of these please get in touch with me. Any young person at secondary school is welcome to attend.

You may be interested to know that once we get to know young people in our group we gift them a Youth Bi-

ble, if they would like one. The New Century version contains small Bible studies throughout that apply to the sorts of situations they may face as young people. This is a ministry that pre-dates my time as youth worker but is something I wanted to continue as young people may not have access to a Bible at home or, at least, not in language they can understand. My Youth Bible travelled to Malawi with me, helped me through university and I still use it to plan activities for our group. My hope and prayer for those we bless with a Bible is that they too might hold onto God's Word throughout their lives wherever the Lord takes them. Please pray for our young people that they will come to love the Lord for themselves.

Blessings,
Adele Marr

A Temperance Smile

A minister was completing a temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." Finally, while shaking his fist in

the air, he shouted "And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river."

Sermon completed, he sat down

The choir leader stood very cautiously and announced, with a shaking voice, "For our closing song let us sing Hymn 365— Shall We Gather At The River."

7th Arbroath Boys Brigade

Our new session is well underway. Anchor Section from age 5-7 years have 9 boys, Junior section from age 8-10 years have 12 boys while our Company Section from age 11 upwards now have 6 boys. Three of them are working towards the Queen's Badge - our highest award.

We have a break for two weeks to coincide with the school holidays. We come back on 20th October then it will be time for our Annual Rededication Service in the church

on Thursday 27th October at 7.15pm. A warm welcome is extended to all our church family who wish to attend.

On Saturday 29th October we will be holding a Coffee Morning to raise funds for our annual fees to Brigade headquarters and our local Battalion. This year we will have to give in the region of £700 for this. A good support from parents and friends would be appreciated. Details will follow in the church bulletin for a couple of weeks before.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

Clerk's Corner

Bcc

This stands for **Blind Carbon Copy** (from the days of typewriters). Nowadays it also applies to emails and it allows the sender to conceal the email addresses of multiple recipients (whereas, using Cc does not). **This is very important** because it helps to prevent the **spread of computer viruses, spam and malware**. Some people guard their email address quite avidly, and quite rightly, and can be upset when it becomes available to others, who they do not know, without their permission. Poor security on another person's computer can then mean that all email addresses embedded in any email - and not necessarily in that other person's address book - can be harvested and then abused.

The Church of Scotland now requires that we always use Bcc in any email communications involving multiple recipients. Indeed, any organization should now be using Bcc at all times as it is a requisite of following good practice as defined in the Data Protection Act.

The Leadership Group

When this group was established, a rotation system of length of service was devised. The longest serving members were **Pat Mill** and **Ken Miller** and they attended their last meeting on 20th September.

Both Pat and Ken have shown exemplary membership and have consistently added their wisdom and knowledge to both discussion and debate. Both, of course, are committed to the work of St Andrew's in several other areas and will

continue to use their skills and expertise - Pat in the Nurture Group, the choir and in the preparations for Communion, and Ken in the Fabric Group, the Technical Team and editing of Quest. These are just some of the duties they both undertake and we are grateful to them for all that they do.

Fundraising through Soup Lunches

We have already begun to re-establish Soup lunches. Havilah had one in August and the Dalitso Project will have one at the end of October. Both these organisations feature outreach as a major element of their work. We now invite any other organisation which also has outreach as an aim to let us know if they would like to organise a soup lunch.

Organisations which fundraise through coffee mornings can continue to do this as the most relevant method of raising money for themselves.

To avoid disappointment, please ensure that all dates are booked through the office.

Cleaning Groups.

This notice appeared last month but we are still awaiting a positive response, so has been included again.

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 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.

GUILD UPDATE

Actually I don't have much Guild News - unfortunately our first meeting due to take place on 12th September was cancelled because of some problems with water in the area around the church, and the next meeting will have taken place by the time our magazines are delivered, but not before I write this article!

October Meetings:

3rd - AFRICA DRUMMERS

17th - THEME NIGHT - Theme this year - Go In Joy

31st - GUEST SPEAKER - Our minister, Martin Fair

Please join us - our meetings are generally fortnightly

on Mondays at 7.30 pm.

One thing I can write about is our Guild Bus Trip. We had a lovely day. The weather was very kind to us - we were able to wander around the Kelpies in the sunshine! Personally, I had been to the Kelpies before, but I still gaze in wonder at the majestic statues and think about how hard the horses worked for us in the past. We ended the day with a lovely meal in Perth.

Let's make 2016/2017 a good Guild Year. Always remembering our Guild Motto:

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

SUNDAY EVENINGS

For five-and-a-half years now, we've been holding weekly evening services. Before that we had held monthly services under the Off the WOL banner. In all of that time, we've been standing apart in as much as hardly any congregations still host evening services at all.

However, it's important that we don't stand still and that we do our best to engage with younger people. To that end, we ran a consultation and review evening at the end of August when over fifty people engaged in discussion and reflection on the question of what Sunday evenings should be like.

From that process we gathered in lots of

answers and, of course, these answers covered a range of subjects and reflected different opinions. Right now we're working our way through all of these answers and from that, trying to gain an overall sense of how we should develop evening worship.

As we complete that process, we value your prayers that we might best discern the way forward. But this much we know; we very much look forward to exciting times ahead and to breathing new life into our worship.

Might it be time for you to be part of our evening worship?

Dalitso Project News

By the time you read this the 4th annual container of aid will be on its long journey to Malawi. This year due to the generosity of the Arbroath community the container was filled earlier than normal so we are really hoping it will make it there for Christmas. Like The Dalitso Project Facebook page for updates on its journey to our centres.

The first meeting of the new Trustees (Charis Bowie, Sheila Dunphy, Doris Bowie, Fraser Dunphy, Neil (Nige) Grant and Jonathan Milne) and the management committee made up of members of the 2007, 2009 and 2011 groups took place in September with a main focus being on the fundraising efforts of the group through monthly events and the sponsor children programme.

In October we will be holding a quiz night (date TBC) and on the 30th a Soup Lunch will take place after the service in the church halls. In November we will be hav-

ing a meal in OBs for supporters of the charity to bring everyone together to celebrate the work in Malawi.

For Christmas we will be making Alternative Catalogue Christmas Crackers. These will include inside a small gift that will be bought and given on behalf of the buyer to a Malawian person in our care, e.g. a jotter, a calculator or a week's supply of antibiotics. Also in December for those that the thought of Christmas fills you with feelings of stress we will be holding a pamper day with massages by Becky Dunphy and nails by Leonie Atalay. More specific details can be found in future Quest magazines, the church bulletin and the local press.

Again we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming you to these upcoming fundraisers.

Charis Bowie
Dalitso Project Chairperson

LOOKING AHEAD

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 - Celebration of
the Lord's Supper
6.30 pm - Evening Worship,
including Communion

Sunday 30

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

NOVEMBER

Sunday 6

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

Sunday 13

10.50 am - Remembrance
Worship Service
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 20

11 am - Worship Service, inc.
Sacrament of Baptism
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 27

11 am - Worship Service;
all-age Communion;
1st Sunday in Advent
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.

Gregor Irvin – Baptism!

A goodly number from St. Andrew's were part of the congregation at St. Catherine's Argyle, Edinburgh, on Sunday 4th September for the baptism of Gregor Irvin, son of Stuart and Lynne and brother to Douglas.

And what a happy occasion it was! Martin, our minister, preached the sermon and conducted the baptism and the whole congregation rejoiced in welcoming Gregor into the family of faith.

The service was followed by a soup lunch and then those who had travelled from Arbroath went back to the

manse and were able to enjoy a lovely sunny afternoon in the back garden.

It seemed to us that Stuart and Lynne are settling very nicely into their new charge. The congregation, though small, is made up of some lovely people and their commitment and lively faith is apparent.

Please continue to uphold Stuart and Lynne in your prayers, asking that God will richly bless their ministry in the months and years ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

At St. Andrew's we've never been short of things to look forward to and this Autumn is no different! There are two things in particular that you'll want to put in your diary.

Firstly, on Saturday 12th November, we're hosting a worship conference entitled 'Hear My Voice.' We're doing this in partnership with the Worship Team of the Mission & Discipleship Council and under their guidance, the morning will be given over to a 'conversation in worship' which will be a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss what matters most to us when it comes to engaging with God. In the afternoon, there will be a series of workshops and then a closing worship service. This conference will be open to folks from different congregations but it is very much hoped that members of St. Andrew's will give it their full support.

Then, on 24th November, we've got a wonderful night in store with a very special guest, Sandy Allan. This evening will appeal to everyone but especially to those who love the mountains and the great outdoors. Sandy Allan is one of the world's leading mountaineers. He comes from Newtonmore, near Aviemore, and his mountaineering career has seen him ascend the highest peaks all across the Alps, the Himalayas and beyond.

Sandy is best known for being the first person, along

with his climbing partner, to ascend the so-called Mazeno Ridge of Nanga Parbet in Pakistan. Until their successful attempt, this ridge had defied every attempt to climb it. Isn't it wonderful that it was two Scotsmen in their mid 50s who were the first to do it!

Their ground-breaking climb is documented in the book that Sandy wrote in the aftermath. In that book, the true magnitude of what they achieved is made clear - and that they lived to tell the tale! When describing the toughest part of the time Sandy talks in very spiritual terms - of his sense of God being with him.

During the evening of 24th November, Sandy will describe his climb and will tell us of how it affected him, spiritually speaking.

This is going to be a night NOT TO BE MISSED and a night that will be ideal to invite friends to.

Keep your eye on QUEST and on our website etc. for full details.

As said at the top of this piece, we've got much to look forward to!

St. Madoes and Kinfauns

Many QUEST readers will know that David and Lorna Searle's daughter, Anthea, is married to Marc Bircham, minister of St. Madoes and Kinfauns parishes just east of Perth. For some time, they have been working towards building an entirely new building for the congregations and wider communities. To say that it was an ambitious plan is an understatement indeed!

But the wonderful news is that the dream is going to become a reality! The following article is drawn from the Church of Scotland's website.

Give thanks to God for his amazing provision and pray for Marc and Anthea as they follow this plan through to fruition.

Work begins this week on the Madoch Centre, a new multipurpose building that will serve the congregation of St Madoes and Kinfauns as well as the surrounding Perthshire community.

The congregation formed a human chain from the old church to the new site and passed along a board with the verse: 'For every house is built by someone but God is the builder of everything.' (Hebrews 3:4)

The congregation has raised funds through community events and donations, including Rev Mark Bircham's recent challenge, "I'm a minister get me out of here", that took the minister around the country completing unusual tasks and

committing acts of kindness that were suggested by donors. The building will be open to all in the community.

Anthea Bircham, chair of the 14-strong Madoch Centre team, said the congregation want to bring opportunities for all age groups in the community to come together in the cafe, and to meet, share, play and exercise.

"We feel our community deserves better facilities; but we haven't sat back and waited for help, we have just got on with planning and raising funds," Mrs Bircham says.

"We've had some great help along the way from the General Trustees, Go for It training days and Perth and Kinross Council among others.

In our congregation, and in the village, we already try to care for the more vulnerable, and the Centre will help us do this more effectively and bring new opportunities to serve.

While we now have a full build package the hard work isn't finished, we still need to raise another £100,000 for fixtures, fittings and furniture."

Funders who are supporting the building include: the Robertson Trust, Gannochy and the Jimmie Cairncross Charitable Trust. Local company Algo have been engaged to carry out the 48 week contract to build the new community and church facilities.



More in pictures

Left - The baptism group of Kirsty and Fergus Napier

Middle left - Mary Spink is a very proud Great Grandmother

Middle right - David McColgan leads lively worship to the song "Our God is a great big God"

Bottom left - Lynne and Stuart Irvin with their two fast growing sons!

Bottom right - Another beautiful display by the Flower Club ladies for our harvest thanksgiving service

