



Opening Our Doors Wider

For those of you who aren't much around our buildings during the week, you'll largely be unaware of the uses to which our sanctuary and halls are put. The bottom line is that since our refurbishment in 2009, more and more outside groups and agencies have made use of our facilities for their events and conferences etc. This is testament to the quality of our facilities AND to the wonderful ways in which our volunteer teams make people feel so welcome - including the excellent catering that we are able to offer through Doris and her team. It's also possible because of Linda's impeccable organisation skills and having her in our office taking care of this aspect of our work is crucial.



Some uses shown here - Concert, VAA open day, NHS blood transfusion



The upsides are these: Thousands of people (no exaggeration) find themselves in our premises who otherwise wouldn't ever be near us. That's good!

The community has an excellent space at its disposal and it's a delight NOT to have such a wonderful space sitting empty (as so many churches generally are). That's good!

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Sandy Allan



We have a treat in store on the evening of 24th November when élite Scottish climber, Sandy Allan, will be our guest to describe in words and pictures his epic ascent of Nanga Parbat's Mazeno Ridge. Until then, no one had ever succeeded in reaching the summit of the world's ninth highest mountain by this particularly difficult route - so it was a Scottish 'first' for Sandy and his climbing partner, Rick.

But this was not just a magnificent climb; it became a matter of survival as the pair found themselves high up on the mountain for three days without shelter, food or water. Ordinarily, no one should survive such an ordeal. The exposure to extreme cold, the lack of oxygen and the absence of anything to eat or drink should have resulted in their demise. Yet they lived to tell the tale and that's what Sandy will share with us, together with his reflections on the value of life, on the evening of 24th November.

(Continued on page 7)

Gift Day

At the end of November, we'll have our second Annual Gift Day - now an important aspect of the giving plan for many congregations across Scotland and beyond. Clearly, most people support their Church regularly, whether by bringing an offering every week or by standing order through the bank or by other means.

At St. Andrew's the level of regular giving has, through many years, been phenomenal, far outstripping that of most other congregations - even ones in considerably wealthier areas. Even so, our regular giving is JUST ENOUGH to get by on - just enough to pay the bills. It's the Gift Day that's going to make it possible for us to continue to do additional ministry and mission.

(Continued on Page 7)

CHURCH OFFICE : 431135

ADMINISTRATOR

Linda Hunter

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

MINISTER

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

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BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER

Linda Hunter : 431135

MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Parish Records

October 2016

Baptisms and Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals - None

Service Core Group

Eco tips - Party with a marker

Some time in between the artichoke dip and the coleslaw, you lost track of your cup/glass, and now there are a sea of matching ones on the table, one of which might be yours. The next time you party, set out a marker pen next to disposable dinnerware so guests can mark theirs and everyone will only use one.

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 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 18th November (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 22nd November (Word-Processed file)

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH GUILD

QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 18TH November at 7.30 pm
in Church Hall**

Teams of 4
£6.00 per person
Stovies and Dumpling
Tea and Coffee Served

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

November 2016

Dear Friends,

I had opportunity at the end of October to visit a congregation in Motherwell which runs a project called, Befriend Motherwell. They've been running it since 2011 and are making a genuine impact on the wider community in which they are set.

Essentially, their project is an attempt to address loneliness, not least because most recent census findings point out that over 50% of people in their parish are living alone. At the same time, recent years have seen local government drastically cutting back its services meaning that there is now no home help service and little left of the personal care at home service.

While the breaking up of these services is to be lamented, the reality is that in Motherwell it has opened a space for the Church to start doing what the Church is surely uniquely well placed to do! Isn't it perfectly obvious that the Church should be in the business of addressing loneliness and isolation - especially among the elderly and vulnerable? I was hugely impressed by what I saw in Motherwell and salute their efforts to put faith into action in this way. Churches in other areas - North Queensferry, for example - are doing very similar things, having recognised the extent of the problem.

In this regard, Arbroath is no different to Motherwell or North Queensferry. We too have within our community (and congregations) many who through increasing fragility and ill-health find themselves 'cut off' and spending much of their time alone. It's wonderful to hear of those situations in which neighbours or friends step in and do all that they can to alleviate the problem. But there are too many who remain isolated and without the kind of home support which is necessary for normal functioning and a sense of well-being.

Our congregation, through the Leadership Group, has for some time been considering what we might do in this area. We have not leapt to an answer because it is more important to get it right than to get it quickly. However, we continue to believe that there may be a way forward for us to develop our mission in this way and would ask you to pray for us as we edge forward.

As we move further into the 21st Century, it's becoming increasingly clear that the role of the Church in the years ahead will be one of humble service and the 'success' of a congregation will be measured by how they do that rather than by how many show up on a Sunday.

If Christ came to serve rather than to be served, it is clear how we, his followers, should live and be.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Ian Gray

As you'll have seen in earlier editions of QUEST, we now have Rev. Ian Gray serving as our part-time Pastoral Assistant. Ian continues to serve on Sundays in the parish of Edzel and surrounding villages but he has time during the week which he is able to devote to pastoral work here in our congregation. And that's good news for us all!

The demands upon Martin's time by way of his National Church commitments mean that he has to spend a certain amount of his time elsewhere, whether in Edinburgh or

further afield. What better then that we have a minister of Ian's caliber to offer additional pastoral support to the congregation.

Ian has made a flying start and many of you have already benefited from his considerable skill and experience as a pastor.

Of course given his other commitments we won't see Ian on Sundays but we recognise that his calling to us is primarily about what happens during the week.

We wish Ian well as he continues to settle in at St. Andrew's and pray that God will bless him in his ministry.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

In Matthew 5:20 Jesus says, 'Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven'. Was he saying that the Pharisees were righteous in some way, but not righteous enough? I thought Jesus said they were 'hypocrites'!

Theophilus answers :

When we look at Jesus' use of this word 'righteousness', it becomes clear that there were two very different forms of 'righteousness'. Think of the occasion when Jesus had just called Matthew to be one of his disciples. Matthew threw a party and invited all his irreligious friends to his home to meet Jesus. It was as they all enjoyed a meal together that the Pharisees, peering in at the open windows into Matthew's dining room, asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' (Matthew 9:11) Jesus then made this famous statement: 'I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.' Compare that with the opening of the parable about the two men who went to the temple to pray: 'He told this parable to some who trusted in them-

selves that they were righteous' (Luke 18:9).

There, then, is the first form of righteousness. We might call it 'self-righteousness'. It consisted entirely in meticulous outward observance of rules and regulations. The Gospels are full of incidents involving sincere, very 'religious' men who tried to make themselves righteous by adopting an extremely strict way of living. But as Jesus said to them, 'You are like whitewashed tombs, outwardly beautiful, but inside full of dead people's bones!...Outwardly you appear righteous to others, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness' (Matthew 23:27-28).

The second form of righteous should now be clear. It consists in an inward relationship with God: an inward beauty, an inward obedience to the Lord, an inward humility and gentleness. So in the parable of the two men who went to the temple to pray that I have just referred to, the tax-collector was declared righteous; he would not lift his eyes to heaven, but prayed in true repentance, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!' (Luke 18:13.) Thus the Lord warned his disciples, 'Do not judge by appearances but judge righteous judgment' (John 7:24 AV).

David Searle.

Christmas 2016

Sixty-one days till Christmas, as I write!!

As always we'll be aiming to make it a special time of year at St. Andrew's - rightly so as it is the time during which we celebrate Jesus coming into the world.

As in the last two years we'll be sending the Posada around the congregation. The Posada is a Mexican Advent tradition in which the 'Holy Family' travels from home to home around the parish. The idea is that one family 'hosts' the nativity scene and then they take it to the next home on the list for the next night. When arriving at the next home, they should be invited in for a little supper and fellowship as they hand over the nativity with a prayer.

We'll be signing families up from the middle of November; you can do so on Sundays or at the Church Office.

Advent is, of course, the 'lead in' to Christmas but you can't get to Christmas via a short cut! You've got to go through Advent to get to Christmas. So come along and enjoy all of our Advent season, beginning with our all-age Communion service in 27th November. Our Christmas Eve services will be according to the usual pattern but as happens once every so often!!! Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year! Even though it will be a 'Sunday service,' it will be shorter and family-friendly as our usual Christmas Day service.

In the mix of all of the celebrations we will have our Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving in the week between Christmas and New Year - a service open to all but aimed specifically at those who have been bereaved during the year or who for any other reason have found 2016 to be a struggle.

We've got much to look forward to. Be a part of it!

Youth Work Update

Story Guardians

In the school holidays we held a morning of activities for primary school children. Whilst the numbers were low, the leaders agreed it was a great time to get to know specific children better and engage with them in a way that is not possible during Easter holiday clubs.

Our theme for the day was love and by the end of the morning each child was able to recite the whole memory verse: a paraphrase of Matthew 22:37-39. After hearing the story, the children helped make bunting from the Bible

verse, made beautiful heart cards and played games in teams to cement the ideas of loving God and other people.

Youth Group

As for our Sunday night group, we have recently had an evening of games including a beetle drive, eating jelly sweets out of cream, then icing sugar and biting doughnuts from a string. This was a great night of fun and I'm sure the young people left with a sugar rush from the number of sweet treats we consumed!

By the time you read this we will also have been to Battlefield Live Laser Tag in Dundee. Look for photos of the party, and Battlefield, on the back page.

Alpha 2016

After having done a fair amount of advertising we were delighted that we had a total of 28 people along at our Alpha launch night on Wednesday 19th October - that number made up of guests and church members who had invited someone to come with them.

We are using the Townhouse Hotel as our venue this year and it proved to be an ideal location with a convivial

atmosphere, booths for small group discussions and a large screen for showing episode 1 of the brand new Alpha film series.

It's good to know that we're part of a worldwide movement! Right now there are Alpha courses running all over the world. Isn't it exciting to think that there are people in Arbroath and in countries on the other side of the world talking about faith and thinking about Jesus Christ?

Please pray for the success of our Alpha course as it runs from now through the next few months.

Would it matter to you or not?

On 22nd October, I spent the day with a Kirk Session over on the west coast. The minister had asked me to lead a conference designed to help the elders think about the way forward for their congregation.

Having given an introductory presentation and set the elders a number of questions to consider, I went outside and spent half an hour on the pavement in front of the church building - a busy main street with lots of people coming and going.

In the time that followed, I stopped lots of people and asked them if they'd be willing to answer a question. Not a single person said 'no!!' The question was: 'Would it matter to you whether this church was here or not?'

It proved to be the most fascinating half an hour! Everyone was happy to talk to me and many wanted to talk more deeply than I had time for!!

Of all those I spoke to, none attended church or even thought about it. A fair number said that they couldn't care less if the church was there or not - it wouldn't bother them in the slightest if it was knocked down. Some said that they had no intention of going but, none-the-less, they thought it was good that the Church was there. And others still said that they knew kids who went to organisations and clubs etc

and that it would be a loss to the town if the Church wasn't there.

I strongly suspect that people in communities across Scotland would give the same or similar answers. While for those of us who have a strong faith and find that being part of the Church is vital to us, of course it matters that the Church is there! But given that over 90% of Scots don't ever attend Church, we shouldn't be surprised that for the majority of folks the fate of the Church is not a question that much interests them.

That's the world we now live in - a very different one from the one that some of you remember from years gone by when the Church held a central role in every community and in the nation at large.

Everything has changed - and yet oddly, the Church hasn't changed that much. The Kirk Session that I spent that Saturday with were struggling to understand why people didn't come anymore? 'But we're a friendly Church!' they told me. 'We've got a super minister and her sermons are really good!'

These are difficult days and there are no easy answers and yet our job is to remain faithful and to continue to be bearers of good news. It might be that right now most Scots aren't interested but we don't take that to mean that God has given up on this nation!! Let us not be as those who have no hope.

GUILD UPDATE

By the time you read this article the clocks will have moved back and the nights will be getting darker. Hopefully we will have had our Dedication and Communion Service, which had to be cancelled in September, and our Guild Session will then really be started. We have been delighted to welcome a few new members to our Guild and it is great to see all the well loved faces who continue to support the great work the Guild continues to do. As always there is still room for anybody who cares to come along - there is always warm friendship and a cuppie waiting.

As part of our fund raising this year we are having a Quiz Night on the 18th of November at 7.30 pm. Hopefully some of you will have already got together with friends and formed a team for this night!! No rivalry of course but we have invited other organisations within the church to come along and we really hope it will be a team associated with the Guild who win!!! I jest of course. It is a bit of fun and social get together. All money raised go to our Guild Pro-

jects. This year we are supporting Mission International - Haiti Project (which is very current due to the hurricane which hit the Island again in September before they have had time to recover from the flooding etc. they had to endure the year before) and closer to home we are supporting a project in this country - Let's Stick Together (Care for the Family). It is good that we can have fun and help others at the same time. Look forward to seeing you there.

November Meetings:

14th - We will welcome a speaker from our Haiti Project (Sales Table)

28th - Talk from Academy pupils who visited Rwanda.

Guild Week is in November and we hope our members will worship together in Church on Sunday 20th November.

My dad always quoted a line from a poem - 'Ease after toil doth greatly please' On Monday 5th of December we have our Christmas Party in Tutties Neuk.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Vocations Volunteers

Catriona and Susan are now properly settled into their roles as vocations volunteers here at St. Andrew's and, like our 'three' from last year - Amy, Chris and Matthew - we've been delighted with what they've already contributed to the life of the congregation! Every one of our volunteers has been unique and has brought with them their own set of life experiences and gifts and abilities. We should be and ARE very grateful to have them!

The involvement is similar to last year but with some changes and developments. For example, an opportunity has arisen at Ladyloan Primary School to do literacy work with P1 children and we are hopeful

that we'll start soon with a lunchtime craft club at Hayshead Primary School - both new opportunities this year. Also new, Catriona and Susan are on the rota at the Food bank that we run in partnership with our friends at Old & Abbey Church.

So, it is indeed good to have them in Church and community and we look forward to all that they will bring to us during the remainder of their time here in Arbroath.

If you haven't already done so, why not invite them round for lunch or dinner and help them to get to know us all the better.

Dalitso Project News

The Dalitso Project continues to look for ways to further develop our centres. Our next focus is to develop the teaching at Thyolo by employing a teacher to give extra lessons to the day-care children. Often class sizes can be as high as 100 which makes it very difficult for the teacher to fully support every child, especially those who may have learning difficulties. It is hoped by developing the education provision at the centre that this will allow our young people to have more success in exams and better their opportunities for jobs and further education.

To allow us to meet this and other needs, fundraising continues. For Christmas we are offering as in previous years the Alternative Gift catalogue where you can purchase 'a gift' for Malawi on behalf of your friend/family member. Also we will be selling as detailed in last month's Quest Alternative Christmas Crackers. These will be priced at £2 per cracker or 6 for £10. In each cracker you will receive details of a gift purchased

for a Malawian child e.g. a jotter, pens, vitamins. Finally, we will be holding a pamper day where you can book in to get a massage from Becky Dunphy or your nails done by Leonie Atalay. More information will be in the church bulletin. To get a copy of the Alternative Catalogue, order Crackers or to get more information on any of our upcoming plans please speak to Sheila Dunphy or Doris Bowie or email info@dalitso.org.

Finally, at the time of writing (October 25th) the 40ft container destined for Malawi is aboard the cargo vessel Alexandra MH off the coast of Morocco making its way south to Cape Town, South Africa. It will then continue on to Mozambique arriving around the 24th November and then on to Malawi hopefully in time for Christmas Day.

Charis Bowie
Dalitso Project Chairperson

Harvest 2016

In the 'old days' Harvest Thanksgiving involved giving bags of groceries to some of our members, the reality being that few if any of them actually needed them!

Some time ago we took the decision to redirect our Harvest efforts to where the need really lies and to do it more generously than by the giving of a tin of beans or a bag of tattles. Through our work in Cambodia and then Malawi, this is exactly what we've done - tens of thousands of pounds having flowed out from the congregation over suc-

cessive Harvest Thanksgivings ever since.

This year was no different and the offering totalled over £3,300 which has since gone to the Dalitso Project for the buying of maize in Malawi - of critical importance given the ongoing plight of many communities in that impoverished land and not least because of severe drought this year.

Thank you to all those who gave generously this year once again.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

DECEMBER

Sunday 4
9.30 am - Traditional Worship
11 am - Worship Service,
2nd in Advent
6.30 pm - Evening Worship in
Community Spirit

Sunday 11
11 am - Worship Service,
3rd in Advent
6.30 pm - Evening Worship in
Community Spirit

Sunday 18
11 am - Worship Service,
4th in Advent.
Followed by short
Celebration of Communion
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Saturday 24
6.30 pm - Nativity and
Christingle Service
11.15 pm - Traditional
Watchnight Service
(with coffee and mince pies
from 10.30pm)

Sunday 25
11 am - Christmas Day
Celebration!

Wednesday 28
6.30 pm - Service of
Memorial and Thanksgiving

N.B. As well as the services above there is a 40 minute service every Wednesday morning at 10.30 am, apart from 28th December and 4th January

Opening Our Doors Wider Continued from Page 1.

The congregation is also helped financially by the rental income realised by these additional uses of our buildings, this year alone to the tune of some £14,000 to present date, much of which will be 'profit'.

If you'd like to be involved in this area of our work, we'd be delighted to have you on board. Some of the work is unglamorous but necessary all the same. For example, before and after some events - such as when the Blood Transfusion Service set up - all the chairs in the sanctuary need to

be re-arranged. When there's a proper team this takes no time at all but when it's left to two or three it's a big task!

And then there's the business of making visitors feel welcome and helping them to find their way around in our buildings. If you're a 'people person' and like to interact with others with a smile on your face, this could be for you! Essentially it's about being a great ambassador for St. Andrew's as well as, in a sense, fundraising at the same time!

If you'd like to get involved in our events ministry, have a word with Linda in our office sometime soon.

Sandy Allan Continued from Page 1.

This is an evening for hill-walking and mountaineering enthusiasts, of course, but it's more than that; it's an evening for anyone who enjoys a cracking story and who marvels at the ability of the human spirit to keep going against all the

odds. And beyond that, it's an evening for those who want to hear about how such an ordeal causes one to reflect deeply on what really matters in life.

Tickets for the Evening with Sandy Allan can be had online via Eventbrite or from the Church Office. See you there!

Gift Day Continued from Page 1.

We have said for years that our work among young people, for example, is hugely important but it's highly unlikely that we'd be able to continue to support the employment of a part-time youth worker if it wasn't for the additional sum brought in through the Gift Day. Last year the Gift Day realised some £10,000 (once Gift Aid had been factored in) and that's the kind of sum of money that will allow us to continue pressing on.

Last year, we asked you to consider £50 as a starting point. Now, imagine there was someone in our congregation who was sitting comfortably on a fortune of millions of pounds!! Why, the minister would just pick up the phone and politely ask for an envelope with £10,000 in it!

There isn't such a person in our congregation!!! It wouldn't be good if there was because it would mean that the rest of us could happily ignore OUR responsibility to support the work of the Church and, thereby, the building of

the Kingdom.

The reality is that a congregation such as ours works when everyone does what they can. For many that will involve sacrificial giving. Giving £10,000 would mean nothing to our imaginary millionaire but giving £100 might well mean considerable sacrifice to many within our family. And yet we are called to sacrificial giving.

Some might wonder why the Gift Day is held so close to Christmas? First of all, it is timed to coincide with St. Andrew's Day which, of course, falls at the end of November. But beyond that, there is perhaps no better time to hold it because when we're preparing to - or are in the midst of - spending large amounts of money on Christmas presents, it causes us to consider our priorities as perhaps at no other time. And so, let us continue to give in such a way as to strengthen our Church and bring glory to God.

For your use, we enclose a gift day envelope which can be handed in on any Sunday, or given to your Quest visitor.

**Postscript to
'Opening Our Doors Wider'
and
'Would It Matter To You Or Not?'**

Recently, I was acting as a steward for a conference being held by Angus Council in our buildings, during which they used the sanctuary for several talks with Powerpoint illustration, after which they broke into several discussion groups spread through the halls and the sanctuary - a benefit of the flexibility of chairs! Doris and her team also supplied a meal when they arrived.

At the end of another successful evening, the lady in charge approached and said how delighted she was, once again, with the meal, the facilities and the welcome that they receive each time they came. She also commented that it was "such good value for money" and that it was "good that a charity can also gain from it".

It was the last part - charity - that caught my interest, because she repeated it again before leaving. She did not say 'church'.

I do not know if the lady is a churchgoer or not, but I suspect that, working for Angus Council, she is likely to be aware of part of our outreach work into the community through Havilah. It made me more aware that, yes, perhaps St Andrew's Church matters in the community more than we sometimes realise. Whether it be through Havilah, ARKs, baking cakes to say thank you, assisting in paired reading, assisting foreign students with language, providing safe and nurturing 'havens' such as BBs and Youth Club and in many other ways, then hopefully we do 'matter' in our community.

Long may our doors be more 'wide open' for us to both welcome people in and for us to go out into the community.

(Editor)



More in pictures

Coffee morning team - well done faithful fundraisers.

Youth Group - at Battlefield and at their party.

The McMillan Coffee Morning - in Community Spirit, at which the Great Bake-off was also judged.

Malawi - The container being loaded by volunteers.



Oh dear, Martin, you've got a soggy bottom!

Never - I can't fail to win with this!



Still think mine is best, Linda!

On your bike, Martin!



But the winner of the Great McMillan Bake-off was - Caroline Farquhar (absent at the time) and second was Linda's son (above).

