

## We will remember them

*'God of time and eternity  
As poppies scarlet once sprang from shattered earth  
And wreaths of remembrance  
Are laid at war memorials throughout the land  
May these garlands be for us  
Symbols of courage, sacrifice and love'*

(Extract from the poem in Life and Work by the Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr)

Immediately on entering the sanctuary on 13th November for Remembrance Sunday, we were struck by the beauty of the floral displays on the communion table and also incorporated into the stark wooden cross. Vibrant red poppies stood out against the green foliage and were testament to the skill of the Flower Club ladies who regularly give of their time and talents, which beautify the sanctuary, but also give special meaning to events.

The first hymn, 'O God our help in ages past', was enhanced by the addition of two trumpets and a saxophone played by Lucy Mineard, Jill Finlayson and Susan McFarlane. They were able to play different harmony parts for the verses and used their talents well. We will hear them playing together on future occasions.

Lucy also played the Last Post within the Act of Remembrance. This was played from the balcony and her expressive playing rang round the church at this most moving moment. It is daunting to play a piece of music that everyone knows, but Lucy rose to the occasion and demonstrated her growing ability.



Derek Scott, who has given so much to St Andrew's Church, is a stalwart of the Arbroath branch of the British Legion and to him fell the honour of delivering the words from the poem 'The Fallen' by Laurence Binyon - 'They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old'. These come from the fourth stanza of the poem. Laurence said in 1939 that the four lines of the fourth stanza came to him first. These words have become especially familiar and famous, having been adopted by the Royal British Legion as an Exhortation for ceremonies of Remembrance to commemorate fallen servicemen and women.

After the two minute silence, we had the release of poppy petals from high up - yet another moving moment as they gently fell to the ground and lay scattered on the carpet in front of the communion table.

This year has marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and in 2018 will come the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. In 2019 it will be the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War. These words by Lynne McNeil, the editor of Life and Work, in November's edition are particularly relevant.

*'Today it is clear that this annual act of remembering has a dual purpose. Remembrance not only acts as a reminder of sacrifice and the cost of peace, but helps to ensure that the mistakes of yesterday will not be repeated tomorrow.'*

## New Leadership Group Members

It is nine years since we adopted the group structures in our church and it has been very successful in giving many non-elders the opportunity to contribute their time and talents in leadership. The Leadership Group has a structure that allows for rotation in its membership and we are pleased that Shona Kemp, Jim McLeod and Angus Milne have recently agreed to join this group. We wish them well in this important new role for them.



Shona Kemp



Jim McLeod



Angus Milne

**CHURCH OFFICE : 431135**

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter

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

**MINISTER**

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

**SESSION CLERK**

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**SUNDAY CLUB**

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**SAFEGUARDING**

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**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh : 876993

**PRAYER PROMOTERS**

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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

November 2016

**Baptisms and Blessings -**

Colleen Falconer, daughter of Billy and Ese

**Weddings - None**

**Funerals - None**

**Service Core Group**

**Eco tips**

**Keep your fireplace damper closed**

Keeping the damper open (when you're not using your fireplace) is like keeping a 48" window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney. This can add up to quite a few pounds each winter in energy loss.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**FEBRUARY EDITION (Note - NO January 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 20th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 24th January (Word-Processed file)

**Correction and Apology**

By accident, we were wrongly informed that the winner of the bake-off was Caroline Farquhar (as we then announced in the November edition).

The winner was, in fact,

**Joyce McPherson.**

Well done, Joyce, and please accept our congratulations and apologies.

**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

December 2016

Dear Friends,

Most of us are so familiar with the details of the Christmas story that we hardly pause to think of their significance. And yet, within the accounts that we have in the gospels of Matthew and Luke (Mark and John don't mention it at all) every part of what they write counts and is filled with meaning. Not least in this regard is the information we have concerning those who were among the first to hear of, and worship at the feet of, the newborn Christ.

The very first people to be told of the birth are the shepherds. While this might not strike us as being of particular importance, those who considered it at the time would have found it to be odd in the extreme. Shepherds, you see, were ranked very near the bottom of the social ladder. If a Hindu-style caste system had been operating, these men would have been regarded as 'untouchables,' not likely to feature on a list of desirable dinner guests. Further, because their work was with animals, they would have been seen as 'unclean,' religiously impure.

And yet it is to them that the angels appear with their 'tidings of great joy.' Why? Wouldn't it have made more sense for God to impart this good news to the priests or to those with a voice and influence across all of society? Wouldn't it have made more sense for the angels to appear to those who would have been respected and listened to?

In 'breaking the news' firstly to the shepherds God makes it clear that the good news is for everyone - not just 'those and such as those.' God's love doesn't just to apply to the respectable and to the 'unco guid' but to those considered 'far off.' So-called religious people have always struggled most with this idea; that God reaches out to the unclean and the undesirables and the irreligious.

Yet he does. He did so to the shepherds and he still does.

The other main players in any nativity scene are the wise men, the three kings. Having 'travelled afar, following the star,' these men bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, each one designed to say something about who the child was.

But these men have indeed come from afar; they are foreigners, non-Jews, not part of God's people! Why does God bring them to the scene? Why are they accorded the privilege ahead of the chosen people?

Again, hard as it may be for us to get our heads around, in Jesus, God was doing something brand new. He was demolishing all the old ideas about 'ins' and 'outs' and about those who belonged and those who didn't.

In a world that has become all too fond of throwing up barricades to keep people out, it is a sobering truth to be reminded that the wise men didn't belong - and yet God brought them to the stable.

Might all of this serve to remind us that there are no boundaries to God's love and that those of us who describe ourselves as followers of the Christ-child must lead the way in being inclusive and welcoming - especially of those considered to be like 'not like us.'

There's nothing quite like the Christmas story. It can leave us feeling warm and cosy! But it doesn't allow us to leave anyone out in the cold. May your Christmas be filled with all joy and peace and may you find ways to include others in the warmth of that embrace.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

[mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Long service

The Church of Scotland always recognises long service in eldership and it has special certificates for that purpose.

It was with grateful thanks that we presented these certificates to Moira Hendry for 30 years service and to Derek Scott for in excess of 43 years service.

Their continuing commitment to St Andrew's Church is so much valued. Well done!



## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

Was the star the wise men saw really a star and why did God choose the sign of a star to announce the birth of Jesus?

### Theophilus answers :

That's two questions and that's cheating! But I'll try to answer them both.

First, you asked if the star in Matthew 2 was a real star? All kinds of suggestions have been made concerning this. For example, it might have been Halley's comet which appeared in 11BC; another similar comet appeared in 4BC (that was actually the date of Jesus' birth). Or, it might have been a conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter and Venus as we know that also happened in 4BC. Or, it might have been a 'supernova', that is, a faint star which suddenly becomes much brighter; 'supernovae' only rarely occur. However, have a word with St Peter when you get to heaven; he'll explain it fully, I'm sure!

Second, you asked why God should have chosen a star

to announce the birth of Jesus. We know that astronomers had only mapped c3000 stars by 150BC; it wasn't until Galileo's telescope was invented in 1610 that men realised there were millions of stars. However, in the Bible, stars are never the subject of scientific curiosity. Rather they were symbolic of God's greatness and the lavishness of his grace (Gen. 15:5; Exod. 32:13; Deut. 1.10, etc.). They are often seen in Scripture poetically as a manifestation of God's 'otherness' and his control of the universe (Gen. 1:16; Psa. 8:3; 136:9, etc.). Certain constellations are named in the Bible such as Orion, The Bear and Pleiades (Job 9:9; Amos 5:8).

Finally, both God's acts of redemption and final judgment are foreshadowed by astronomical signs. The birth of Jesus is a good example (see Num. 24:17; Isa. 60:3); the final denouement of human history is another example (see Isa. 13:10; Dan. 8:10; Rev. 6:13, etc.). Also often the word star is used metaphorically to denote greatness, dignity and glory.

I hope this goes some way to answering your second question as to why God should announce Christ's birth in this way.

David Searle.

## Christmas Offerings

Each year, the Kirk Session chooses organisations to support through our special Christmas offerings. Traditionally they have chosen one local or national charity and one international one.

This year, in line with new areas of work that we've been pursuing, the Session has chosen the national organisation, Alzheimer's Scotland. There can hardly be a family that has not been affected in one way or another by the heartbreaking onset of dementia and by the 'living loss' suffered in seeing a loved one become unable to recognise even the most familiar of faces. Alzheimer Scotland is committed to supporting such individuals and families and to pursuing research into the causes of the illness.

In terms of international reach, our elders have, as last year, chosen to support an organisation committed to tackling child poverty and trafficking. Last time around, our support was directed towards Tear Fund's 'No Child Taken' campaign. This year, we are addressing the same issue but through a smaller, locally-based organisation, the 'Free to

Live' Trust, run by Alan and Pam Cairns. Alan and Pam spent several years at St. Andrew's Church and still live in the Angus area. They have used the Free to Live Trust to set up and run Seema's House in Maharashtra, India. The house serves as a centre dedicated to rescuing the abandoned children of trafficked sex workers in the neighbouring city of Pune, with the stated aim being to care for up to forty such children in the first instance.

The decision to support this particular cause was influenced in no small part by the annual visit of the Bellshill Salvation Army Band (11th December) who are using their Christmas concerts to support Seema's House. Given that we have so enjoyed the visits of the band, it seemed sensible to join with them in backing this particular cause.

The Kirk Session commends the Christmas Offering to you and encourages you to think sacrificially at a time of year when so much money is spent on so many who have already have everything that could possibly be needed.

With thanks and in grateful anticipation.

The Kirk Session

## GREETINGS FROM THE GUILD

A big thank you to our members and friends in the congregation who supported us at our Quiz Night in November. We were delighted to raise over £400.

Our syllabus for 2016 will probably be finished by the time you receive this magazine (our only date in December

is our party on 5th Dec) therefore I would just like to wish our members and everyone who reads this article a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Our meetings resume on Monday, 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm when our guest will be our Church Praise Band.

**“Whose we are and whom we serve”**

## 7th Arbroath B.B.

There was no report last month as we had a break for the school holidays and didn't return until 20th October.

Our session started with our Enrolment Service in the Church on 27th October, which was our Founder's birthday. Sir William Smith was born in Thurso and there is a bench in the town dedicated to his work of the B.B. which he started in 1883. We thank our chaplain Martin, for almost 25 years service to our company and for his guidance over the years.

A very successful coffee morning was held on Saturday 29th October when we raised over £450 for company funds which helped greatly towards our figure of over £600 for our fees to headquarters. Because we seem to be up against school discos etc. we decided to have a Film Night instead

of a Halloween Party. A great night was had by all.

As we approach the last few weeks before we have a Christmas break some boys will have attained their Target badge. This is the first award for the Junior section boys who are in 1st year - Alex Beattie, Ashton Crichton, John Webster, Daniel Merryweather, Shaun Cargill, Caiden Killah. Well done to all the boys.

Our Christmas party is on 8th December and we are looking forward to our visit to the Panto on 15th December which is our last meeting for the year.

We will be back for the new session beginning on Thursday 12th January, 2017.

We wish all parents and friends a happy and peaceful festive season.

From all Officers at 7th Arbroath B.B.

## New Parish Conference

In November, I was privileged to represent the Church of Scotland at the New Parish Conference in Birmingham. Held at the impressive St. Martin's in the Bullring cathedral-style building, the conference was attended by people from across the UK and the USA, all of them concerned with the future shape of the Church in the west.

As other articles in this edition of QUEST make clear, the Church faces very challenging times and if it has not already done so, the penny should be dropping that 'business as usual' will no longer work.

But there is hope. There always is when it comes to faith in the living God!

One person after another came to the front of the conference to share a series of thoroughly inspirational stories of ways in which communities of Christians are finding new ways to live out their faith. Not much of what was described would resemble what we think of when we hear the word 'Church' but all of it was life-affirming and all of it was completely fresh.

Though the examples that were shared with us were different from one another, they all shared the following in common.

1) They favoured 'small' rather than imagining that success is necessarily tied to large numbers. Some of these little churches had up to a hundred people involved but most of them were nearer to ten or twenty. It would seem that small

is beautiful in terms of these fresh expressions of church - lots of small communities rather than one big one.

2) They were all committed to working in their local communities and particularly to addressing the needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged. This should not surprise us. Whenever the Spirit of God is truly at work, it translates as good news for the poor!

3) Few of these new churches had full-time leadership. Most were led by people who had other paid employment and who led church 'on the side.'

4) Most of them were trying in one way or another to be true to the vision of church offered in Acts 2, in which the idea of the common life is to the fore.

It might be that some of these fresh expressions will last for a few years and then will give way to something else. Primarily they should be thought of as experiments. When such a large proportion of the general population has decided that it wants nothing to do with church as we have been doing it, it is time to experiment with new ways.

This is what the conference was about and it would see, that this is also what God is about - raising up something new as something old withers towards its death. Resurrection is only possible if first there has been death. Many of us will mourn the passing of what is known and dear, naturally so. Even so, let us be open to the new parish, to the new possibility and to the new thing that God is beginning to do among us.

Martin

## Christmas 2016

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.

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 remaining Advent services.

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!

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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  
Praise led by the  
Bellshill Salvation Army Band  
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

### JANUARY

Sunday 1

11 am - Worship Service  
Welcoming the New Year!

Sunday 8

11 am - Worship Service  
(Resumption of Daniel study)  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 15

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

Sunday 22

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

Sunday 29

11 am - Worship Service;  
With guest preacher, The Very  
Rev John Chalmers (Principal  
Clerk of the General Assembly  
and former Moderator).  
A service marking the 25th  
anniversary of Martin's  
Ordination and Induction.  
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**

### FEBRUARY

Sunday 5

9.30 am - Traditional Worship  
11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 12

11 am - Worship Service  
6.30 pm - Evening Worship

Sunday 19

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

Sunday 26

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

## Christmas Treats for Malawi

By the time you read this article the container will hopefully have arrived in Mozambique, ready to make its landward journey to Blantyre, Malawi for distribution to our centres in time for Christmas. I am sure we will have photos to follow in next month's Quest of the Sponsor Children receiving their Christmas presents hopefully for the first time on Christmas Day.

November's Beetle Drive, Burger and Baby night made a brilliant £380. The baby element was Kuzey, son of Leonie and Ufuk Atalay who are over to visit from Turkey. Kuzey was our special guest already getting involved in the fundraising efforts for Malawi at only 4months old!

While Leonie is here we are making use of her talents in the run-up to Christmas along with Becky Dunphy who will be back from Glasgow for our Pamper Day on Saturday 10th December. On offer at OBs are Physio (£30), Swedish/Sport Massage (£20), Acupuncture (£25), Gel Nails (£18), Nail Polish (£8) and Nail Polish & Hand Massage (£12). Tea/Coffee and Christmas treats will be available so do pop in. However, appointments are essential for the above treatments so contact Sheila (07752467654) or Doris (07533598464). Friday 9th evening appointments are also available on request.

Finally there is still time to contact Sheila to order Alternative Gifts (various prices) or Christmas Crackers (£2 each or 6 for £10).

Charis Bowie

Dalitso Project Chairperson

## Church Attendance Scotland

Every ten years, there takes place a census of church going in the UK. The Scottish part of the survey was conducted in May and the main findings are about to be released.

The headline-grabber is this; in the last ten years, church attendance in Scotland has dropped by one third. You need to read that again until the magnitude of it strikes home! To put it another way, one in every three people who was attending a church in Scotland in 2006 is no longer doing so. Though some have chosen to leave, the key to this trend is that far fewer are becoming part of the church than are lost to us through old-age and death.

These figures relate to all the churches in Scotland, not just the Church of Scotland. There are congregations here and there which are bucking the trend but the overall picture is one of frightening decline. If the rate of decline continues for the next ten years, huge numbers of existing congregations will be forced to close their doors.

At St. Andrew's, we're just about hanging on. We're not as strong numerically as we were a few years ago but, yes, we are hanging in there. In particular we notice the decline among children which is, of course, a reflection on the fact that fewer parents are committing to bring their children to church as once was the case. Rather than thinking how to fit all the children into the Nativity Play, this year we're wondering if we'll have enough to play all the parts.

Given the national decline it's hardly surprising that we're a bit thinner on the ground than once was the case. Even so, we're still in a healthy state and we continue to serve in all kinds of important ways. Though in small numbers, new people are coming to our congregation and through programmes like Alpha we are continuing to reach out, sharing our faith.

Should we be gloomy? Not at all! These are hard times but the church has been through them before. Through it all we remember Jesus' promise that not even the gates of hell shall prevail against HIS Church.

Let us continue then to look forward in faith.

# Celebrating A Remarkable 25 Years

At the end of January 2017 we will have a very special anniversary to celebrate in St Andrew's Church family – Martin and Elaine will have been with us for 25 years! It is quite customary for congregations to note that their minister has reached the milestone of 25 years serving God. However, it is much less usual for these 25 years to have been spent in the same charge.

It is very important for us to recognise that, from the outset, while Martin is the minister, the role that Elaine has played in the congregation, in supporting Martin and their family has been of immense importance. Team Fair has been very much in evidence and we have been immensely blessed in that.

Didn't our original vacancy team do a wonderful job in their choice! Former Session Clerk, Bill Shaw used to say that Martin had an old head on young shoulders, and how true this turned out to be. Carefully building on our existing strengths as a congregation, and by using his inspirational gifts as a preacher and leader, Martin has been able to guide us to where we are today. The enthusiasm and energy of youthfulness enabled us to join him in the vision he had, and continues to have, for us as a church and for our place in the community. We have never been rushed into all the developments that have taken place, but careful consideration has been given to discerning the best way forward.

We have seen major changes in our organisational structures, with the changes to the format of the Kirk Session resulting in the formation of the Ministry Team, the Leadership Group, the Contact Team, the Pastoral Care Team and all the other groups who carry out voluntary work. These things required major work. Our two major outreach programmes, local and international have gained widespread recognition and continue to be areas where we can serve in wider communities. While all of these things require dedicated people to make them work, there is still need for a driving force to plant the ideas, decide on the priorities and get things moving. This we have in Martin.

In his ministry here, the refurbishment of the sanctuary must surely be a highlight. It has opened up our buildings to a very wide range of people who otherwise might never cross the threshold of a church and enables our wider work to be seen by the community.

The ability to lead us in the embracing of new ideas and use them to enhance our commitment to God has resulted in the installation of the technology to stream our services and now Martin can be shared by all those who join us online. Nationally Martin is recognised by his involvement in national church work.

Most important of all, has been Martin's inspirational preaching without which we would not be the congregation and the individual people that we are. Always challenging, sometimes provocative, but always wise with his words, Martin has a great gift for interpreting and expounding God's word and truth and His love for us. We have been truly blessed.

All the above is a much shortened resume of what has been achieved in the last 25 years. Martin could so easily have moved to pastures new, and indeed there have been many attempts to 'poach' him. Could it be that he loves us as much as we love him!

Now we have the opportunity to thank Martin for his outstanding work in the service of God and to rejoice in his continuing passion for the vision of 'St Andrew's Church'. Here are the details for a weekend of celebration.

**Friday 27th January** – Dinner for elders and office bearers

**Saturday 28th January** – At 'Home' with Martin and Elaine. This will be an informal afternoon where we can just chat, and it will be held in the church hall from 2-4pm. You are invited to drop in at any time. As it is near to Burns time, the eats will be Scottish. Let's make it a packed hall.

**Sunday 29th January** – 11am Celebratory Service to give thanks for Martin's service to the ministry. The service will be led by the Very Rev. John Chalmers, and other guests will be present.

You will see from the above that there are at least two opportunities for all of us to join in the celebrations. We look forward to seeing you all there.

## Warddykes Primary School

Though we have contact with various schools in the town, there are two which lie within our parish area - Warddykes PS and Arbroath Academy. Those who live within the Brechin Road area will know well that building work has been going on at Warddykes for some considerable time.

It was a delight therefore for our minister to attend and play a part in the official opening of the brand new school building on 22nd November. Though the 'high heid yins' were out in force, it was essentially an occasion for the pu-

pils by the pupils. And what a wonderful job the did of performing musical items and making speeches etc.

It really is a magnificent building and everyone involved - architects, builders, Angus Council etc - is to be congratulated. The former building was opened in 1969 and had served the school community well but it was seriously past its sell-by date.

We wish everyone at Warddykes well as they get used to living and learning in their new building and we will continue to look for ways in which we, as the local parish church, can support pupils and staff alike.



# More in pictures

Billy and Ese Flaconer and their family.

Our LED lighting affords many opportunities for special effects and this was used to good effect on Remembrance Sunday



## Guild Sunday

A large gathering of our ladies led us with worship praise and several readings