Brand New Evening Worship Programme

Following a period of considerable reflection and the conducting of a consultation exercise, a decision was taken to redesign our evening worship. The result of that is now before us - a monthly programme of evening services which it is hoped will bring refreshment, encouragement, inspiration and spiritual nourishment.

First and foremost, the new programme offers a variety of styles and approaches. On the first Sunday of the month, the service will take place in Community Spirit and will be in the form of Café Church. The emphasis will be on interaction with everyone sitting around tables engaging in discussion, prayerful reflection - and sipping good coffees and teas! The music will be laid back, acoustic style, and there will be a more intimate atmosphere than is possible in the church itself.

On the second and fourth Sundays of each month, we'll be in the sanctuary for more upbeat praise and worship evenings, led by Michael and the band. The service on the fourth Sunday will be preceded by an evening meal, served at 6pm. Alongside the music, these services will include interviews and testimonies together with biblical messages given, on occasion, by specially invited guest speakers.

Completing the mix, on the third Sunday of each month there will be a service of prayers for healing and wholeness. As with all of the services, it will start at 6.30pm. Those coming will sit in a circular layout and the style of the service will be quiet and reflective, employing the monastic approaches of communities such as those at Iona and Taizé. There will be no razzamatazz, no special effects, no emotional manipulation! Within some parts of the church, healing services have become discredited because of such things. We'll be reading scripture and praying - not much more. Prayers will be said for those brought to our attention who are not present and, for those who are present, there will be opportunity for the laying on of hands, if desired, and as according to biblical practice.

So all that remains is for you to come along and become part of the evening worship programme! Even if you can't come every week, slot yourself in where you can and make the most of the opportunities now before us.

NB This is the normal Sunday evening programme. It will be adapted in months when there are five Sundays and when there are major festivals, such as Easter and Christmas.

Rock Hero Holiday Club

For the first time ever, we're writing our own holiday club! It will run at the same time as always (the first week of the school holidays) but from start to finish all of the ideas and the games and crafts and teaching will be put together by our very own team! Having run such clubs for 25 years, it's time to say that we know what we're doing!

The club, which will be open to all primary-aged children and will run from 10am-12noon each day, is to be called Rock Hero and is going to follow the life of Peter. It was Jesus, of course, who renamed Simon as Peter, meaning 'the rock.'

Our hall will be made to feel like a rock music venue and the kids will be rock stars for a week! We're going to go out of our way to make sure that they have fantastic fun as they learn about the main chapters of Peter's life.

Please pray for the club and watch out for the usual opportunities to support the effort - by promoting it to local children and their families, by soup making, chocolate biscuit donation, financial support etc.
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.
Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238). Teen Scene – S1 to S2
7.30 to 9.00 pm – Youth Group - Adele Marr (07762 740 317)

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 – J Lownie secretary (430053)
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.

Service Core Group
Eco tips
Use a pressure cooker
This is a terrific way to save time, money, and energy all at the same time. Pressure cookers can take up to 70 percent less time (and less energy) to cook a meal, and they're more versatile than one might think. They can make chilli, pot roast, soup, whole chickens, bread - and even desserts!

Portable Workbench
Free to any good home!
If anyone would like to have a (used) portable workbench then it is free to uplift at any time. It is currently stored in the side passageway (opposite the noticeboard and cupboards).

ST ANDREW’S ARBROATH
Parish Records
February 2017
Baptisms and Blessings - None
Weddings - None
Funerals - None
Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted several funerals in February though none were of members of our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.)

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.

Something for everyone
Dear Friends,

Here’s a wee poem I came across this evening.

Are you an active member,
The kind who would be missed?
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the church
And mingle with the crowd?
Or do you often stay at home
And grumble long and loud?

Do you ever go and visit
A member who is sick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

Come to the Church more often
And help with hand and heart.
Don’t just be a member
Take an active part.

There’s not that much to add, is there? This wee poem gets right to the point. Of course there are some of our older members who are no longer able to join us regularly – though they were remarkably faithful in their day. But there are too many of us who find any number of excuses (not the same as reasons) as to why we’re not there (some referred to in the poem!) – and there are too many of us who quite simply have other priorities. We’ll be in church if there’s nothing else on.

On some Sundays, I find myself scanning the pews (sorry, chairs) and being hugely conscious of those who aren’t there. I delight in those who are, but wonder about those who aren’t.

As these things go, St. Andrew’s is a well-attended church; there’s no question about that. But what would our congregation be like – in terms of worship and ministry – if a whole lot more of us began to take seriously the first promise that we made when becoming church members; that is, that we would be faithful in joining with the congregation in worship? The same sentiment is expressed in the NT book of Hebrews where it is written, ‘Don’t give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing…’ (Hebrews 10:25.)

Is it time for you to re-examine what you’re doing with your Sundays?

With every blessing,
Martin and Elaine and family (inc. Flossie!)

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**Easter 2017**

As always, we’ll be offering plenty of opportunities for you to engage with the message and experience of Easter. The season of Lent is, of course, all about preparation for Easter and Christians have traditionally used the season to seek to deepen their relationship with God. It’s one thing to give up chocolate or cakes for Lent but it’s perhaps more important to consider what you’re going to do through Lent!

Palm Sunday falls on Sunday 9th April and then begins Holy Week, when Christians remember the last week of Jesus’ earthly life and meditate on the associated scriptural passages. There will be evening services on Mandy Thursday and on Good Friday as we build towards Easter Day itself. It is true to say that you can’t fully experience the joy of Easter Sunday if first you haven’t experienced the depth of sorrow of Holy Week.

So why not come on the journey? - a journey that will culminate in the Sunrise Service at 8am outside the Abbey, the 11am all-age family celebration and the Resurrection Special at 6.30pm in the evening.
Ask Theophilus

Question:
Several weeks ago I found a translation of the New Testament I had forgotten I had: ‘The Amplified New Testament’. Reading John 1, it translated verse 14 as ‘The Word became flesh and tabernacled—fixed his tent of flesh, lived awhile—among us.’ Can you explain this, please. My old AV and the NIV simply have ‘dwelt among us’.

Theophilus answers:

John sometimes deliberately uses Greek words with a double meaning. For example, if you compare the translations of Ch.1:5, you find some versions have, ‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it’ (ESV), while others have ‘The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not understood it’ (NIV). They both are right! The light of Christ can neither be extinguished nor fully grasped by the darkness, and John’s Greek verb carries both meanings.

Your quotation from verse 14 gives another of John’s intentional double meanings. The Greek verb he uses is literally ‘tabernacled’, and the Amplified NT explains the meaning of this obsolete verb: it means ‘to live in a tent’. This a theme running through the whole Bible. It comes from the journeys of the three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who were pilgrims while they were alive: they were nomads, living in tents and wandering from place to place. The word used in Genesis of all three of them is ‘sojourners’. They ‘tabernacled’! The Christian life is depicted as a pilgrimage (Hebrews 11:9-10). The jingle we used to sing as children went, ‘This world is not my home, I’m just a-passing through!’

So John used this verb to bring home the truth that Jesus was only here on earth for a few years—about 33 years. But John, author of the book of Revelation, uses the same verb of those who inhabit heaven: ‘Rejoice, O heavens, and you that dwell (tabernacle) in them!’ So as well as Jesus coming to earth for a short time, the verb also has a meaning of complete, eternal permanence: his incarnate human nature is not temporary, it is for ever! This is re-enforced when we remember that the Tabernacle in Exodus was where the glory of God was displayed (Exodus 33:7-11). John knows his Jewish readers would all be very familiar with that meaning. That is why the verse continues, ‘and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father’. The divine glory is never temporary.

Double meanings are a feature of John’s writing. Yes, ‘lived awhile’ and your Amplified Version has it; but also God become flesh forever! There is often more to learn than we realise!

David Searle.

Youth Work Update

As I’m sure you are aware, we are currently organising Easter Code, the school programme for Primary 6, for the week beginning 20th March. This is the event that guides children through the Easter story as they travel round different activity stations. It’s always a fantastic week of work with some of the other churches in the area, and I always look forward to interacting with children from across the town. We are looking for people to help make tea and coffee for teachers and snacks for children on Monday morning, Wednesday morning and Thursday morning and afternoon, plus I’m looking for volunteers to help the pupils with the activities on Thursday afternoon. If you are interested please let me know.

Youth Group have been to the launch night of PowerPoint Aberdeen, an evening of worship for young people. We attended the Edinburgh branch of this event last year and those who attended enjoyed it so much they asked to go back. When we realised there was to be a PowerPoint much closer to home it made sense to support it. Giving the young people a chance to be surrounded by others who are exploring faith and learning about God is a great encouragement and so I am delighted to have taken some of our group to this event.

Blessings,
Adele Marr

GUILD NEWS

February is the short month but we still had two good but very diverse meetings. At our first meeting we had Dawn Anderson come along and speak to us about the great work that CHAS does. (Children’s Hospice Association Scotland) Dawn spends a lot of her time fund raising for the Charity. She told us the Hospices were often happy places and that “making memories” was an important part of their work. The second meeting was a fun night when two of our members, Doris and Joyce, organised our own version of TV Quiz “Family Fortunes”. Some of our members were - special families. The Jotters and The Specimens. As you can imagine there were a few laughs.

Reminder: Time for Guild Boxes to be looked out, dusted down and returned for counting. Please hand them in to church office or given to Joyce McPherson by Sunday, 19th March.

March Dates:
6th March Project Night - Let’s Stick Together (Care for the Family)
20th March Hoola Hoop (this could be a bit different!)

This year we have been pleased to welcome a few new numbers but there is always room for more. Our members are friendly and fun-loving but always hard-working, raising money for our projects throughout the year. Always remembering our Guild Motto

“Whose we are and whom we serve”
Dementia Drop-in

Our Dementia Drop-in Café, being run in association with Alzheimer’s Scotland, is now up and running – a great new addition to our ministry as a congregation. Here is a wonderful support service to those who suffer from dementia and those who care for them.

The café is operating on a once-a-month basis at the moment (2pm on the first Wednesday of the month) and is being staffed by volunteers from the congregation along with a team member from Alzheimer’s Scotland in attendance to offer advice etc. To date, these afternoons have largely been about coffee and chat but following a meeting of the volunteer group, it has been decided that we will start to offer an optional programme of activities to complement the basic provision. We’re hopeful that this might encourage more people to come along and give it a try!

What now?

We need you to help us to promote the café as widely as possible! We know that there are many within the community who are affected in one way or another by dementia – but it takes time to get the word out that we are offering a support service. You can help us with that by passing on the information where appropriate.

Finally, please pray for this important new venture. It can become a significant part of how we support the vulnerable members of the congregation and wider community.

Dementia Drop-in

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Some populations of the ‘armyworm’ can be treated with insecticides but this obviously comes at a cost, and to many this is too much. We are currently in communication with Aquaid to ensure the treating of the crops at our two centres, which will hopefully ensure our healthy Maize continues to grow. But as a Trust we need to look ahead to the devastation that potentially could be seen across our Malawian communities and how we can help.

So as always, fundraising continues, with efforts going towards reducing the impact of this crop-eating caterpillar.

On March 18th
we hold our annual
Murder on the Med Mystery evening.

Tickets will be £14 which includes a 3 course meal and entertainment. Tickets can be purchased from Sheila or Doris or by contacting me on info@dalitso.org
Charis Bowie

Wardrobes and Rings

A little while back, a goodly-sized audience was enthralled as our church was turned into a theatre for the evening - or rather into the front room of an Oxford townhouse - for the production, 'An Evening with C. S. Lewis.' The wonderful news is that the same theatre agents are now running an evening, entitled 'Wardrobes and Rings,' which gives us an evening in the company of C. S. Lewis and J. R. Tolkien. For one night only - 'Lord of the Rings' meets 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe!' What an evening it promises to be - one that you'll not want to miss and one that you'll want to bring friends to.

'Wardrobes and Rings' is coming to St. Andrew's Church in September. We'll have the exact details in the next edition of QUEST.

Captain Wilma H.Ewart

TearFund Concert

At Christmas 2015, we welcomed Tearfund to St. Andrew’s for an evening of wonderful traditional and contemporary Christmas music, presented by some of the best of today’s Christian performers.

We’re delighted to announce that we’ll be hosting another such evening, this time on Friday May 12th. The music will again be led by a range of Christian performers under the banner, New Scottish Hymns, and the headline guest will combine hymns and songs with experiences of her recent visits to Malawi.

Most commonly you have to go to the big cities for events of this calibre - the Tearfund evening and the 'Wardrobes and Rings' one. At St. Andrew’s we’re committed to bringing the best Christian performers right to our very own doorstep!

Let’s make the most of the opportunity!

7th Arbroath B.B.

Our weekly meetings have been well attended in all sections. We held a Scottish Night and the boys designed their own tartan and we had our own Highland Games one of them being 'Hurl the Haggis' with a bean bag. Great fun. We also had shortbread and Irn-Bru. We took a mid-term break along with the schools, so as I write this before another meeting there is not much to tell. We are holding a Beetle Drive on Friday 24th of March and we welcome you all to that at 7pm. Further details will be in the church bulletin in a few weeks time. We have one boy who is going to Carronvale House at the end of March to complete his Queen’s Badge and we hope to report on that in the next Quest issue.

Charis Bowie
David Bradwell

At the height of the refugee crisis in early 2016, the Church of Scotland took the bold step of appointing a member of staff to lead the church's response to the human tragedy that was unfolding nightly on our TV screens. The person appointed was David Bradwell and the good news is that he is coming to Angus in May. Better than that, he is coming to St. Andrew's!

David is to be a guest at Angus Presbytery on the evening of Tuesday 2nd May but it was decided to make his trip north from Edinburgh a little more worthwhile by adding an afternoon event - this to be held in St. Andrew's. At that afternoon meeting, David will bring us right up to date with the plight of refugees and will share with us what individual congregations and the Church at large are doing in response.

This promises to be a very important and informative meeting and one to which we hope many will come.

THE LIGHTHOUSE KIDS CLOTHES BANK AT THE TOWN MISSION
A new link for our church family

CONCERN
The seeds for this latest venture began when, just a few weeks ago, Martin relayed to us the story of a little girl on her way to school sloshing through snow and slush ...with no soles on her shoes. In Arbroath. In our day and age.

COMPASSION.
Many of those present took the image of unhappy cold little girl to heart and wanted to do something in response to what was, for many of us, a hitherto unidentified and desperate situation in some parts of our community.

Then on Sunday 5th February, Morven Webster from Arbroath's Town Mission, was invited to give a presentation on the work of the Lighthouse Kids Clothes Bank run from Mission premises - an up and running project which seeks to support families in need by providing a wide range of quality clothing.

ACTION!
Here at Arbroath St Andrew’s Church, as a congregation, we can also help to support this vital project in small but regular ways by acting as a collection centre for smaller items of brand new clothing: vests; pants; socks; and tights to fit size ranges from babyhood to sixteen years old.

You can leave any donations in the black container (with a clear notice on it) situated near the bottom of the stairs to the balcony. (For this particular appeal, please do not put them in the cupboard in the small halls.) The contents will then be delivered on a regular basis to the Lighthouse Kids shop by members of the Service Core Group.

So, when you do your regular shopping, will you please consider adding some of the above items to your list?

Thank you.
Pat Clegg.

Heart and Soul

For some six years we've been travelling to Edinburgh for the annual 'Heart & Soul' event of the Church of Scotland. This is the nearest that we have to a national celebration day. It coincides with the General Assembly and takes place in Princes Street Gardens, this year on the afternoon of 21st May.

To allow us to get there, our morning service will start a little earlier that day - at 10.30am - and the bus for Edinburgh will leave at 11.30am. That will allow us to get to the Gardens in time for the start of the event and we'll leave shortly after 6pm at the conclusion of closing worship.

Between the times of worship, main stage music performances and displays and exhibitions, there's lots to keep you busy through the afternoon - not to mention the various places to stop and enjoy a cup of coffee!

Put the date in your diary now and watch for booking opening up after Easter.
THE FLOWER CLUB

We meet on alternate Mondays to the Guild at 7.30pm in the large hall. Most evenings we make an arrangement. Our meetings are fun nights where we share fellowship, friendship and laughter as well as learning how to create certain arrangements. Some of our evenings are planning meetings for when we decorate the Church at Martin’s request for Easter, Pentecost, Harvest and Christmas. This, together with arranging the flowers in the vases for the Sunday Services, is our service to the Church.

The flowers for the Sunday service are provided by the kind donations from members of the congregation. These donations are mainly in cash but a few do provide the flowers themselves. We wrap and arrange delivery of the flowers to the recipients. We do not choose who receives the flowers as this is provided to us by Martin. It is generally people who are ill, bereaved or struggling for whatever reason.

March 2017

Shona and Doris Bowie co-ordinate the arrangements. Some of our evenings are planning arrangements. Some of our evenings are planning arrangements. Some of our evenings are planning arrangements. Some of our evenings are planning arrangements.

Do unto others …. 

Linda Hunter, our administrator, leads a superb events team of volunteers who set the fabric back to its original state after large events.

However, less successful is the day to day setting back by many of our own ‘internal users’. It is the responsibility of us all to ensure that if we move furniture then we reset it when finished - which includes the sanctuary. If we put on lights then we must remember to put them off again, and as soon as possible. If we pin back doors, we must remember to unpin them as soon as possible as, otherwise, they begin to warp because of the door closers straining to try to close them. (Take a close look at the changing shape of the main hall door and the Gallery/Sanctuary door!!!) And so on ...

We are so lucky that our Sanctuary and Halls are very well used. The fact that they are being used so well means that we facilitate good activities within our church and wider community - and that is our top priority. An added bonus is that, without the income (£15,000 last year) largely from ‘outside’ organisations, we would be struggling to ‘balance the books’. So let’s keep up the good work and let’s use our own facilities to the full, while being as diligent as possible. Do unto others …. Thank you.

Clerk’s Corner

Our Guild goes ‘national’!

It was such a pleasure to open the February edition of Life and Work and see St Andrew’s Guild featuring.

There is a series of articles entitled The ‘New Guild’ in the magazine at the moment which indicates that ‘The Church of Scotland Guild, in common with many other charities and organisations, has recognised the need to change and reform to meet the challenges of 21st century life. In this series, local Guild branches describe how they have changed to remain part of one of Scotland’s biggest membership organisations outside traditional structures’.

Some of these structures have been left behind as St Andrew’s Guild has recognised that changes in society meant that people individually no longer wanted to take on formal roles such as president, secretary and treasurer.’

Shona Kemp goes on in the article to explain how the work of the Guild is now shared out with the members of the committee and members of the Guild all taking an active part, with there being two secretaries and two treasurers so that no one person is solely responsible. This means that the burden is shared and there is always help and support available. Shona and Doris Bowie co-ordinate the work of the branch. The key, says Shona, is flexibility and maintaining a sense of fun and fellowship. Recently each Guild member put on a headscarf at a rededication after the Guild was depicted by a member of the congregation as a stereotypical woman in a headscarf during the intimations one Sunday! This gesture was designed to demonstrate that the Guild doesn’t conform to such stereotypes and the ground-breaking projects undertaken are confirmation of this.

The article goes on to describe the tremendous variety in the programme with activities which clearly aim to provide interesting topics for the membership. These enable older and younger members to mix well and laughter is a common feature at meetings.

Well done members! You enrich the life of St Andrew’s.

PS If you would like to receive Life and Work along with your Quest, ask at the office. Life and Work costs £2.50 per issue.

A message for events team members.

If you are the last person to be leaving after an event and therefore responsible for leaving the building secure, there is one more thing we would ask you to do - please check that all the taps have been turned off in the toilets. Thank you!

PS  If you would like to receive Life and Work along with your Quest, ask at the office. Life and Work costs £2.50 per issue.

Welcome ■ Worship ■ Witness
More in Pictures

The container sent to Malawi by the Dalitso Project has given much happiness to the Malawi orphan children.

Our young people did a great job in serving the celebration meal.

The celebration cake made by Linda Hunter is cut with much enjoyment.

The children watch as their ‘Thank You’ banner is hoisted in the air.

Martin and Elaine listen to their well-deserved praises being sung!

Founders Day for the Scouts produced a multitude of colourful flags.