



## Let's Have A Good Harvest!

Our service on 17th September is going to be the most exciting Harvest Celebration in years – and will include an 88 year-old lady and a minister having their heads shaved!! When did you last see that happening?

Harvest is, of course, a time when the Church focusses on finding ways to respond to those in greatest need. At one time that meant making up bags of groceries and handing them to elderly members of the congregation. Now, we realise that we are called to look far and wide beyond the congregation! Of course, caring for one another is a vital part of what it is to be a part of the family of God but so often, the needs beyond the walls of the church are of a higher order. Harvest Thanksgiving has its roots in the earliest parts of the Old Testament and even then, God's people knew of the requirement that was upon them to remember the poor, the marginalised, the broken and the hurting.

With all of that in mind, this year we are offering three ways in which you can respond to Harvest – local, national and international.

You can bring items of children's clothing (a list is available) and these will be passed on to the Lighthouse Project which operates out of the Town Mission. In 2017, no children should be going to school with holes in their shoes or with threadbare jumpers insufficient for keeping them warm. The Lighthouse Project addresses these issues and we are delighted to partner with them.

May Smith, our most senior active elder, has decided that she will 'brave the shave' to support the McMillan organisation. This means a lot to May personally; she lost her husband to cancer many years ago and appreciated then all the support

that she received. And now, feeling that she is less able to 'do' things to help others, she feels that this is something she can do to make a difference. Our daft minister, Martin, has decided to join May in braving the shave – but as many have pointed out, he's not got much hair left to shave anyway!! You can sponsor May over the coming weeks – at church, through the office or online. (Martin will be seeking sponsorship outwith the congregation using his Facebook network etc.)

Lastly, but certainly no less importantly, you can make a financial gift. The proceeds of this offering will be donated to the Dalitso Project to further its work in Malawi – in particular, as it seeks to equip the brand new Mary Spink Centre. Mary was, of course, one of our much-loved members and we were very much devastated by her death. But being a big supporter of the work in Malawi – as many of us are – it was decided that part of Mary's legacy would be a vocational training centre. There, young people who do not go on to higher education will be given the essential skills to allow them to secure jobs in a whole range of crafts and trades. This is the kind of work that will allow young people to be able to provide for themselves and their families which, in the long run, is of greater value than a continuing culture of handouts. The fact of the matter is that most people in the developing world would far rather NOT rely on charity and centres such as this one will help in that direction.

So whether you want to support all three of these options or one in particular, this is going to be an amazing celebration of Harvest! God is so good to us; here's our chance to say 'thank you' by being good to others.

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A very warm welcome to our three new VVs - Andrew, Eveline and Euan. See page 4 for our full article.



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**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

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**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records - July/August 2017****Baptisms and Blessings** - Zander Ceasar and Gabriella Greig**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Tom Cargill, Norman Cargill, Jim Eddie

Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted several other funerals in July/August though none were of members of our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

**Service Core Group  
Eco tips****Sharing to avoid waste**

Share things like books, magazines, movies, games and newspapers between relatives, friends and neighbours.

Save money, save resources!

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the many folk that sent cards and gifts to mark my 80th birthday. Greta Knox

**IMPORTANT DATES****OCTOBER EDITION**

Handwritten/typed articles should be handed in to the **OFFICE** by the **FIRST** date and **NOT** to Editor.

Word Processed files, as attachments, can be sent **directly to the Editor or via office by second date.**

Please **DO NOT** embed articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 15th September (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 19th September (Word-Processed file)

**10 Years and Counting!**

A celebration of a 10 year partnership with the Thyolo and Kambilonjo communities in Malawi

**Saturday 9th September 7.30pm  
Arbroath Bowling Club  
Dishlandtown Street**

Join us for an evening of looking back over the 10 years of work in Malawi and a look forward to our plans for the future. The evening will include video interviews from staff and children taken on our summer 2017 trip.

**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 - 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 790 528)

**THURSDAY**

9.30 am – Parent and Toddler Group – M Laidlaw (07840 966 438)

2.00 pm – Friends Club : first Thursdays – J Lonie secretary (07712 538 306)

6.00 pm – Anchor Boys – S Jamieson (431942)

6.00 pm – BB Junior Section – W Ewart (876114)

7.00 pm – Church Prayer Group

7.30 pm – BB Company Section – M Clark (437758)

**FRIDAY**

9.30 am – Coffee morning

**Intimations, changes of address, hall bookings etc., please contact the Church office, Monday to Friday, 9 am to noon and for 15 minutes after Sunday Service, telephone 431135.**

# Martin Fair

September 2017

Dear friends,

Welcome to your September edition of QUEST – the first one after our summer break, the first one of the new session! As always at St. Andrew's there's going to be plenty for you to be involved in through the course of this coming year; everything from the absolute priority of weekly worship to the ministry and service that we offer to the wider community to the special events that punctuate the year with joy and gladness.

As you'll read elsewhere in this magazine, the Worship Core Group is ensuring that the year gets off on exactly the right footing by bringing to us a special Worship Weekend. When all else is said and done, our first calling as Christians is to worship our Maker – as it's put in the shorter catechism, our 'chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.'

I want to commend that worship weekend to us all and in preparing us for it, to offer you a poem, especially composed for the occasion by our very own Judy Spink. Judy has an undoubted 'way with words' and in this poem, she captures brilliantly the essence of worship and points to what the special weekend is going to be all about.

## Finding My Voice

Who can be part of the worshipping throng  
Helping to praise God all the day long?  
Each of us can give to God His due glory-  
We all have a skill, a talent, a story.

Moses was called from a burning bush; then  
His gift was to be a great leader of men. [and women]  
Young David praised God with a sling and a stone,  
Goliath was slain by David alone.

To worship the Lord and to do what he could  
Noah built a great ark as God said he should.  
Young Mary composed her great song of praise  
At the news of the baby that she would raise.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

Why do I want to worship my God?  
Why do I need to worship my Lord?  
Our God is creator, Saviour and friend-  
So come join my worship, our 'voices' we'll blend.

When do I choose to worship my God?  
At dawn it is good to give praise to the Lord,  
Or at noon, eventide, or the end of the day  
God is ready to listen to all I would say.

How do I worship the King of all kings?  
With all of my being from whence my praise springs.  
I worship with singing, with dancing, with art,  
I worship by loving with all of my heart.

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

## Evening Worship

We've enjoyed a well-earned season of rest over the weeks of summer, including a break from regular evening worship. We're all good to go again and the first evening service of the new session will take place on Sunday 10th September, with the usual 6.30pm start time.

The programme will be rich and varied, comprising 1) evenings of praise and worship led by Michael Marr and the

band 2) café church style services hosted in Community Spirit and 3) quiet, reflective services of prayers for healing and wholeness.

It's amazing how the atmosphere is different in the evening – whatever the format of worship being used.

Maybe it's time for you to explore your faith a little more deeply. Why not come along and get involved in our 6.30pm worship? See you there.

## Godly Play

This year, our children will be using Godly Play as their Sunday morning resource. This is a new development for us, having exhausted most of the other options over the years! We very much hope that our children will enjoy it and that they will thrive through it, in their developing faith journeys. We'd be equally delighted if it led to more children coming around regularly on Sunday mornings.

Godly Play takes children on a journey through the Christian year with the emphasis being on creative storytelling and imaginative response. The children will hear each

biblical story on several occasions, allowing them to become increasingly familiar with the narrative and more used to finding ways to make sense of the stories and work out how each one matters in day to day life. Our leaders will employ creative, interactive ways to share the stories and then the children will have opportunity, through play and creative activity, to respond.

Churches that already use Godly Play have found it to be hugely rewarding and that children of all ages have responded positively.

Please pray for our leaders and for our children as they set out on this new adventure. May they indeed draw nearer to God through Godly Play.



## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

The question last time was this: In our home group there has been quite a bit of discussion about what is called 'believer's baptism'. Should we all be baptized as adults by immersion, even if we were baptized as infants?

### Theophilus answers :

I pointed out that infant baptism and believer's baptism are two different things. We only dealt with infant baptism in the previous article. Now we consider 'believer's baptism'. I also pointed out that infant baptism (and this also applies to adult baptism) is the successor to the Old Testament (OT) covenantal rite of circumcision, and like circumcision is an outward sign of the Holy Spirit's promised inward work of regeneration.

Believer's baptism is quite different, for it must be preceded by a confession of faith in the inward work of the Holy Spirit that has already been done in the believer: thus candidates for baptism must profess their faith prior to being baptized. Our Baptist friends have three main Scriptural arguments to prove this is New Testament (NT) baptism.

First, they say that the Greek verb translated 'to baptize' means 'to immerse'. I have to disagree. The problem with the lexicons is that they invariably define the verb 'baptize' as it was used by pagan Greek writers. An important principle of understanding the meaning of NT Greek words is to recognize that they have Hebrew meanings, not pagan Greek meanings. In the OT cleansing was symbolized outwardly by sprinkling, using hyssop that had been dipped in

water (Numbers 19:18; Psalm 51:7; see also Hebrews 6:2, where 'washings' is literally 'baptisms'). The hyssop was dipped in water, and then the water was shaken upon the person who needed cleansing. Thus in the text just quoted, David prays, 'Cleanse me with hyssop and I shall be clean' (Ps. 51:7).

Second, they quote Acts 8:36, where the Ethiopian asks for baptism. The verse where Philip answers, "If you believe you may." And the Ethiopian replied, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,'" is not in the Bible! No modern translation has v37, because it was inserted 400 years after the book of Acts was written; it only occurs as a footnote. There is no other verse in the NT that states baptism is a profession of faith. Therefore, personally, I cannot accept that baptism is primarily a confession faith; confession is made with the lips, not with water (Romans 10:10).

The third argument our Baptist friends offer is that there is no evidence in the New Testament for the baptism of children. But 'household baptism' is referred to several times (Acts 16:15, 31-33; 1 Cor. 1:16; see also Acts 2:39). There is considerable evidence from first century writings of 'household baptism'. When the head of the house became a Christian (as in the three references above), the local church prepared him and his entire family for baptism. Nor was this a formality: the preparation lasted as long as six months.

Finally, in the Reformed Churches, no particular mode of baptism is laid down. As long as water is used, it can be administered by sprinkling, by ablution (water poured over the candidate) or by immersion. All are acceptable in the Kirk, and held to be agreeable to the Word of God.

David Searle.

## Clerk's Corner

In June a group of members of St Andrew's took part in a conference on pastoral care and they were very impressed by all aspects of the day. Now there is a chance to attend a second conference in Perth. If you wish to attend, please give your name at the office.

### Understanding Our Faith CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday 4th November 2017 (9:30am-4pm)  
Venue: St. Matthew's Church, Perth Ticket: £20  
(Includes a free copy of Learn: Understanding Our Faith)

The aim is to encourage everyday believers to reflect upon what they believe and hope, and to grow in confidence as they seek to share their faith in daily life. Six core issues of Christian life will be explored by the excellent speakers who are all contributors to the document.

How can I know God? (Knowing God)  
What does Jesus have to do with Me? (God the Saviour)  
Who is the Holy Spirit? (God the Spirit)  
What is Church for anyway? (The Christian Church)  
What's the point of Discipleship? (The Christian Life)  
How will I know if I'm going to Heaven? (The Heavenly Things)

## Our New VVs

First there was Amy, Chris and Matthew. Then there was Susan. And now, as of 1st September, there will be Andrew, Euan and Eveline – our brand new, gap-year team! These young people have been selected to come to Arbroath that they might serve in our congregation and community and, in so doing, explore further what God is calling them to in their lives. Andrew Murphy comes from Callander, Euan Robb comes from Carlisle and Eveline Verburgh comes from The Netherlands!

As well as appreciating what they will bring to us, your role in this is to go overboard to make sure that, very quickly, they feel welcomed into our family – not least, Eveline, who is coming to a new country, away from home for the

first time. You can do that by making sure that you speak to them at every opportunity AND by inviting them from time to time to have lunch or dinner at your house.

Both Old and New Testaments make it clear that hospitality is a thoroughly Godly activity and that as we welcome people into our homes, our communities and our lives, we're welcoming our Lord. Those of you who are parents, think about it this way: that you'd hope that if your young people were moving away that they'd be warmly welcomed wherever they went!

We will watch with interest to see how God will use Andrew, Euan and Eveline during this coming year and we will wait with anticipation to see how He will bless us through them.

## Community Spirit

Within Community Spirit there are two meeting rooms which are used regularly for a variety of things. One of them is our computer suite which Havilah clients use for job match searches, basic computer skills and literacy and numeracy training, and it also doubles up as a room where we can have one-to-one chats with our clients.

Our second meeting room is used for a variety of things, one being a quiet place for folks to go who felt anxious or stressed. We are lucky enough to have one of the volunteers, David Spink, who is trained in Relaxation Therapy and this has proved hugely popular with quite a few of our clients. This was something that we wanted to develop and therefore offer at Havilah.

We were fortunate enough earlier this year to be awarded £865 from "Your Voice Your Choice" which is a new initiative set up by the Scottish Government which gives money through the Church of Scotland to local community groups. With this money we have decorated the room in a lovely relaxing colour, purchased a recliner sofa and mood lamps and also some Bluetooth equipment which includes headphones to listen to relaxing music.

David currently has 5-6 individuals a week who use this room on a regular basis and it is having a great impact on their wellbeing. We are regularly looking for ways to make a difference at Havilah and now being able to offer this service is fantastic.

## GUILD NEWS

Summer holidays have come and gone and it's now time to look forward to our new Guild year, which is to be all about 'love'. A varied syllabus has been planned with serious and fun nights in store. These will look at the different interpretations of love, passion – friendships - devotion.

We only had one summer evening this year on 7th August, our fish tea. There were over 20 ladies there and I believe they enjoyed a delicious fish supper, cuppie and cakes (made by Shona) as well as the film 'Beauty and the Beast' - a nice choice to lead us into our new session, and a 'love story' with also a lesson to 'not judge a book by its cover'.

The Guild Annual Gathering takes place on the 2nd September in the Caird Hall, Dundee. This is a great event and well worth a visit. We only have a few places allocated to us but there are generally seats available on the day. It starts at 10.30am (doors open at 9.30am) and finishes usually mid-afternoon with a break for lunch. There are excellent speakers and singing so, if you're in Dundee and your shopping can wait till later, why not drop by the City Square.

Also why not come to our Guild, it starts properly on 11/09/17 with our Dedication & Communion Service in the sanctuary at 7.30pm. We look forward to seeing new faces.

**"Whose we are and whom we serve"**

## Youth Work Update

You may be aware that youth group took a break from the usual Sunday night activities this summer, giving our young people (and leaders!) a chance to recharge with family and friends. This has allowed the leaders to take stock and plan for the coming year. We now have a wide age range of young people coming along from new S1s right through to S6 and beyond, with some of our older members moving on to be young leaders. Keeping this in mind, we have some exciting plans for next session so that our young people are engaging in issues and subjects that relate to

their age/circumstances. More on this next month!

Please remember our young people who are moving up in school and those who are moving on to other endeavours at this time. It's an exciting but sometimes daunting part of the year and I know they would appreciate your kind words and prayers.

On a personal note, I will be on holiday until mid-September therefore any queries relating to youth group etc should be directed to the office.

Blessings,  
Adele Marr

## Dalitso News

Our 2017 trip has been and gone and was another busy but successful time at our projects in Thyolo and Kambilonjo. Much of our time was spent meeting with each of the 300 sponsor children where we had the exciting job of handing over the presents many of you sent and completing interviews to allow you all to learn more about the life of your child. For me, although I have been to Malawi since we started the sponsor programme this was the first time I had been part of a bigger team. This meant it was my first time being involved in the process and what a highlight it was for my trip. Each child was excited to open their present and the majority I asked knew their sponsors by name and was proud to tell me about them. You really are making a difference in the lives of these children. The reports and updated photos from the trip will be available to be picked up at the '10 Years and Counting' event on the 9th September

or after that from Sheila. And if you are interested in finding out more about the sponsor programme please do get in touch at [info@dalitso.org](mailto:info@dalitso.org) Although we made sure that all children received a gift, many remain unsponsored.

We hope to see many of you at the '10 Years and Counting' event on 9th September in the Arbroath Bowling Club, Dishlandtown Street at 7.30pm. The evening will include input from past team members and videos from our staff and children in Malawi talking about the impact the work has had on their lives. Please keep an eye on our Facebook for snapshots of the evening.

Finally, our next major fundraiser is at Relay for Life on the 16th/17th September where we will again provide the catering for the event. Please do look out for us and if you would like to help with serving etc. please speak to Doris or Sheila or contact me on the email above.  
Charis Bowie

## Lighthouse Project

Come, you thankful people, come  
 Raise the song of harvest home:  
 All is safely gathered in  
 Ere the winter storms begin;  
 God, our Maker, doth provide  
 For our wants to be supplied  
 Come to God's own temple come,  
 Raise the song of harvest home.

"Ere the winter storms begin...."

Early in this year, St Andrew's Church linked up with the Lighthouse Kids Project run by the Town Mission to provide mainly small items of clothing in support of this project which serves a vital need in our local community. The response over the following months has been fantastic with bagfuls of underwear, socks, tights, footwear, and more, delivered to the Project on a regular basis.

So, a big thank you to everyone who has so faithfully supported this project thus far by dropping off items into the bin provided in the church vestibule on a regular basis.

We are all to well aware from recent news

reports that life isn't going to get any easier in coming months and years for families across the UK trying to make ends meet when wages and income are frozen and local authority services and education provision are cut back ever further and further.

In directly serving families in the greatest need in our local community, organisers within the Lighthouse Kids Project are sadly all too well aware of the mounting stresses families are facing in their efforts to make adequate provision for their children.

It is with the above in mind that our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will include a focus on the Lighthouse Kids Project. In addition to the usual small items of clothing and underwear which already form the core of current donations, there is a particular need for:

**WINTER JACKETS / OUTERWEAR FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED FROM 8 - 12 YEARS. BOY'S TROUSERS - AGED FROM 8 - 12 YEARS (not school uniform)**

Let us hope, once again, for a bumper harvest!

## Father's Love Letter

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5 I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvellous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

Love,

Your Dad, Almighty God

Father's Love letter used by permission: Father Heart Communications © 1999 - www.FathersLoveLetter.com  
 The 'Father's Love Letter' was originally composed by Barry Adams, a Canadian Pastor, as a sermon illustration. It has gone worldwide and has been translated into 111 languages.

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### SEPTEMBER

**Sunday 3**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 10**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 17**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 24**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

#### OCTOBER

**Sunday 1**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 8**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 15**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 22**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 29**  
**11 am - Worship Service**

**N.B. As well as the services above there are -**  
**Sunday evening services at 6.30 pm.**  
**Midweek services every Wednesday at 10.30 am.**



# Worship Weekend

As many of you will know, we organise the life and ministry of our congregation through a series of Core Groups with each group overseeing a particular area of activity. The Leadership Group, which answers to the Kirk Session, has overall responsibility for ensuring that everything ‘hangs together.’

Over the last year, the Core Group responsible for worship and spirituality has been busy planning and preparing for a special worship weekend. The good news is that that weekend is almost upon us!

It all begins on **Friday evening, 22nd September**, when there will be a concert and time of worship led by Allan McKinlay. Allan is one of Scotland’s foremost young worship ministers and is fast establishing himself as an outstanding leader and prominent recording artist. His songs are contemporary in nature yet draw on the richness of our tradition, not least in his use of material from the Psalms. Allan will be bringing a band with him and so we are looking forward to an inspiring and uplifting evening of praise and worship. This is a free event though tickets can be uplifted from the office – this to allow us to gauge numbers. Instead of a priced ticket, an offering will be uplifted.

**On the Saturday**, there is to be a day conference entitled ‘Finding my Voice’ – an opportunity for all of us to reflect on what it is to worship, that is, to respond to the goodness of God. Coffee and croissants will be served from 10am with event proper starting at 10.30am. The morning

session will be led by Phil Mellstrom, Worship Development Worker of the Church of Scotland. Phil is a highly skilled facilitator and he will lead us through a programme entitled, ‘Conversations in Worship.’ This newly-produced resource is proving highly effective in allowing participants to share with one another about what worship means to them.

Following a light lunch, available at minimal cost, the afternoon will comprise a number of workshops with everyone able to go to two different ones from a total of five. These include workshops on music, prayer, art, drama and movement – genuinely something for everyone! Leaders are coming from across Scotland to lead us in these sessions.

The whole day will end with what is going to be a wonderful closing worship, led by Phil Mellstrom – another worship leader of considerable skill and sensitivity.

All of this will lead into our morning and evening worship on Sunday 24th September.

We are very hopeful that people will be coming to St. Andrew’s from further afield for this weekend – whether the Friday evening, the Saturday conference or both. But of course, we’re counting on lots of St. Andrew’s members to get involved! We’d love to see you there and are sure that it will be a weekend to remember.

Please support the members of the Worship Core Group in this brand new venture.

*Dear St Andrew's Church,*

*Sorry I didn't get to say goodbye in person but I have moved to Guatemala (south of Mexico). I have secured a job here (teaching maths in an English-speaking High School) and arrived here on Friday 18th August. I am excited about the positive impact I will be able to make in young people's lives and the service I can be to God if I remain open to His Spirit.*

*I am grateful for all of you who welcomed me so warmly 13 years ago; have loved, encouraged and challenged me every week since; partnered with me in ministry, supporting me as I discovered new strengths and forgiving my weaknesses; and prayed for me through all the difficulties I have faced. My confidence for this new adventure is in God but my faith is only strong enough because of your involvement*

*with me: through house groups, men's fellowship, a wide variety of courses (Alpha, Christianity Explored, SHAPE, Science&Religion etc.), the weekly prayer gatherings, a multitude of social events, and the invaluable Bible-based Holy Spirit inspired teaching I received twice every Sunday.*

*Only by YOUR faithful attendance at these things with me have I been able to develop the strong connection to Jesus and love for His church which enables me to feel unsurpassed peace about the uncertainties which lie ahead. I pray for you as you continue to challenge each other to strengthen your faith, and I look forward to hearing of the greater and greater ways in which God uses you to impact this world for Him.*

*Hebrews 10:23-25*

*David McColgan*

## WEeping OVER THE VOID – OF A GROANING CREATION

Oceans suffocated by plastic  
Groaning to be free.  
God of creation,  
we join their lament.

Trees coughing alongside motorways  
Groaning to be free.  
God of creation,  
we join their lament.

Glaciers melting with tears

Groaning to be free.  
God of creation  
we join their lament.

Islands slipping beneath rising waves  
Groaning to be free.  
God of creation,  
we join their lament.

God, our Creator,  
Who gives us responsibility

For this beautiful planet  
Forgive our selfish, unthinking ways  
Poisoning the ground beneath our feet.

Christ, our Redeemer,  
Free us from our foolishness  
With a new sense of wonder  
And a new desire to tread carefully  
On this precious earth today. Amen.

by Rev Peter Neilson



# More In Pictures

Top - Family outing fun Right Middle - Men's Group golf outing to Edzell and Malawi children show their obvious delight at receiving gifts and cards. Lower - Youth Group had fun at the manse with water balloons/pistols. Bottom - Service Core Group taking 'thank you' cakes to local teachers.

