



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark the place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard, amid the guns below.*

This poem, 'In Flanders Fields' by John McRae, became highly popular almost as soon as it was written and is the first war poem to refer to poppies as a symbol of remembrance.

The cross with the poppies intertwined with barbed wire and the wreath of poppies on the communion table created a poignant atmosphere for the beginning of our service. Year after year, ladies from the Flower Club create such an artistic display, simplistic in design, but powerful in impact. Those of us in church were able to comment on these and we also had contact from someone watching online who appreciated them so much.

Our Act of Remembrance, led so well by Keith Scott, began with 'O God Our Help In Ages Past' and appropriate prayer. The words 'They shall not grow old' and 'When you go home' were spoken by Lieutenant Colonel Ian Ballantyne MBE, formerly Chief Executive of Scottish Veterans Residences and a member of our congregation.

The playing of the Last Post as the poppies fluttered down enabled everyone present to witness the solemnity of the occasion. The trumpet was played by Andrew Murphy, one of our Vocations Volunteers. He will certainly be playing again for us!

In Sunday Club, the children discussed Poppy Day, watched a short film called 'Why the Poppy', observed the 2 minute silence and then went on to take part in poppy crafts using different materials. This enabled them to respond to the film in their own way. (More pictures on the back page.)

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ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records - November 2017****Baptisms and Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - None

Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted other funerals though none were of members of our congregation.

Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

Service Core Group**Eco tips**

Encourage your company to go green by using heating and any air conditioning reasonably, and by recycling paper and working with suppliers who have sustainable development policies.

Donate old appliances e.g. PCs, photocopiers, printers etc, as well as old furniture.

IMPORTANT DATES**FEBRUARY EDITION (Note - NO January 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 19th January (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd January (Word-Processed file)

Soup Lunches

The following are planned for next year -

28 January	Dementia Drop-in Café
25 February	Guild
25 March	BBs
22 April	Dalitso Project
27 May	Havilah
23 September	Dementia Drop-in Café
28 October	Dalitso Project
25 November	Havilah

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

December 2017

From the Session Clerk

By the time you receive this edition of Quest it is likely that Martin will be home. He is in the midst of a very intensive treatment of antibiotics for at least six weeks to eliminate the infection in his elbow. In addition to this, he requires painkillers.

With the plates removed from his arm, this limb is now in a cast to keep it stable until a decision is made about the next stage of treatment. All this puts a strain on the whole system, so he will need plenty of rest and recuperation and he is signed off for at least three months. As before, we are sure you will be very considerate and allow his recovery to be as peaceful as possible.

We will soon be able to give you details of specific plans for prayers for healing for him and opportunities for anyone in the congregation to come to meetings to pray for all the manse family.

Meanwhile because you are the committed people of St Andrew's, Martin will also be aided in his recovery with the knowledge that the work of the church goes on.

If you look at the list of the services for December you will see that we are ready to celebrate the Christmas season almost as normal. On the last Sunday of the year, we are reviving a former tradition which was to link up with another church. We will worship in the Old and Abbey Church and enjoy their welcome. You can bring your Freewill Offering envelopes as usual and they will be recorded by the Counting Team in our usual way.

You will have noticed that we have fewer children at the 11am service week by week and those who come are quite young. The decision has been taken that there will not be a Nativity Play as such. Instead, the children will present a tableau at the morning service on 24th December. This is a considered decision by the Sunday Club Staff for this year.

There are some people who require our special thanks – Ian Gray our Pastoral Assistant who has willingly done more than his contracted hours, and Keith Scott who has led us so well in our Sunday worship. Both these gentlemen have volunteered for additional duties before they have been asked. What a difference this makes!

In the office, Linda continues to give such excellent service, particularly at a time when there have been so many bookings in recent weeks for the letting of our premises. There could be a whole page written some day on the processes that have to be gone through for each let!

I am sure you will also be pleased to hear that plans are already in progress for the services in the New Year. An Interim Moderator will be appointed by the Presbytery and will conduct such services and meetings as are necessary. An example of this might be the Kirk Session meeting in late February where we deal with, among other things, the accounts.

We will pray that we can look forward to Martin's gradual recovery and, initially at least, to a phased return to work.

With God's blessing to you all.

Jane Miller

A Prayer

This is a prayer from a 'get well' card sent to Martin by a young girl. By herself, she did on-line research for the first part and then added her own words at the end.

If I can not be brilliant, let me be kind.
 If I can not change the world, let me inspire just one other to do so.
 If I can not give away riches, let me be loving.
 Let me be known for kindness, for it is the greatest glory.
 Amen.
 A minister can touch hearts with his church.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

In Genesis 14:17-20 a mysterious character called Melchizedek appears. He is said to have been King of Salem, and a priest of God Most High. He invited Abraham to a feast of bread and wine and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. In Hebrews 7:3 this king-priest is said to have been 'without father or mother or genealogy'. Was Melchizedek Jesus?

Theophilus answers :

Many scholars believe that there are 'appearances' of the pre-incarnate Christ in the first few books of the Bible. For example, the nameless Man who wrestled with Jacob (Gen. 32:22-31), and the Person who met Joshua outside Jericho and claimed to be 'the commander of the army of the Lord'; Joshua had fallen on his face and worshipped him and had taken off his shoes 'for the place where you are standing is holy' (Josh. 5:13-15). So was the incident in Genesis 14 one of these theophanies?

To answer this question, I must begin with a comment about the 'Canaanites' (a collective name for all the many tribes living in and around Canaan in Old Testament times: Amorites, Hivites, Hittites, Gibeonites, Jebusites, etc.). These primitive people fall into two very different groups in the OT. Most of them were very depraved, with extremely deviant sexual practices, even burning their sons and daughters as sacrifices to pagan gods (Deut. 12:31; 18:9-14, etc.). They were seen as both a danger and a warning to Israel, who had been called as God's chosen people to be witnesses of righteous living in a degenerate society.

But there was a second group of Canaanites who were not depraved. I mention a few: Ephron the Hittite from

whom Abraham bought a burial plot (Gen. 23); Esau's Hittite wives (Gen. 26:34-35); Hamor the Hivite from Jacob purchased land (Gen. 33:19-20); Tamar whom Judah declares to have been more righteous than himself (Gen. 38:24-26). There are others.

But the main God-fearing 'Canaanite' (he was a Jebusite) was Melchizedek, King of Salem. 'Salem' means 'peace' and its king's name literally means 'king of righteousness'. After Abraham returned from rescuing Lot who had been taken captive by four Canaanite kings (today we would probably call them 'tribal chiefs'), Melchizedek went out to welcome him home. He provided a meal of bread and wine which was the customary way of honouring someone of importance. In return Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of all the booty from the battle; a tenth was the recognised rate of tax, and Abraham was in Jebusite territory. Jebusite remains have been recently excavated by Jewish archaeologists on the outskirts of present-day Jerusalem, so Salem was situated approximately on or near the city's site.

The reason why the author of the Letter to the Hebrews in the NT takes Melchizedek as a type or shadow of Christ was that he was both a king and a priest. It was strictly forbidden in ancient Israel for these two offices to be held by one person. King Saul was held to have committed a most heinous sin when he took it upon himself to offer a sacrifice (1 Sam. 13:8-15). But the Messiah was to be unique and would combine in his person all three holy offices of ancient Israel—Prophet, Priest and King.

Finally, Hebrews 7:3 likens Melchizedek to Jesus because he had no (recorded) genealogy—none is given in Genesis 14. He therefore was a convenient 'picture' or type of the Incarnate Word, the King of Righteousness, and our High Priest who not only offered an eternal sacrifice for sin, but was himself that sacrifice. **David Searle**

Youth Work Update

In November, the Youth Group spent a weekend at Compass Centre, Glenshee, enjoying rock climbing, manoeuvring a high ropes course and leading each other round a nightline (a blindfolded obstacle course). We had a really fantastic time, not just during the activities, but when we were relaxing together in the evenings too. (See pictures on back page.)

In other Youth Group news, we now run some evening sessions slightly differently due to the age range of the group now. Since September we have had three evenings where we all play a game to start with and then the S1-3 stay in the hall and S4+ head to the MacLeod Room. The younger group are working through a series on issues they may face in school, whilst the older ones have been watching Nooma videos and discussing topics such as hearing

God's voice and priorities.

Bubblegum and Fluff, our Christmas workshop for P5 children, is underway working in partnership with Old and Abbey and West Kirk. We hope to have over 200 children coming to the church, in the first week of December, hearing the true meaning of Christmas.

January 2018 marks the start of the Year of Young People, which is an initiative promoted by the Scottish Government and several other organisations. It is 'an opportunity to celebrate the amazing young personalities, talents, and achievers that make up Scotland' (www.yoyp2018.scot). I aim to do this every year but would like to make a special request to you all to work with me in the next 12 months, supporting the young people of St. Andrew's church and the surrounding parish. I will bring more information in January about the opportunities you might be able to get involved in.

Wishing you a special Christmas,

Adele and all at Youth Group

GUILD NEWS

What a busy month we have had!!!

At the end of October we had our soup lunch and over £271 was raised for our Guild projects. Thank you to all who attended. Our next one is February 2018, so we hope to see you then.

On 6th November, Ewan and Andrew (2 of our vocational volunteers) came along to the Guild and we heard their story of how they came to Arbroath and what they are involved in, whilst here. They have come from completely different routes, but now on the same journey to find out how they can serve our Lord Jesus. Please continue to pray for them, ask them how they are doing and make them feel a big part of St Andrew's church.

As part of Guild week we usually do a little part in one of the Sunday services during that time. This year with Martin's absence we were asked to do the WHOLE SERVICE!!!! A bit daunting, but Shona had us all rallied up and gave out parts for this and that, and directed us with gusto – a budding Steven Spielberg!!!!

The children were great with answers coming in, in all directions for Joyce, as she explained God's love like a never ending circle. Thoughtful prayers were read by Anne Whyte, Marion Gallacher and Pat Mill. The Bible reading of the Good Samaritan was read and acted out by members, which had the congregation chuckling as the message came over in a slightly different way.

We then had 3 Guild members being interviewed about how they have shown love to others locally, nationally and internationally. Gaynor helps with the church's marvellous

work with school children and plays a big part in the Dementia Group and Pastoral Care Team. Elise talked of being a match for a second person on the Anthony Nolan register as she prepares to donate her stem cells during December. May gave answers about her time in Kenya when she worked for 6 years as a teacher in a boarding school and Shona rounded off the service with a reflection of our theme 'Go in Love'.

Cards of love were given out to the congregation as they left the sanctuary. Hopefully the service was enjoyed by those in church and online despite us 'running over' by 25 minutes!!!

Our meeting on 20th was a visit from the British Heart Foundation. Our own Irene Lindsay headed the talk with two of her colleagues. We had a very informative evening about how the charity works and the ongoing research that funds are able to support. Guild members were encouraged to look around prominent parts of the town for defibrillators, which are available for the public to use in cases of emergency.

We now look forward to our Christmas party to be held in OB's on December 4th, and then after the Christmas break we resume on the 8th January. We will welcome Linzi Dear who works for Alcohol Tayside and is so passionate about the work she does. Later in January we will have our Burns supper - so look out for tickets!!!

May we at the Guild wish you all joy and peace at Christmas time and let us continue to 'Go in Love' into 2018.

Always remembering,

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

A Message From Our VVs

Hello, St Andrew's Church!

Just a wee update from the three VV's! With Martin being off we've had a slower introduction to the programme (and thankfully haven't been thrown into anything last minute) but we are busy finding things to do.

On our second Sunday both Euan and I were involved in Sunday morning worship with Euan giving some of his testimony and myself on the prayer of intercession. Unfortunately Eveline was ill so couldn't be involved.

Eveline has found her strength lies in Havilah and is very much enjoying working there and Euan has blessed us all with the amazing children's talk he gave and by speaking at the evening service.

In our week we can often be found in Havilah during the day and we do youth work in the evenings.

Although we have not had the same contact and support from Martin as VVs have had in previous years, the congregation has been amazing at making us feel welcome. Whether it has been through inviting us round for meals or just getting behind us, it is a testament to the congregation.

Andrew

Thank You

To say thank you to all my church family, family and friends seems a wholly inadequate way to express my feelings for the love and support you have given me in my "Brave the Shave" adventure.

Originally I had hoped to raise £500. I was totally over-

whelmed by your response. The final total of £4,500 (including gift aid) was amazing. So again, thank you for your support and generosity.

A special thanks to Noela, Linda and Martin for their technical help.

Yours sincerely

May Smith

Clerk's Corner

Year of Young People

Below you will find the initial detail of a major national initiative for 2018 - Year of Young People. As further details and resources become available you will hear more about this.

Dear Session Clerk / Minister,

The Mission and Discipleship Council, in collaboration with other Councils of the Church, are seeking to support and enable congregations to get involved with the key national initiative of the Year of Young People set by the Scottish Government. As a church we hope to foster a renewed focus on, and celebration of, children and young people in our churches and communities.

We are sending every congregation a paper copy of the Year of Young People 2018 Poster and Pledge Form, through local Presbyteries. We would like to invite all churches, including those with few or no children, to explore what they can do both in church services and beyond and explore some new ways of engaging with children and young people.

We invite you to sign the Pledge Form and commit to pray and engage with children and young people during 2018. Pledges can be posted back to us, scanned or filled in on -

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/yoyp.

Do take a photo of your church members receiving or signing these forms and send this in to us by emailing -

yoyp@churchofscotland.org.uk.

We will share these online, so people can see the whole church getting behind this initiative.

During November, on receipt of a signed Pledge Form, we will distribute printed copies of the Year of Young People Church Toolkit for use in congregations (this will also be available for download on the website). This includes lots of ideas and resources for churches to use during the year and encouragement to connect with children and young people in developing ideas for the year. We are encouraging every congregation to hold a YoYP Launch Service on January 28th. Some ideas for this are in the Toolkit and also on line.

During the year, there will be a number of Presbytery activities and events as well as national training events, held across the country. Information on these will be available shortly on www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/childrenandyoung/cyp_events

We look forward to engaging with you and encouraging increased participation of children and young people, as well as celebrating all that they offer and the ministry that churches are involved in, during 2018.

We would also like you to note the Moderator's commendation of Commitments on Children promoted by the World Council of Churches as in the attached letter.

God Bless,

Rev Norman Smith
Convener of Mission and Discipleship Council

Please also note the useful material on www.churchofscotland.org.uk/childrenandyoung

Use Of Our Premises

As mentioned elsewhere, we are in the midst of a period of playing host to a number of outside organisations such as training sessions run by Angus Council and two major Christmas Choral concerts. All this is in addition to our smaller and regular week-by-week lets. The security of the building and the people in it is very important.

There is a detailed system which records who is to be in the building, when they are arriving, which areas they are using, how long they will be there, and what heating might be needed. This is very important at all times, and not just when there are several groups using the premises, so that Linda can arrange things properly.

You will appreciate then, that it is essential a request is made through the office, in advance, for the use of any part of the building, including the sanctuary. This information also gets passed to the Church Officer and the Cleaner so that they can efficiently carry out their duties.

Thank you.

LOOKING AHEAD

DECEMBER

Sunday 3

11 am - Worship Service;
All-age Communion
1st Sunday in Advent
(Evening Worship is in
Community Spirit)

Sunday 10

11 am - Worship Service;
with special guests
Bellshill Salvation Army Band
2nd in Advent
(Evening Worship is
in Community Spirit)

Sunday 17

11 am - Worship Service;
3rd in Advent

Sunday 24

11 am - Worship Service;
4th in Advent

11.15 pm - Traditional Watchnight
Service
(with coffee and mince pies from
10.30pm)

Monday 25

10.30 am - Christmas Day Family
Service

Sunday 31

11 am - Worship Service in the
OLD & ABBEY church
(No evening service)

JANUARY

Sunday 7

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 14

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 21

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 28

11 am - Worship Service
Messy Church

FEBRUARY

Sunday 4

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 11

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 18

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 25

11 am - Worship Service
Messy Church

**N.B. As well as the services above
there are -
Sunday evening
services at 6.30 pm**

And

**Midweek services every Wednesday
at 10.30 am**

Presbytery Elder's Report

Dear fellow elders and members.

I feel very privileged to have been asked earlier in the year, to represent St Andrew's Church as your Presbytery Elder. This has, for the short time I have been in this role, been an interesting experience, and given me an insight into the formal working of Angus Presbytery.

The Presbytery puts into action decisions made at General Assembly, and having twice attended Assembly I now have a clearer picture of how these remits 'filter down' to Presbytery and Parish levels.

I will pass on relevant Presbytery News in the Quest each month.

Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office - 'Give me Five': the Child Benefit top-up Campaign

This is a campaign launched by Rt Rev Dr Derek Browning, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, asking the Scottish Government to top-up Child Benefit by £5 per week. An on-line petition is available to sign at

www.scpo.scot/scottish-and-uk-government/current-campaigns/ ('Give Me Five' Child Benefit Top-up Campaign)

Year of Young People

All Church of Scotland Churches are encouraged to engage with children and young people, encourage participation and celebrate what they bring to the Church.

Churches are signing a pledge to get involved – a 'Year of Young People Toolkit' will be available with ideas. All Churches are encouraged to hold a 'Year of Young People' service on Sunday January 28th 2018.

I am part of the Mission and Development Committee, and we have been looking at the relevant remits of the General Assembly which impact on this work, and in particular the 'Year of Young People', and "Weekend of Invitation" being held on 15th to 18th June 2018. All Churches will be encouraged to invite people to come along to Church over this week with special events being organised.

As you can see, there is plenty to be thinking about and plan!

Elaine Anderson, Presbytery Elder

Christmas and Malawi

The month of December is a busy one in the life of the Dalitso Project. We will have had our pamper weekend (1st -3rd December) where Leonie Atalay and Becky Dunphy will have performed a range of treatments including massage, acupuncture and gel nails whilst other members of the team served tea/coffee and soup and manned craft stalls and cake & candy.

It is also the time of year where we eagerly await news of the arrival of the container. At the time of writing it had arrived in South Africa and was on track to make it to Malawi just in time for Christmas. This will allow for the children's presents to be delivered to the centres in time for the Christmas parties.

Fundraising also continues right up to Christmas. For

those still with shopping to do, the Alternative Gift Catalogue is still available with a range of presents available to purchase from as little as a few pounds. For those on the mailing list, you will have received a copy via email. For those that aren't please see Sheila or Doris and they will get a copy to you. We are also again selling Christmas Crackers (£2 each or 6 for £10) which will include details of an Alternative Gift for a child in Malawi e.g. a jotter, pens, vitamins. To order see Sheila or Doris or email me at - info@dalitso.org

Finally, a date for your diary is the Bingo night on 19th January. Details will be in the bulletin in the New Year. Thanks to all that have supported us throughout 2017 as we celebrated 10 years involvement in Malawi. We look forward to seeing you at fundraisers in 2018.

Charis

A Joke With A Moral

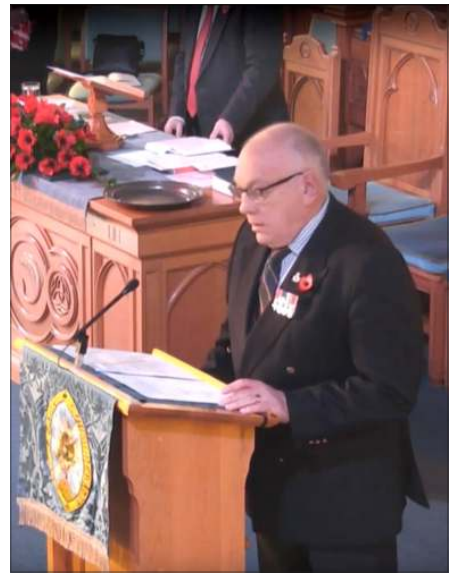
Just as a driver approached a pedestrian crossing, the lights turned amber. Although he could have got through, he decided not to take any chances and stopped quickly and safely. The tailgating man was furious and honked his horn, shouting in frustration, as he had missed a possible chance to get through the crossing..... dropping his mobile phone and gesticulating angrily. As he was still in mid-rant, he heard a tap on his window and looked up into the face of a very serious-looking policeman who took him to the police station where he was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. He was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with his personal effects. The officer said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, waving angrily at the man in front of you and swearing at him. Then I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' and the 'Follow Me to Sunday-School' stickers on the rear window, and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the boot lid, and so naturally.... I assumed you had stolen the car!!!"

It makes you think!

More in pictures - Remembrance service

Keith Scott led our worship - Ian Ballantyne led our Remembrance - Robert and Anne Matthew gave the readings



More in pictures - Youth Group

