



Fantastic Family Fun Weekend



The Church of Scotland nominated the weekend of 15-17th June 2018 as a 'National Weekend of Invitation.' Our congregation embraced the idea and decided to GO FOR IT!! As a result, we had two days of great fun and fellowship.

Saturday

First of all, to build on our ongoing outreach among children and families, it was decided that we would host a Family Fun Day. The responsibility for this was given to the group, largely comprising younger adults, who plan and lead our annual holiday clubs.

Immediately, they set about coming up with ideas and putting plans in place. Bouncy castles were borrowed, face painters got paints ready, crafts were designed, hula hoop teachers and small animal petting businesses were booked. Publicity was organised. We were 'good to go,' hopeful that perhaps 50 people might attend. So imagine how surprised and delighted we were when 200 people showed up - 112 children and 88 adults!! (Continued on Page 3)



Carla Ingram will lead our Youth and Children & Families work while Adele Marr is on maternity leave. (See the full article on page 4.)

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MAGAZINE EDITOR

Ken Miller : 875235

ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records - June 2018****Baptisms and Blessings** - None**Wedding** - None**Funeral** - Gordon Taylor

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

IMPORTANT DATES**SEPTEMBER EDITION** (Note - NO July 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 17th August (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 21st August (Word-Processed file)

Service Core Group**Eco tips****Opt for reusable water bottles**

Here's a secret a lot of people don't seem to know: Tap water is drinkable. Keeping a nice, BPA-free water bottle in your bag is an insanely simple way to save the cost of a bottle of water—the same cost of 700 gallons of water out of the tap at home. Bottled water is incredibly wasteful on so many levels: An estimated 80 percent of them don't get recycled and, because of the plastic production process, it takes three times the amount of water in a water bottle to produce just one!

Soup Lunches

The following are planned for this year -

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 23 Sept | Dementia Drop-in Café |
| 28 Oct | Dalitso Project |
| 25 Nov | 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)

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.

Family Fun Weekend - Continued

What an incredibly successful event it turned out to be and the feedback from both adults and children since has been universally positive with the description 'fantastic' being used over and over again in online reviews. From our point of view, it was about welcoming people into our buildings and building up existing relationships and establishing new ones. Against those measures, it couldn't have gone better!

So a HUGE thanks to our planning team, to the brilliant squad who made everything happen on the day and to the Fellowship Core Group members who made sure that coffee and cake kept on coming! Thanks too, of course, to all those of you who provided the baking.

Our plan is to continue to engage in outreach work with families from the wider community and we trust that you will pray for the success of these endeavours - that they may lead to wonderful opportunities for us to go on putting God's love for all people into action.

Sunday

On the Sunday, the Worship Core Group resolved to try something quite different and to offer a menu of options rather than just the traditional sermon slot.

(First of all, of course, we were hopeful that many of you would bring a guest and indeed many of you did. If you weren't able to, never fear; there will be future opportunities!)

So, as planned, the service offered a range of choices and everyone was able to pick something that most suited them. Many stayed for the regular sermon slot while others opted for discussion, for quiet time or even for adult craft-making at the back of the sanctuary. In the main hall, younger children and parents sang songs, played games and listened to the same Bible passage that everyone else did, in all these different ways.

What a joy it was to see the church so busy, with lots of new faces in view - including families that had come to the Fun Day!

We need to make Invitation an integral part of what we do - ALL THE TIME rather than for special occasions. American blogger, Thomas Rainer writes this:

'Churches who invite people to attend are churches which have guests who come. It really is that simple.'

As many churches decline, let's resolve to be one that grows - one Invitation at a time.

Church Family Trip

Around fifty of us headed off to Edzell after worship on Sunday 17th June for the annual trip. The sun never quite managed its brightest and best but though the clouds thickened as the afternoon wore on, we were spared rain!

And what a lovely relaxed afternoon we enjoyed. The children ran their races and enjoyed the park and the swings. The adults enjoyed their picnics and flasks of tea AND watching the young children happy and having a fun

afternoon.

Ken Slater and Robert Brewster, ably assisted by Alison and QM Pamela, were in charge of the BBQ and did a great job! This was their first year in charge, taking over from Ray and Karen Reaney who did it for many years. We're very thankful to them for all those years but, hey, everyone can take a well-deserved break eventually!

So thanks to all who made the trip possible, not least Elaine and the great Sunday Club team who can now have a well-earned summer break.

Kirk Session

Some weeks ago, as the last part of our Sunday morning service, we thanked Jane for her services to the congregation, not least her ten years as Session Clerk.

At its most recent meeting, the Kirk Session agreed that the duties of Clerk would for the time being be undertaken by a small group comprising Joan Hainsworth, Pat Mill and Elaine Anderson - these three to work with our minister and Linda, our Administrator.

These arrangements are now in place meaning that enquiries etc. regarding the overall functioning of our congregation should be directed to this administration team - either through the church office or, firstly, to Joan Hainsworth (who had been serving as Depute Clerk alongside Jane.)

In time, it will be for the Kirk Session to decide whether to continue in such a way or to revert to a more traditional approach but, for now, we are confident that the congregation will give their full support to those named above as they seek to provide the kind of services that Jane so ably offered.

Ask Theophilus

Question :

Why did Jesus say, 'Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say?' (John 12:27). Surely if he was the Son of God and knew everything, he would not have been troubled, wondering what to say!

Theophilus answers :

Here we are putting our toes into a very deep lake, almost too dangerous for us to try and swim in. The crucifixion was getting nearer. When we read further on in John 12, we hear the Lord answering his own question with another question: ['Shall I say,] "Father, save me from this hour?"' It's not difficult to compare this with his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done' (Luke 22:42). Then we read that an angel from heaven appeared, strengthening him.

Do you see why I said that here we are on the edge of a very dark lake, really too deep for us to attempt to wade into? Though he was the Son of God, Jesus had also taken our humanity upon himself. The suffering and anguish of Calvary was now very near, and plainly that was why he was 'troubled'.

Someone might say, 'But many people have faced an agonizing death with calm courage, no crying, no fear, no

cringing. Are you saying that there was an element of cowardice in Jesus?'

Many have said that, but remember that a couple of weeks earlier he had set his face like flint and gone to Jerusalem, knowing he was walking straight into the arms of those who hated him and were determined to kill him. Remember too that many times he had predicted his death by scourging, mocking and crucifixion (Mark 8:32ff.; 9:30; 10:32ff.). His earlier calmness in the face of his impending death was not the attitude of a coward.

The answer can only be that his anguish was because the world's vile sin (my sin and yours) was going to be laid upon his righteous soul. Some have argued that to say this is to accuse God of cruelty towards his well-beloved Son, subjecting him to such horrible spiritual suffering. But that is to take no account of the statement that Jesus offered himself to God as a sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:12). There was complete agreement within the Godhead, for Father, Son and Spirit were in unanimous and perfect harmony.

More than this I would not want to say, because the waters of our metaphorical lake become ever deeper and darker, the further in we venture. In the final analysis, his crucifixion, our reconciliation to God, our redemption from sin's penalty and the atonement for all our failings, were inspired and constrained by a depth of love of Father, Son and Spirit, too deep to plumb, too high to measure, and too wide to comprehend (Psalm 103:1-12).

David Searle

Youth & Children and Families

For three years, Adele Marr has served as our part-time Youth Worker, heading up our work among older children and young people - in church and in local schools etc. One of the things that Adele has offered is the 'Bible Alive' course from Scripture Union, this with the p6 class at Warddykes PS. Here's what the class teacher had to say about it:

'Bible Alive is a thoroughly engaging, positive experience for all of the children involved. It has been lovely to see them joining in so enthusiastically and it has resulted in lots of interesting discussions and thought-provoking questions. The programme brings the stories of the Bible to life and has allowed the children to develop a much greater understanding of Christian beliefs.'

And here's what some of the pupils had to say:

'We thought it would be boring but it was actually way more fun than we expected!'

'I knew it would be good but not that good.'

'It made me think about the Bible a lot more. I liked that we got to interact with it.'

The exciting news is that Adele is expecting and due to deliver her first child in mid-August. We're delighted for Adele and Michael and share with them their excitement and sense of anticipation!

Adele's maternity leave begins at the end of July. In this regard, the Kirk Session was clear that the congregation must continue this vital work in the meantime and so it is delighted to announce now that our very own Carla Ingram is to be appointed to cover the period of Adele's maternity leave.

Carla is well-known to us having grown up in the congregation. She finishes a masters degree from the University of St. Andrew's in August and was absolutely delighted to be offered the opportunity to serve as our temporary Youth Worker. She is a very gifted young woman and has built up plenty of experience of working with children and young people both here in Arbroath and, whilst studying in Edinburgh, through her congregation there and through the Christian Union.

We're delighted to take this opportunity to wish Adele (and Michael) every blessing and to extend an enthusiastic welcome to Carla.

GUILD NEWS

As mentioned in last month's Quest the Guild Projects Roadshow was held in Forfar on the 26th of May. Quite a few of our members were able to go and it was a most enjoyable and informative day. The Guild have six projects over three years – three 'home' and three 'away'. The six new projects are : CrossReach "Join the Dots"; Sailors' Society and Boys Brigade as the 'home' projects and World Mission Council "Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia; Malawi Fruits "Growing the Future" and Free to Live Trust "Seema's Project" are the 'away' projects.

The first speaker was Pete Cuthbertson from CrossReach who explained the project "Join the Dots" – a project to tackle loneliness and social isolation in Scotland. 2015 statistics showed that 60% of the population said they were lonely – not necessarily because they live alone; with the over 65s and 18-24 year olds being the two most likely groups. Loneliness can live in our street, in our church and

we all need to be involved in making people feel less lonely.

The Project in a Nutshell: "Through our work nationally in Scotland across all age ranges and segments of society, CrossReach comes across problems of loneliness and isolation and the effects of this on people's physical and mental wellbeing. With the Join the Dots project, together (with the Guild) we aim to expose these problems and provide solutions for them". I'll include another Project next time.

Meantime, the Guild trip to Scone Palace was last Saturday and although the weather wasn't brilliant it was still an enjoyable day. Please remember our Fish and Chip Supper and DVD evening on the 6th of August and the Annual Gathering on the 1st of September in the Caird Hall, Dundee.

Always remembering -

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

And the final farewells from our highly valued VVs

Although I'm sitting here with only a little over a week left, it seems too early to be writing a leaving article for the Quest. The weeks I've spent in Arbroath haven't seemed to fly by but, looking back, time has flown. The time between our welcome on the first Sunday we arrived and now seems much more than ten months. We have been made so welcome and I would just like to take a moment to thank all of you for making us feel so welcome and bringing us into the family here at St Andrew's church.

Although Euan and I haven't had the same level of interaction with Martin as previous years of VVs have had, my time here has been hugely valuable as well as watching a church function well when a minister can no longer serve at short notice. Havilah, youth work, pastoral visits and even just being in the church community have all been amazing experiences.

Coming straight out of school from the village of Callander without much experience volunteering in a church and going to Arbroath working full time in a church was quite a change in dynamic and most of the situations I found myself in daily were quite unlike anything I'd encountered before! It's hard to pinpoint big defining moments through the year where I really felt God at work changing me and moulding me to be more like who he wants me to be, but I think just daily experiences and encounters with people have led to small and gradual changes throughout the year. One thing that coming to Arbroath certainly gave me was time. Time away from family and friends, from commitments and ties in Callander. This allowed me to think a wee bit more and develop and understand much better my convictions and beliefs as well as my calling.

All in all, the time I've spent here in Arbroath has been a wonderful experience from which I can take so much away. I would once again like to thank all of you at St Andrew's church for making it happen! Thank you!

Andrew

This month I stood on one of the beaches of Iona, on our last retreat as volunteers, speaking to one of the YAVs (the American equivalent of VV's who were placed in Glasgow) about the things we wanted to leave behind, and the things we wanted to take forward. There was something therapeutic about it, drawing a solid boundary between the things to bring with me, and the things to leave in the past.

For her, she was considering the community she would be leaving behind, hoping that in some way she was leaving something that had grown stronger - that the parish she went into was going to be in a better state when she left, than it was when she arrived. I realised I hoped the same, but there was more than that to it for me.

I think I owe you all a thank you, for sending me home in a better state than I arrived and for developing me and helping me progress (even though it may seem a thankless task at times!) I hope that I can carry with me all that I have learned throughout this year into the next stages.

As I write this, I'm waiting to hear back about the arrangements for my next year, I've made the decision to step back from the ministries training process and realise that youth work might be the next step in my journey.

Thank you to you all,

Euan

Worship

In many ways, we stand at a crossroads. Having had Jane at the organ for thirty-five years, it feels strangely odd to have had her sitting in the congregation during these recent weeks. Strangely odd, and yet a delight! As I have tried to stress through the years, our 'value' is primarily in being a child of God and not in the jobs we do 'for God' - even when these 'jobs' include playing the organ! At any crossroads, there are decisions to be made. Which way now?

As minister, and having had so much enforced time off to reflect, this question has been at the forefront of my mind. I've thought deeply, and prayed, on these matters of where we've been, where we're at now and where we should be heading. I've had opportunity to talk with our choir, with members of the band and, of course, we've thought about it at the Kirk Session.

Ultimately, within the Church of Scotland framework, both the content and conduct of worship are the responsibility of the minister and so it is for me to set a course for the future. These deliberations will continue, for sure, but in the meantime it seems appropriate that I share with you some of my thinking.

Firstly, we won't be selling our church organ as 'no longer needed!' We will continue to use the organ, especially at the great occasions of the church calendar and from time to time in between. To that end, we'll invite various organists to 'be our guest' on those occasions. But we will not go down the road of seeking to employ a new organist. For one thing, there aren't many of them available and for another, following Jane would be a more than difficult challenge!

But beyond that, we need to think of the bigger picture. And certainly we need to look beyond the question of 'what I like best.' As I've shared with the Kirk Session, the Church of Scotland is in something of a parlous state. Congregations are closing and merging, numbers are falling rapidly and, perhaps most worrying of all, numbers of children and younger people are as low as they've been since record keeping began. Many congregations simply don't have any children or young people involved. Can there be any future without younger people becoming involved - and thoroughly involved!!

At St. Andrew's, we're not overflowing with children and younger people but we have some - and we're grateful for that. But we need to work our socks off to ensure that that continues and, as we would pray, improves!

Music is not the only thing that matters with regard to younger people in church but it does matter. There is usually a correlation between churches that have embraced contemporary music and forms of worship and the presence of younger people - and conversely so.

This is the backdrop to my strong sense that, standing at this particular crossroads, we should be in no doubt about further embracing contemporary worship - moving naturally on to the next stage of the journey that we've been travelling. To repeat what I've said above, you will still hear the organ! But our overall 'mood' will be contemporary. And again, to repeat, this is beyond personal taste and preferences; it's about what I feel is most important at this time in terms of our short and long term future as a congregation.

One of the implications of this is that we'll be looking to be more creative in terms of involving lots of people in our worship, musically and in other ways. The worship band will take the lead and others will gather around. But given that there won't be an 'every week' organist, members of the choir will now sit among the congregation rather than at the front. On that, here's what Wilma Ewart, one of our longest-standing choir members said at the recent Kirk Session meeting:

'Moderator, Choir Members of the Kirk session, fellow elders. As a Choir member of St. Andrew's Church from age 10 years (Junior Choir) to joining the Adult Choir on leaving Bible Class (at age 14) which would amount to 50 years and counting, I have been asked to give an account of our meeting at the Manse on Thursday past, 7th June, 2018.

It was a glorious sunny summer evening. What would this gathering bring about? Led by Martin, our Minister, we opened with song. Three part harmony, unaccompanied no less. Wonderful singing!

On being asked to give this report to Session, I Google searched 'Choir' - "An organised group of singers, especially one that takes part in church services or performs in public." We at St. Andrew's Church have been richly blessed in these past 35 years with the dedication of our Organist and Choir Master Jane Miller. Martin asked each of us three questions. 1- How many years had we been a choir member? 2- How had we come to sit in the Choir? and 3- One memory of our time in the choir?

Most of the present members had been approached by Jane with their involvement with Arbroath Choral Society. My memory was of the live BBC broadcast in September 1997. I repeat that again - LIVE broadcast. No room for error! The professionalism shown by Jane in her conducting the music and writing the opening music for Ken and I to sing "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise", was awesome!!

Jane brought our choir practices alive with great enthusiasm and wit. We also remembered past members, women and men, but we would be here all night if we went down that road and would possibly miss someone out.

LOOKING AHEAD

JULY

Sunday 1
11 am - **Worship Service,**
with our friends from
Townhead Church, Ayrshire

Sunday 8
11 am - **Worship Service**

Sunday 15
11 am - **Worship Service**

Sunday 22
11 am - **Worship Service**

Sunday 29
11 am - **Worship Service**

AUGUST

Sunday 5
11 am - **Worship Service**

Sunday 12
11 am - **Worship Service**

Sunday 19
11 am - **Worship Service**
Back to School Sunday!

Sunday 26
11 am - **Worship Service**

Midweek services, lasting approx. forty minutes, take place every Wednesday at 10.30am (followed by coffee.)

The programme of evening services, including the location of the particular service, is published week by week in the Sunday morning bulletin. (NB. There will be no evening services during the weeks of the summer holidays.)

We appreciate that we are at the "Changing of the Guard" stage. As it was good to look back, Martin also reminded us not to be like Lot's wife in the bible who looked back. We need to look forward.

We are not shutting up shop, we are moving forward as ever with the vision our Minister has for the future of music in our Church which will forever be changing in the months and years ahead. There will be occasions, as was Sunday past, where we can call upon other organists in the county to lead us. We can have pop up choirs for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. The choir will disperse among the congregation and lead from all corners of the church, but watch out - you can be called upon to lead from the front. I hope I have covered the events of the night. We finished with prayers for Jane, Ken and the family and enjoyed tea and strawberry tarts.

So thank you fellow members of Choir and Kirk Session and Martin for allowing me these few words. Our hearts may be heavy and sad at what has happened to Jane so quickly, but rest assured the music will keep on flowing.

"One more step along the world I go, One more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you. And it's from the old I travel to the new, keep me travelling along with you."

What will our future look like? How will all of this work itself out? For the answers to these questions we simply step forward in faith, trusting absolutely that the God who was with us, and is with us now, will certainly continue to be with us in all the days to come.

Martin

Dalitso Project News

It's been a busy month for The Dalitso Project with 2 fundraisers and the packing of over 200 presents ready for going to Malawi. Our High Tea and Quiz Night raised £674 and £339. Thanks to all that attended and particularly to Morag Shaw who was our quizmaster this year.

The team arrived safely and have been spending time meeting with all the centre's staff and children, giving out their parcels and doing their annual interviews. During their 3 week trip they will split their time between both Thyolo and Kambilonjo with Caroline Farquhar basing herself at the Dochas Medical Centre for the majority of her trip using

her knowledge of hospitals to ensure that standards remain high and that everything is working efficiently. We will report back on their trip after summer.

Our next main date for your diary is the 14th July from 2 - 4pm which will be our Afternoon Tea and Childhood Teddy display in the church. Tickets are now available for £6 from members of The Dalitso Project, email, Facebook or by contacting 07877256236 (Charis). Obviously the display will need teddy bears so if you would like your teddy bear to be included please get in contact and we can provide you with an information sheet to fill out which will be displayed with your teddy bear and a photo if you have one. This is sure to be a great opportunity to meet up with friends and family over the summer break, so do have a think about who you may want to bring along. See you then.

Charis

Mental Health

As we are only too painfully aware, Scotland has a poor record when it comes to mental health. By that it is meant that the suicide rate in Scotland (particularly among young men) is considerably higher than in the rest of the UK and that other (less tragic) manifestations of problems with mental health are, equally so, much higher than we would want. And despite a number of very public campaigns there remains a stigma around mental health which is hugely unhelpful. It often results in those who suffer saying that they are 'fine' rather than admitting that they're struggling and needing support.

We have decided that, as a congregation, we have to consider making some kind of (hopefully) helpful response. Of course there are professional services but these are often stretched to breaking point meaning that people in need can be left waiting weeks and months for much-needed support. And there are other voluntary groups active in this field. Our hope is that we might be able to complement and add to existing provision.

To that end, the Kirk Session gave their unanimous support for some exploratory meetings to take place. The first of these has already happened and those who attended -

largely those who have themselves faced mental health challenges and those who work in the field - were in complete agreement that we might well be able to offer something that could help, whether that be a support group, a listening service or whatever.

As an immediate starting point, it has been agreed with SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) and Angus Council that a 'Safe Talk' training event will take place for our congregation. The Council will Fund this training and SAMH trainers will deliver it. Essentially it's a course for ordinary folk like ourselves - rather than mental health professionals, that is - to learn a little more about suicide and CRUCIALLY to become a little more aware of, and alert to, warning signs and 'silent' cries for help that may be given by those in desperation. If between us we can support even one or two people that will be a good thing.

This training event is going to happen in the early autumn. There will be 26 places on the course and we are hopeful that every place will be taken - as a sign of our care and desire to make even a small difference. Please watch out for full details to come.

Beyond that, the small steering group will continue to meet to consider other responses that may be appropriate. Please pray for their meetings that the members might know God's wisdom in all of their deliberations.

More in pictures



FUN!

