

## Playing Your Part

Two particular volunteers are at this time stepping down from their roles – Susan Godsall as treasurer and Ray Reaney as fabric convenor. Both have served for many years and did a power of work in their respective areas. ‘Thanks’ hardly seems sufficient - but we are thankful!

We wish Susan and Ray every blessing and look forward to their continued involvement in the life and witness of the congregation (though now with a little less stress!) We hope shortly to be in a position to announce their successors.



**Martin Fair with Susan Godsall and Ray Reaney at their presentation**

Without such willing volunteers as these, church congregations would cease to exist! At St. Andrew’s, we’re fortunate indeed that so many of our members are willing to step up and take on any number of roles and responsibilities. You know who you are!!

But times and circumstances change, meaning that some have to step back from what they’ve been doing, perhaps because of ill health or a family situation or increased pressure of work. Beyond that, sometimes it’s just time for a

change! When that happens, new folks emerge – mostly!

Right now, we’re short of volunteers for our teams of sanctuary cleaners. Mandy Tasker is our official cleaner, responsible for halls, rooms, toilets etc. but the sanctuary itself is cleaned weekly by volunteers. A rota operates meaning that the commitment is only monthly. There’s no glamour or spotlight and no reward save that of being able to serve – and to know that you’re playing a part in preparing God’s house for worship. Might this be for you?

## David Cohen and Havilah



Our Havilah project has come a long way since its humble beginnings! It was launched in August 2006 as a one-day-a-week drop-in service and now runs five days a week, operating out of its own building with a small army of volunteers and paid staff.

Following our successful bid for increased funding (all of which comes from external sources including Angus Council and various charitable trusts) we’ve been able to add a new part-time position to the team. The new worker is David Cohen. David took up his position in August and was commissioned during one of our morning services in June.

David brings with him a range of relevant experiences and skills and we look forward with excitement to what he will contribute to the work. Already he has shown great enthusi-

asm and aptitude and creative flair.

Havilah is primarily about helping people in need and so it is absolutely what we Christians are called to do. One Saturday afternoon in September, Tracey – the project leader – received a phone call from a man who had reached absolute rock bottom. He was intent on going to the cliffs and ending his life, adamant that he couldn’t go on. Tracey immediately dropped what she was doing and went to be with him, spending the next few hours listening to him and supporting him as she was able. She convinced him that there was hope. The next day he came to church for the first time and there he heard a message which ended with the invitation to ‘choose life.’ On the Monday, Tracey was able to arrange a suitable tenancy for him and soon he’ll move into a new home. How quickly his situation has begun to improve!

This is Christianity in action – bringing light and life to those in despair,

(Though Havilah supports people with addiction problems, the door is open to anyone in need, regardless of the circumstances. This particular person is not a drug user but struggles with poor mental health and isolation.)

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Linda Hunter : 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Ken Miller : 875235

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records  
July/August/September 2018****Baptisms and****Blessings** - Skye Boyd, daughter of Graeme and Claire;  
Nathan McIntosh, son of Paul and Sharon**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Meg Owen, Jane Miller

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****NOVEMBER 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 October (Written/preferably typed)

Tuesday 23rd October (Word-Processed file)

**Service Core Group****Eco tips****Turn off the tap**

It's an all-too-common habit to leave the tap running while washing your face, brushing your teeth, doing the dishes, and so on. Sure, the tap might get a little soapy if you turn it off while lathering your hands, but think of it like turning off a light when it's not being used—it's simple, brings no inconvenience, and saves a lot of resources in the long run.

**Soup Lunches** - 28 October - Dalitso Project and 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.

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) but, until further notice, also contact Carla Ingram on 07762740317

**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.**

# Martin Fair

October 2018

Dear Friends,

In October, Elaine and I are travelling to Sydney, Australia, to visit our oldest son, Callum. He moved there a little over a year ago and has spent his time working and travelling. He's going to be settled in Sydney for the next period of time and Elaine and I are very much looking forward to seeing him face to face. I say 'face to face' because modern means of communication ensure that people are able to keep in touch with one another even though separated by thousands of miles – video call services such as Skype and Facetime even allow us to see the person at the other end of the line.

But good as those options are, there's nothing to beat actually being with someone. Were that not the case, we wouldn't be bothering to squash ourselves into economy class for the ten-and-a-half thousand mile trip!

The apostle Paul couldn't phone or text or Skype but he could write and so he kept in touch by letter with the fledgling Christian communities that he had founded. These letters make up much of what is now known as the New Testament. But even though Paul was able to write to these young Christians, his letters make it clear that he longed to be with them, face to face.

*'I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.'*

*I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.' Romans 1:9-12*

*'Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy.' 2nd Timothy 1:4*

*'After I go through Macedonia, I will come to you—for I will be going through Macedonia. Perhaps I will stay with you for a while, or even spend the winter, so that you can help me on my journey, wherever I go. For I do not want to see you now and make only a passing visit; I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.' 1st Corinthians 16:5-7*

The phrase at the end of the Romans passage is perhaps the most apt – Paul speaks of being 'mutually encouraged by each other's faith.' There's no better way to do that than when face to face! Meeting together matters, whether on Sundays or in midweek groups or in twos and threes.

This much I know: you good people constantly encourage me. I hope that in some measure, I am able to encourage you. Let's get face to face that there may be even more of it, more of the time.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

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

## Mental Health

On Saturday 15th September, 27 members of St Andrew's Church (including the minister) completed the safe-TALK suicide awareness training course, designed and delivered by SAMH (Scottish Association Mental Health.) All agreed that it was excellent training and very much worthwhile. It was paid for by Angus Council's Suicide Prevention Collaborative which is keen to see more and more ordinary members of the community becoming sensitive to this sadly all too common issue. Two people end their own lives every day in Scotland and that's two too many. Something has to change.

But beyond the training our plans are now firming up to begin offering a concrete response to the question of poor

mental health; we are resolved to support those who struggle with depression, dark thoughts, suicidal inclinations and so on. Of course we are not and will not pretend to be experts, but all the research indicates that first and foremost what people are looking for is a listening ear over a cup of tea – someone who cares. That, we can offer. The Suicide Prevention Collaborative is delighted to know that we intend to get involved and will advise and support us as we bring our plans to fruition, ensuring that we don't replicate services that already exist but instead fill gaps in present provision.

Our aim as a congregation of God's people is to witness to God's love in the wider world. Rather than being a holy huddle, we seek to be light to the world, as Jesus himself was and is. Here's another way in which we'll put that into practice.



## Ask Theophilus

### Question :

Last week I read in 1 Corinthians 15:31 that Paul wrote: 'I die every day!' Whatever did he mean?

### Theophilus answers :

The rule of interpreting every kind of paradoxical statement in the Bible is to let Scripture itself give us the explanation. In other words, uncover the meaning of difficult verses by less difficult verses. So, two obvious texts jump out at us. The first is in Ephesians 4:22-24: 'Put off your old self which belongs to your former manner of life, and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds by putting on the new self, created after the likeness of God...'

Those who become disciples of Christ begin a new way of life, which Paul calls 'putting on the new self'. Jesus' teaching has been called 'a counter-culture'. We all know that an unbelieving society has its own culture. Just read your daily papers and watch the news! Low standards of morality, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. It doesn't bear thinking about. Think, too, about the back-biting, jealousy, deceit and the dishonesty... the list goes on and on.

Even though you and I intensely dislike all that, nevertheless, before we became Christians, whether we admit it or not, we were part of the world's culture, whose essence is selfishness. Paul's second text is: 'He [Jesus] died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves...' (2 Corinthians 5:15). Yes, living for ourselves is the essence of the 'old self'.

Contrast the world's culture of selfishness with Matthew chapters 5 to 7, the famous Sermon on the Mount. There we find a sample of Christ's 'counter-culture', for those who follow him are called to obey him and to adopt a whole new set of standards and attitudes—in other words, 'to put on the new self...'

Believe it or not, I became acutely aware of this at age nine or ten through Dudley Watkins 'Oor Willie'! Watkins (incidentally, he was a committed Christian) in his brilliant cartoons sometimes showed 'Wullie' sitting scowling on his upturned bucket with a nasty little demon, labelled 'Wullie's worse self', floating just to the side of his head. Then there would be 'Wullie' sitting smiling on his bucket with a tiny angel floating at the side of his head, and that would be labelled 'Wullie's better self'. I knew (as we all did) exactly what Watkins was getting at.

So back to our second text. Paul continues, '... might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised.' So the 'old self' is self-centred, whereas the 'new self' is Christ-centred—'living for him'. The snag is that the old self has a nasty habit of bouncing back, or, more often, slinking back unseen at first, but then pushing itself forward.

That is precisely why Paul wrote, 'I die daily!' The Christian must 'mortify' the old self every day, and every day 'put on the new self'. Jesus called it, 'taking up the cross', and the cross was code for dying to self. But it's the way of eternal life, the way of peace of conscience and joy, for believers constantly have available to them the boundless grace, mercy and kindness of the heavenly Father.

**David Searle**

## Youth Group

Many of you will know that I have now taken over as youth work coordinator from Adele for the duration of her maternity leave, after handing in my masters dissertation to the University of St Andrews at the end of August.

We are now well into the swing of our Sunday routine beginning with the bible class for S1-4 during church time. We have decided to use the resources which accompany the book 'God's Big Picture' written by Vaughan Roberts to give the young people a fuller picture of the Bible as a whole. These resources use videos of Roberts giving a short talk and then move on to bible readings with accompanying study questions. There is a relaxed atmosphere in this class with no pressure to read or to answer questions if you are not confident enough. Please do encourage any young people of this age to come along to church to join in with this group.

For this year, we have decided to split the overall youth group into two smaller groups of S1-4 and our young adults who are 17-21 years. This is to encourage more of a close-knit feel, with a smaller range of ages, so that everyone feels more included and supported by their peers.

I would like to invite any young people from the school

years of S1-4 along to youth group. This group meets on a Sunday evening 6.30-8pm in the church hall. We do a variety of different activities each week such as games, board games, baking, crafts and a short biblical talk.

Also for those who are ages 17-21, please contact me for details of our young adults group who are currently using the Youth Alpha programme in our weekly meetings. We are meeting at my home on a Sunday evening 8.15-9.45pm.

We are a really welcoming group who would love for some new members to join us! We also join both groups together for games nights and to go on some trips throughout the year: for example to the Edinburgh Christmas market and an annual camping trip!

The cost is £1 each week to cover our trips and resources though the first week is free!

Please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions or need further information. Also, please pass this invitation on to others if you have family and friends with young people who might be interested in coming along!

Many thanks for your support!

Carla Ingram  
(07762740317)

## GUILD NEWS

Since our last 'newsletter' a good number enjoyed the Fish and Chip Supper and DVD evening with plenty of chatter and laughter.

The committee met on the 13th of August to finalise the programme for the new session and we hope everyone will enjoy the evenings planned. This is the start of a new three year strategy of "One Journey, Many Roads" with the first year being "Seeking the Way". Each of us is on a journey of faith and it is exciting to explore together the different roads we walk as we 'seek the way'.

Saturday 1st September saw a number of us at the Caird Hall in Dundee for the National Annual meeting. This was a wonderful day, starting with an Agape Meal. As well as meeting friends from other Guilds and making new friends, it was good to hear news from Guild Office. The main speaker was the Rt Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the

General Assembly, who shared some of the twists and turns on her journey so far. Tamsin Dingwall, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly also shared some of her life experiences that have led her to being the Moderator.

We also got updates from the representatives of the six projects the Guild will be supporting over the next three years. One of those speaking was Mabel Sitchali our Project partner from the United Church of Zambia who is leading the project 'Journeying Together', helping the young mothers in Zambia. In the afternoon we were blessed to hear Mabel singing in her native language – songs of Scripture from Isaiah and the Gospels about who will go and tell the people about Jesus.

If you've not been to the Guild for a while, or you've never been before, please think about coming as we'd love you to join us.

Always remembering -

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

## Worship

St. Andrew's Church is about welcoming people in the name of Christ and witnessing to people about the love of Christ. But in between the welcome and the witness there is the meat in the sandwich – worship. Firstly, God's people are called to worship him.

Of course worship is much more than services but those times when we come together to worship, deliberately as it were, are absolutely central to the life of any congregation. Our main service of worship is at 11am on a Sunday morning and since 1999 we've offered a midweek service which takes place at 10.30am every Wednesday, lasting for about forty minutes, and to which up to forty people attend.

Since 2011 we've offered a weekly Sunday evening service but we have decided to take a break from that practice for the time being. The evening service was started at

least in part to meet the needs of those who wanted to go further with band-led, contemporary worship but now that the band is taking the lead role on Sunday mornings, that need is less pressing. And beyond that, we want the band to be able to bring the best of their endeavours to Sunday morning and NOT to become over-stretched.

Instead of a weekly evening service then, we're going to offer a series of Big Worship Night Ins. These will take place approximately once every term and we hope that these evening 'specials' will prove to be as popular as the taster one that was run at the end of June and to which many people came, including quite a few from other churches.

Whether you come to one or two or all of our different worship options, do your best to make sure that in terms of your own Christian walk, worship really is the meat in the sandwich.

## Alpha

Our young adults group have recently started a Youth Alpha course – probably the best-known and most influential Christian introduction course ever! We trust that it will prove to be significant for many of them.

The good news is that in January we'll be running our next edition of the full Alpha course. As always it will be open to Christians and non-Christians and those who are not-yet-Christians-but-thinking-about-it!! Alpha is made up of ten sessions in all. Each one includes an introductory film followed by questions and discussion. At Alpha, anything goes – anyone can ask any question and no one is ever put down for having the 'wrong answer!'

Watch this space for further details nearer the time.

## Toddlers

Following a period of review, we're very hopeful that soon enough we'll be able to resurrect our Parents & Toddlers Group.

The former parents have moved on – as is the way of it with all such groups as the children progress to playgroups and nurseries – and we're looking for others to come forward and take a lead.

Given continuing demand in our town for this kind of group, we very much hope that a newly formed group will allow us to connect creatively with children and families during the midweek.

Please pray for these plans that a toddlers group will emerge soon.

## Tim Mineard and Keith Scott

Our very own Tim Mineard is now entering his final year of academic study towards becoming qualified as an ordained minister of word and sacrament. After that, he'll serve a fifteen-month probationary period and then he'll be fully-fledged, able to seek a charge of his own!

During this year, Tim is going to serve as part-time locum at Letham Parish Church. Their minister, Dale London, is heading for pastures new and Tim has been asked to serve during the vacancy. The congregation will benefit enormously from Tim's ministry and he will benefit from the experience of preaching every week and addressing pastoral and parish needs during the two midweek

sessions that he'll work.

Meanwhile, the congregations of Knox's & St. Vigean's continue to be vacant following the departure of their minister, Nelu Balaj, and, following an approach from the interim moderator, our very own Keith Scott has agreed to step into that situation. Keith, like Tim, will preach at both churches each Sunday and will offer pastoral support during the week.

Isn't it wonderful that we find ourselves able to support neighbouring congregations in this kind of way! Let's hope and pray that in the years ahead, many more will find themselves called to ministry through St. Andrew's Arbroath.

## Relevant Faith

'He (The Lord) makes sure that orphans and widows are treated fairly; he loves the foreigners who live with our people, and gives them food and clothes. So then, show love for those foreigners.' (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)

It's laughable that there are those who reject faith on the basis that 'it's out of date.' How can the Bible have anything to say to modern life, they ask, given that its writings are thousands of years old. The above verse from Deuteronomy (amongst the earliest of biblical texts) makes it crystal clear! The principles enshrined in scripture are timeless and absolutely as relevant now as ever.

We should be rightly proud that Church of Scotland congregations and ministers are at the forefront of campaigns to put these principles into practice – in this case, regarding 'foreigners' and in particular, asylum seekers. The gutter press does its best to stir up xenophobic hostility and in the face of that the Christian Church MUST speak out in defence of the voiceless.

The following report highlights one such case: 'First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has backed a church campaign to stop two asylum seeker brothers from being deported from Scotland. She described Somer and Areeb Umeed Bakhsh, who are 15 and 13 respectively, as a "credit" to the country. Speaking during First Minister's Questions in the Scottish Parliament today, Ms Sturgeon said her government would examine what could be done to ensure the boys are not deported to Pakistan. The brothers fear they could be murdered by Islamic extremists if they are removed from their home in Glasgow and sent back to the country of their birth where blasphemy carries the death penalty.'

A petition calling on the Home Office not to deport the boys started by Rev Linda Pollock, minister of the Possilpark Parish Church in Glasgow, has been signed by more than 85,000 people to date.

The brothers and their parents, Maqsood and Parveen, fled to Glasgow in 2012 from Faisalabad in Pakistan after their father was subjected to death threats from Islamic ex-

tremists due to his Christian faith. The catalyst for the family's move to Scotland was the murder of two Christians who were gunned down outside a court, while in police custody, in Faisalabad in July 2010. Pastor Rashid Emmanuel, 32, and Sajid, 24, were accused of writing a pamphlet critical of the Prophet Muhammad that flouted Pakistan's controversial blasphemy law.

Christians have been repeatedly targeted in a string of deadly terrorist attacks claimed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant in recent years. The men were good friends of Mr Bakhsh and he believes Islamic extremists would kill him and his family if they had the chance.

The UK Government has repeatedly rejected the family's plea for asylum, largely because officials do not believe they would be at risk in Pakistan.

Right Rev Susan Brown, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, welcomed Ms Sturgeon's remarks. She added that she hoped that the Home Secretary would have the decency, wisdom and compassion to provide the boys with permanent sanctuary in the UK. Mrs Brown said: "The story of this family has touched the hearts of tens of thousands of people who want those in authority to know how upset they are that they are being treated so dispassionately. "If more than 85,000 people are willing to welcome them, why on earth can't the authorities?"

Church of Scotland congregations the length and breadth of the country are actively working to support asylum seekers and refugees.'

### LOOKING AHEAD

#### OCTOBER

**Sunday 7**

**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 14**

**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 21**

**11 am - Worship Service; and our Autumn Communion Celebration**

**Sunday 28**

**11 am - Worship Service; With special guest, Tom Gordon from Edinburgh  
4 pm - Messy Church**

#### NOVEMBER

**Sunday 4**

**11 am - Worship Service; With special guest, Robert Allan from Falkirk**

**Sunday 11**

**11 am - Worship Service**

**Sunday 18**

**11 am - Worship Service; main service followed by short celebration of Holy Communion**

**Sunday 25**

**11 am - Worship Service  
4 pm - Messy Church**

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

**The evening services will, for the time being, be replaced by 'Big Night Ins' on approximately a termly basis.**



## Dalitso Project News

Over the summer a priority for The Dalitso Project was the urgent concern over water at our Kambilonjo centre. We learnt just after the return of our summer trip that the current borehole had run dry and the piped water that had been installed in the area had been turned off.

The cost of drilling a new borehole would amount to £5000. This is a large amount of money to be needed immediately, so we turned to Facebook hoping to raise some of the money as we had recently been accepted as a charity meaning we could set up a fundraiser that allowed people all over the world (we had donors in the US) to donate to this appeal. What we didn't expect was the rate at which this would gather momentum. On Facebook alone we raised over £3000 in 3 weeks and the other £2000 from offline donations. Thanks to all who supported.

The latest news is that the borehole is due to be drilled this week (18/09) a little later than we hoped but what we

have found from our involvement in Malawi is that some things take time. With Social Media often being given a negative press, in this situation it was definitely used for good. We look forward to sharing photos of running water being returned to Kambilonjo.

Our Musical Evening with Encore in July raised an amazing £2500 and our Afternoon Tea with the Teddy Bear display raised £420. Thanks to all who came along. It was great to get to share information about the work of The Dalitso Project to many new faces at the concert.

Our next big night is our annual Murder Mystery on 10th November at 7pm. The title this year is The Diamonds, The Dagger and One Classy Dame with tickets available at £14. These must be purchased before for catering from the usual places.

As always the countdown to Christmas starts in September for us with the sending of the container. All 926 boxes and bags along with a selection of furniture and walking aids are currently making the long journey to Malawi, hopefully in time for Christmas. Please do pray for its safe transportation and a smoother journey than last year.

**Charis**

## It's Good To Say Thank You!

Soon after her 75th birthday in February, Jane Miller was diagnosed with an untreatable brain tumour and was given approximately two to four months to live. Jane passed away peacefully at the end of August, having fought bravely for nearly six months.

In her life, Jane gave so much to her family and to society in general. Her love of music, and teaching, was passed on to so many through her work at the College of Education in Dundee where she became a Senior Lecturer. She founded Arbroath Choral Society and, despite rapidly failing health, she managed to conduct a part of their 40th Anniversary Concert.

Jane was a wonderfully loving and devoted wife and mother. She enjoyed keeping fit and she and Ken climbed most of the Munros of Scotland. In July they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary along with their children Ewan and Kirsten, and grandchildren.

Jane's life also revolved around her faith and she was one of the first lady Elders in St Andrew's church where she served in a number of roles, including Guild President and, latterly, as Organist for 35 years and Session Clerk for 10 years.

Jane was immensely brave and, throughout her illness, was still able to say "Why not me, rather than why me!" Being a very organised person, she wrote final letters of thank you to her nearest and dearest. She also wrote to the Kirk Session as she tendered her resignations as Organist and Session Clerk -

*Having a finite length of time put on your life, may not seem to have many advantages but there are some. I have time to say thank you to so many wonderful people, and horrendously painfully to say some final farewells. Not everyone gets this last element so here goes with some of mine*

*for the St Andrew's Church family.*

*When we arrived in Arbroath way back in 1968, we set off to find a church. At St Andrew's Church, we found ourselves in the balcony and, by the end of the service, had been invited to the Guild and choir. These invitations were given by Bella Walker and Margaret King who were such committed members of St Andrew's. Mary Spink also showed us friendship. We looked around other places, but no contest!*

*So, first of all to the church choir for their many, many years of committed services, turning up every week for practices and leading the singing. You do make a difference to the vibrancy of the worship. Surely there will be a heavenly choir! Keep singing - it is so good for you. Thank you all!*

*I might be able to join my Dad in his endeavours. I used to help when he had three services on summer Sundays. He played in spite of very considerable physical difficulties and was my inspiration for all things churchly musical. I owe him so much.*

*And next the Kirk Session and Leadership Group for tolerating 10 years of bullying and impatience as we enabled our various structures to become embedded, helping to make us who we are in our vision. Thank you all for your willingness to undertake what was sometimes very challenging.*

*My grateful thanks go to Martin, for inspirational leadership and an unfailing ability to produce the right prayer of comfort at the right moment. Thank you for this in recent days.*

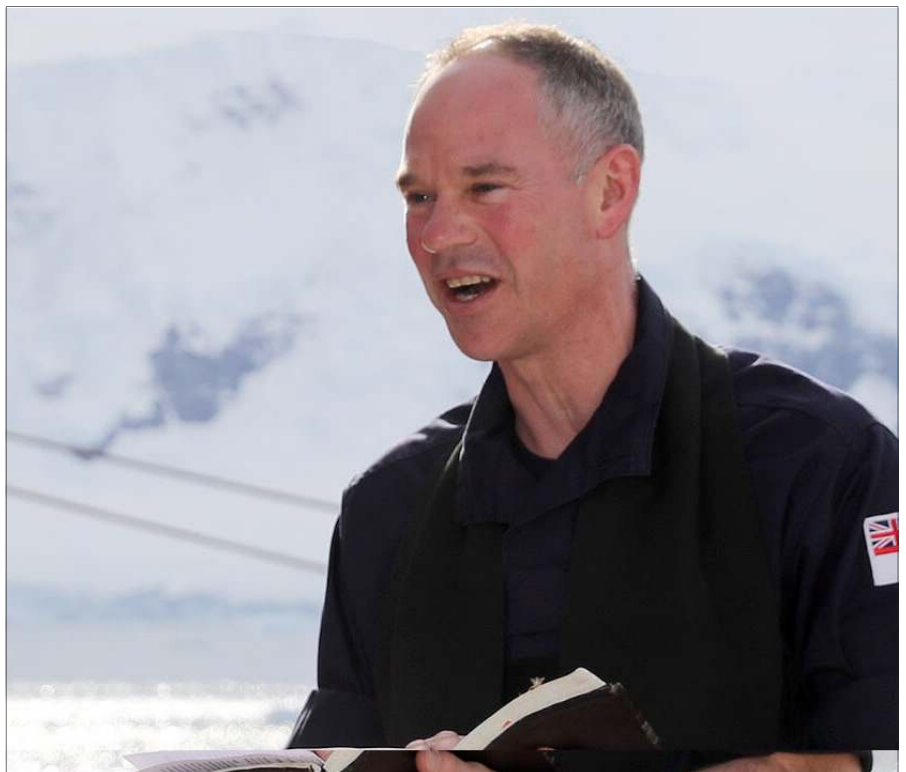
*And to all others who have supported me in recent and past times - Joan, Janis, Linda and many others - thank you.*

Jane

# More in pictures



Preparations for Christmas in Malawi have to start early if all of this is to reach them in good time!



Christians at work - Dez Johnson, who leads the Alpha courses in Scotland and Jamie Milliken, the new RM chaplain