



## Children Welcome!

In this Quest, you'll find a lovely photo of Ruaridh and Scarlett sitting happily on the carpeted floor of our sanctuary during morning worship on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

On that very same day, I received the following message from a ministry colleague:

*"One of our choir members had a young mum in tears after our service by getting in her face and telling her that it was disgraceful that her child was walking around during the service. She then got in my face to tell me the same thing. I told her that I was disappointed in her for speaking to anyone in that way and that she was wrong in her view that children shouldn't be in church."*

*A few moments later a man came up to me with the same complaint saying that if this was how it was going to be then he wouldn't be coming back."*

It's hard enough attracting children and young families to church without that kind of attitude! No wonder the church is in trouble!

We're glad to say that children will ALWAYS be welcome at St. Andrew's – whether they're sitting calmly on the floor or happily running around at play.

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me.'



## Bouncy Bouncy!

Following a successful grant application and various donations, we found ourselves with sufficient funds to be able to buy our own bouncy castle! On previous occasions, we've borrowed bouncy castles and they've proved to be a great draw among young families. But of course, you can't always get one when you want it and being pretty bulky, getting them to the church is far from straightforward.

So now we have our own! It's already been pressed into service and the children of our Sunday Club LOVED their first session on it!

But although our own children will get plenty of use from it, our intention is that it will be the centrepiece of various family fun days that we'll open up to the wider community. What better than that we invite children and families into our buildings for fun and friendship and that through that, we'll have opportunities to build positive relationships.

Obviously we have insured the use of the bouncy castle and we have a set of guidelines in place to ensure safe play. With those in mind, let the fun begin!!

**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD  
07889 982216**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Ian Gray: 01674 677126

**CLERK TEAM LEADER**

Joan Hainsworth: 875409

**TREASURER**

Heather Black:

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark: 878594

**YOUTH WORKER**

Carla Ingram: 07762740317

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
LEADER**

Tracey McLeod: 434088

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
WORKER**

Tammy Stuart: 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT  
WORKER**

Karen Reaney: 01307 818277

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Pending

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Elaine Fair: 873238

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**SAFEGUARDING**Eleanor Jakobsen:  
01382 477318**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh: 553160

**PRAYER PROMOTERS**Judy Spink: 872395  
Anne Matthew: 876008**SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Janis Clark: 878594

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITORS**

Iain and Amy Scott

Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

**ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records  
August 2019****Baptisms and Blessings - None****Weddings -**Euan Milne and Jill Smith  
Danny Hopkins and Jamie Green**Funerals - Lillian McMillan**

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****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.

**Thursday 19th September** (Written, preferably typed)

**Monday 23rd September** (Word-Processed file)

**Service Core Group****Use eco-friendly cleaning products**

A lot of cleaning products have a lot of harmful chemicals in them that aren't environmentally friendly to create or dispose of. In fact, repeated exposure to these cleaning products can affect your health as well as the environment. Green cleaning products use more natural and organic methods of cleaning which are far less harmful.

**Soup Lunches**

The following are planned for this year -

22 September	Mum & Me
27 October	Dalitso
24 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 the month) with Tea/coffee after.  
Sunday Club – Elaine Fair (873238).  
Crèche – up to age 3. Infants – ages 3 to 5.  
Juniors – ages 8 and 9. Seniors – ages 10 and 11

6.30 - 8.00 pm – Youth Group - Carla Ingram (07762740317)

**Monday to Friday** - 12.00 – Havilah: Drop-in Centre – Community Spirit (434088)

**MONDAY**

2.00 pm – Dorothy Dobson Over 50's Exercise Class  
6.00 pm – Rainbow Guides – L Hadden (875379)  
7.30 pm – St. Andrew's Guild: Fortnightly – J McPherson (431681)  
7.30 pm – Flower Club: Fortnightly – M McIntosh (876993)

**WEDNESDAY**

10.30 am – Midweek Meeting Point – M Fair (873238)

**THURSDAY**

2.00 pm – Friends Club: First Thursday – N Watson (875451)  
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 2019

Dear Friends,

As I've announced on Sunday mornings, for the time being the Presbytery has asked me to serve as Interim Moderator for the congregation of Dun & Hillside – this because, sadly, their own minister, Fiona, is on long-term sick leave. We pray that she becomes stronger in the weeks ahead and that the remainder of her pregnancy will be more straightforward.

As interim moderator, I am essentially the minister though of course with my own congregation to minister to – you lot!! – there is a limit to what I'll be able to do. The service at Dun is at 9.30am so I'm going to lead that one reasonably regularly but the Hillside service is at 11am and so impossible for me to do other than occasionally. It is for me though to arrange for someone else to take the service. As well as that, I need to moderate the Kirk Session, conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals that may come along and offer pastoral care where necessary.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> August, I led the Dun service and the Hillside service, celebrating communion at both. With that in mind, I took the decision to leave our own service in the hands of a number of our twenty-something young adults. So after Joan, our Session Clerk, had opened the service and led in prayer, it was over to our young people – and, to quote the late Bruce Forsyth, didn't they do well!!

Of course we really shouldn't be surprised by that. These young adults have been nurtured in the faith, from Sunday Club to Youth Group and onwards. They and others like them are now ready to lead and assume responsibility. What a joy for me personally – as for the whole congregation, I'm sure – to have such able and committed young people as part of our family. As others of us get a little 'longer in the tooth,' it's essential that we embrace younger leaders and allow them to grow and thrive and, as they surely will in time, guide the congregation forward as others have before them.

We've got wonderful biblical examples of this business of raising up new leaders. Check out 2nd Kings c2 for the story of Elijah passing responsibility to Elisha. There we read, "*The spirit of Elijah is now resting on Elisha.*" What does that look like nowadays when we recognise the Spirit of God resting on a new generation? And then in the New Testament, we find the example of Paul raising up his young lieutenant, Timothy. He came to trust Timothy as he became convinced of his sincere and living faith, as it had been evident in those who had gone before him. Paul wrote: "*I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*"

Let's make it our business to ensure that St. Andrew's is in the business of investing in our young people and raising up new leaders.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

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

## Home Groups

For many years, small groups meeting in people's homes or in our halls have been an integral part of our church life. These groups offer fellowship alongside opportunities for prayer and Bible study. And, they're the ideal means through which people newer to the congregation can get to know others and make friends.

Our groups are just starting again for the new session so whether you're already involved with one or have never been a part of a group before, now is the time to sign up and get going.



## Ask Theophilus

### Question:

This was the question someone asked last time. 'Which God should we believe in: the angry God of the Old Testament or the loving God Jesus has revealed to us?'

### Theophilus answers:

One of the significant differences between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that before Christ there was no explicit teaching in the divine judgement after death. Although at times, especially in the Psalms, judgement in the afterlife is implied, mainly in the OT God's judgement of wickedness is understood to be meted out in this life (as indeed are his rewards for those who do good).

Jesus' teaching brought further understanding to divine judgement, in that he explicitly taught that there would be a final judgement for all after death. For example, we find this in his depiction of himself in Matthew 25:31-46 as the Son of Man, sitting as a King on his glorious throne surrounded by angels, with the nations gathered before him. Then, like a shepherd separating the 'sheep' from the 'goats', he would say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

Those on his right would be those who had fed Jesus when he was hungry, given him drink when he was thirsty, welcomed him when he was a stranger, visited him when he was sick, and so on. These people would be completely puzzled, and would ask when such things had ever happened—they had no memory of them. Then comes Christ's famous reply, 'Truly, I say to you, when did it to the least of one of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

On the other hand, those on his left would be told, 'Depart from me you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, etc.' In answer to their question as to when they had failed to minister to Jesus, he would answer, 'Truly, I say to you, when did not do it to the least of one of these, you did not do it to me.' Then comes Christ's terrible final verdict, 'These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

We cannot separate the God of the OT from the Jesus of the NT. The former is constantly depicted as abounding in steadfast love, and tenderness, not just to those who love and honour him, but also towards all that he has made. Nevertheless, because he is 'of purer eyes than to look upon wickedness', those who defy and blaspheme him will be judged in holy righteousness.

Similarly, Jesus depicts the Father running to meet his repentant wayward son, embracing him, forgiving him and receiving him back into the family. Nevertheless, he (almost) alone in the whole New Testament speaks of hell—eleven times in the Gospels, and just once in the Letter of his brother James who states that the tongue is sometimes set on fire from hell, such trouble and hurt can it cause!

Thus it is quite false to drive a wedge between the God of the OT and the Son of God in the NT. Both speak of the abounding divine love, but both Testaments assure us that righteous judgement will ultimately punish all unrepentant wickedness.

## GUILD NEWS

The committee met on the 31st of July to complete the syllabus and we are now looking forward to the start of the new session on Monday 9th September, with our theme "One Journey, Many Roads : Companions on the Road"

Meantime we had a full house for our social evening of the Fish and Chip Supper on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August followed by a DVD "The Hundred-foot Journey". Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the evening.

We are now looking forward to the National Annual Gathering held in the Caird Hall in Dundee on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September.

At time of writing there were still a few tickets left (they're free) so if you want to go – and it really is a wonderful day – then please see Joyce or Jenni.

Guild Week follows on from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September, with our Guild Sunday on Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> and our first meeting of the new session on the Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, when Martin will lead a Dedication service and communion in the church. We meet on alternate Mondays and on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September our speaker is Fraser Fair along with his friends who will give us a taste of how they spent their time in Rwanda. An evening not to be missed!

Everyone is welcome to any of our meetings, so please make sure you have a look at the Guild noticeboard to see what's going on.

We have lots of interesting speakers and activities and we would love you to join us.

## Refuge

Numerically speaking, the Church of Scotland may be a shadow of its former self but it still wields a degree of influence when it comes to standing up for what is right. In a recent sermon, Martin spoke of the case detailed in this article:

*Two teenage asylum seekers described as a credit to Scotland are celebrating after winning their battle to escape deportation to Pakistan.*

*Brothers Somer Umeed Bakhsh, 16, and 14-year-old Areeb have spent most of their lives fearing that they could be forced to leave Glasgow and sent back to the country of their birth where Christians are persecuted.*

*But they have only been granted "limited leave to remain" in the UK until February, 2022.*

*The Home Office decision, which also applies to their parents, Maqsood and Parveen, hopefully signals the beginning of the end of a seven and a half year struggle for the family.*

*It is the result of a high profile Church of Scotland campaign, which led to more than 94,000 people signing two online petitions which urged the UK Government not to deport the brothers to their birth country.*

*The family fled to Glasgow in 2012 from Faisalabad after Mr Umeed Bakhsh was subjected to death threats from Islamic extremists due to his Christian faith.*

*They were repeatedly denied asylum and the parents were prevented from earning a living, despite the fact that he is a trained data analyst and she is a midwife/nurse.*

*Somer, who got four As and a B in his Highers and aspires to be an astrophysicist, said: "We have gone through a tough time and I am really happy that we now have the freedom to stay in the country we love.*

*"I feel like a weight has been lifted off my shoulders because the threat of deportation was always in the back of my mind.*

*"Scotland is my home, I have grown up here, all my friends are here and I feel like a Scottish boy.*

*"I am very thankful to everyone who has supported my family and the people who signed the petitions - we could not have got to this point without you.*

*"But I am disappointed that we will have to apply to the Home Office for an extension in just two and a half years."*

*The process to secure permanent leave to remain will likely cost the family tens of thousands of pounds.*

*Somer, who is now in sixth year at Springburn Academy and studying three Advanced Highers, said he was hopeful that he will be accepted to the University of Glasgow next year.*

*Areeb, who is in fourth year at the same school and studying seven National 5s exams, said he was "overwhelmed" by the news.*

*"It has been very stressful but Glasgow is such a lovely place, everyone is so welcoming and my friends at school have always been there for me," he added.*

*"They will be really happy to hear the news and I am looking forward to a degree of normality and hopefully life will be easier because we have been opened up to many more opportunities."*

*Mr and Mrs Umeed Bakhsh will soon be granted work permits and have the opportunity to drive and take their sons on holidays aboard.*

*The family, who are now seeking new accommodation, are active members of Possilpark Parish Church in Glasgow.*

*Their minister, Rev Linda Pollock, has led the campaign to stop them being deported to Pakistan where blasphemy carries the death penalty.*

*Christian friends of Mr Umeed Bakhsh were murdered in 2010 which was the catalyst for his decision to flee with his family to the UK because Islamic extremists threatened his life.*

*The 51-year-old said that once you are marked there is nowhere safe in Pakistan to live.*

*Ms Pollock said: "I am relieved and feel deep joy that this decision has been made because these youngsters have been living in a psychological prison and in bondage for too long.*

*"They are brave, inspirational, compassionate, intelligent, well rounded boys who have experienced sorrow and heartache.*

*"But through all of this they have maintained their dignity and integrity which has not been easy.*

*"They have not allowed the barriers of the prison that they have been forced to live in to make them bitter which is a credit to them and their parents."*

*Ms Pollock said Mr Umeed Bakhsh, a Kirk elder, and his wife could scarcely believe the news when they received the Home Office letter from their lawyer and were "bouncing up and down with wide smiles on their faces".*

*"Going forward I would say look out world, this family are going to do something wonderful," she added.*

*"Don't be surprised if Somer becomes the first Scottish astronaut with Areeb standing behind him ready to fill in.*

*"They are so imaginative and creative, I see no limits for them."*

*Family friend, Rev Dr Martin Johnstone, secretary to the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, said the news was "enormously welcomed."*

*"I have constantly marvelled at the family's resilience, kindness and faith and the decision to give them limited leave to remain is the first good news that they have received from the Home Office," he added.*

*"I am proud that the Church has stood beside them and others seeking refuge in this country over the last number of years and I am confident that we will continue to do so in the challenges that still lie ahead."*

*Former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, said she is "absolutely delighted" that the fear the family has been living in has been removed.*

*"I really don't know how they have coped with it for so long, they are truly amazing," she added.*

*"What the boys have achieved in the midst of all this uncertainty is fantastic and Scotland is blessed to have them."*

## Dalitso Project News

The team have returned from their three week stay in Malawi. The children loved their presents from their sponsors, especially the card games. The variety of games sent was brilliant with some that even we from Scotland had never played. For the days after the gifts were handed out you would find groups of young people engrossed in Uno, Snap and Donkey to name a few. Thanks for the effort put into these gifts. They really are appreciated by the young people.

On arrival we were given a tour of the sites. At Kambilonjo we were able to see the new Borehole and Tank that was drilled with money donated through our Facebook campaign last summer. Water is well and truly flowing in Kambionjo again! Also we were shown the piles of maize bought through the Easter 'harvest' giving.

When the staff at our centres were told that maize relief would be available for them there were cheers and clapping. A massive thank you to the session for organising the collection and for those that contributed. Water and food, two basic needs we take for granted continue to be a challenge in Malawi. Thank you for helping to ensure that our children and staff have these needs met.

Full feedback on our trip will be available in our newsletter. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please do get in touch. Also make sure to like our Facebook page where we will share photos and videos of our trip.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Charis Bowie

## LOOKING AHEAD

### September

**Sunday 1**  
11 am - Worship Service

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

**Sunday 15**  
11 am - Harvest Thanks-  
giving Worship Service;  
followed by a short  
communion service

**Sunday 22**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 29**  
11 am - Harvest Service,  
with special guest The  
Rev. Kenny Borthwick  
4 pm - Messy Church

### October

**Sunday 6**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 13**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 20**  
11 am - Worship Service

**Sunday 27**  
11 am - Worship Service,  
inc. our Autumn  
Great Communion

Sunday services are  
streamed live through  
our website or can be  
watched on 'catch up' at  
our YouTube channel.

Midweek services, take  
place every Wednesday  
at 10.30am followed by  
tea/coffee.

Evening services have  
been replaced by  
'The Big Worship Night In'  
on a termly basis.

## Mental Health Project

Our community choir – which we call Coisir Sunnd – has been up and running since March. Our Drop-in started in mid August and our well-being garden is good to go too! All three of these options combine to form our Mental Health project – our sincere prayer being that we might be able to bring a measure of support to folks within our congregation and, just as importantly, to folks from across our wider community.

All of this is only possible because of the commitment and willingness of a whole number of our members who have offered themselves as volunteers. Between the three parts of the project we have between 20-30 volunteers involved. And beyond that:

1. Helen Wallace has done the lion's share of the development work.
2. A team of seven are serving as the management group
3. Val Bledowski is serving as the lead person for the choir, Jenny Burns for the drop-in and Kevin Burns & Max Wallace for the garden.

Though our congregation is undoubtedly blessed in all kinds of ways, the willingness of members to be involved in ministry and mission is exemplary. Without that, only a fraction of what we offer would be possible.

## South Sudan

*This letter was received from Christian Aid in response to an offering made by the Elders of St. Andrew's Church following The Very Rev. John Chalmers' talk on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> June about the situation in South Sudan.*

"Thank you for your very kind email. It is so wonderful that you were able to hear from The Very Rev. John Chalmers, he is incredibly inspiring and his passion for South Sudan throughout the years has really helped to support the challenging work of the churches there.

We are extremely humbled to hear about your very generous donation, indeed it will make a great contribution to our work in South Sudan. I have made contact with our country manager about this, he asked me to convey his deep gratitude to St. Andrew's Church on behalf of our team in Juba. If it's okay, I'll be in touch again a bit later in the week once we have confirmed the best means of transfer.

Thank you again for your very kind words and consideration.

Kind regards,  
Natalia



## Youth Work Update

We held two Summer Shenanigans sessions throughout the school holidays which were fun mornings similar to a holiday club format. We had around 20 children at each morning, most of whom we have had previous contact with through holiday clubs in the past. In the first session in July, we looked at the Wise and Foolish builders and in the session in August we looked at the Parable of the Sower. We read and talked about the stories, played games, did crafts, worksheets, quizzes and messy challenges. We had ice lollies as our snack to stick with the summer theme which went down very well with children and adults alike! Each child also left with a lunch bag which contained a sandwich, drink, fruit and snacks. These were made up by our catering team and funded by Angus Council to combat food poverty in the school holidays for children who normally receive free school meals. Both mornings were a great success and we look forward to holding similar events again in the school holidays this year. Thank you to the volunteers who helped to lead groups, served the snacks and those who made the lunches. Without these people, we couldn't run events for the children in our church and wider community.

August marked the exciting delivery of our bouncy castle! It is an assault course style bouncy castle with an attachable slide and will be in use for a variety of events with our children and young people, for example, Sunday club, holiday club, fun days etc. It has already had its first use with our Sunday club resuming after the summer holidays. The children had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! The bouncy castle was partly funded by the Aberbrothock Skea Trust at Thorntons and we are very grateful for their generosity and belief in the bouncy castle as a valuable resource for the church.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our youth work!

Carla Ingram

standrews.yg@gmail.com or 07762740317

## Pudding Club

Over a very enjoyable dinner a couple of months back, one of our members (who happens to be an extraordinary cook and baker!) suggested the idea of a Pudding Club. Given that our minister has a notoriously sweet tooth, this idea was always likely to be well-received!!

It's all very simple. The pudding club will meet monthly to... eat puddings and wash them down with refreshments. But alongside the lovely puddings – and the hope is that those who come will take shots at providing puddings – this is another perfect opportunity for folks to come together to enjoy good company.

And beyond that, here's an ideal, non-threatening place to bring a friend to; someone not involved in the life of the church.

Watch this space for full details of when the pudding eating will begin!

## A Season of Prayer

This year, at its General Assembly in May, the Church of Scotland agreed a whole raft of radical ideas designed to address our continuing decline and to make us, organisationally-speaking, fit for purpose for the 21st Century.

Acknowledging that this is going to be far from easy and that a whole number of difficult decisions will have to be made – not least concerning people's livelihoods as the central bureaucracy of the Church is cut by 2—30% - it was agreed that Sept to Dec 2019 be set-aside as a special season of prayer.

It won't surprise you to know that our congregation will embrace this wholeheartedly. In challenging, turbulent times it is essential that we adopt a disposition of being bowed before God, recognising our absolute dependence on Him to lead us forward.

We would encourage as many of you as possible to get involved in the various ways in which we'll look to make this happen from now until the end of the year.

# More in pictures



Martin leading worship in the Church in Bermuda



Gerty Paton - 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday.  
Postie with the card from The Queen.



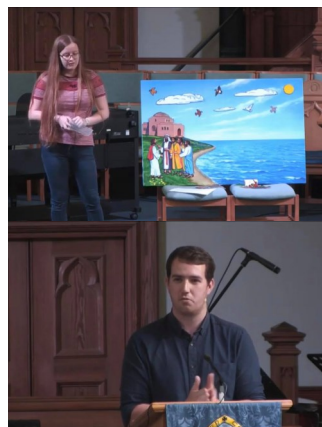
More Sunday Club kids enjoying the bouncy castle



Carla and Martin receiving a cheque from the Aberbrothock Skea Trust for the Bouncy Castle



Pictures from Daitso Project



Carla, Jennie, Michael & Amy leading Sunday 11th August Service