SC005478 October 2019

## **New Elders**

In recent times, the Kirk Session has become increasingly aware that its membership is ageing and that there is a need for some 'new blood' to freshen things up.

In this as in so many other ways through the years, our elders have shown real Godly wisdom – recognising that younger elders are needed as part of the mix if we're to be able to plot the way forward

for our congregation.

New elders equals fresh vision equals new ideas equals renewed energy and enthusiasm.

And it means that some of our wonderful elders who have served faithfully for more years than they care to remember will be able to sit back and hear 'well done, good and faithful servant' whispered in their ears.

Of course we're not planning a coup through which existing elders will be removed from office and a new regime with all new elders established!! There will always be a need for balance between experience and fresh thinking. We'll look to maintain that.

But the Session is more than aware that that balance has been lost somewhat, and with the elders having an average age of 72, that the time for change is now.

To that end, our minister and Joan Hainsworth, our lead Session Clerk, have been meeting with a group of prospective new elders, all of them being younger than our existing elders. This group was drawn up

> by the Kirk Session itself and through a prayerful and thoughtful process, a list of names of members was agreed.

> With the time of preparation nearing its end, it will be for the Kirk Session to give final approval and then we will make plans for a special service during which these new folk will be ordained to the role of

elder within our congregation.

This is an exciting time for our congregation and as soon as we're ready to proceed, the date for the service will be announced.

We hope that the congregation will turn out in force that day to welcome the new elders and to celebrate this milestone in the life of St. Andrew's Church.

## Something for Everyone



If your understanding of 'church' is restricted to a 'building' or 'something that happened between 11am and 12noon on Sunday mornings,' then it's time to broaden your understanding!

Of course we do have buildings
– more or less essential in a
cool, damp climate like ours!
And we do meet on Sunday

mornings; an absolutely fundamental part of who we are and what we do together.

But we're still 'being church' when we meet throughout the week – whether to pray together, or to study the scriptures together, or to enjoy craft-making together, or to meet as a Guild or as a Boys Brigade.

And YES we're still being church when we meet to enjoy a game of bowls together or a round of golf and high tea, or when, as with the women, we meet for a lovely afternoon tea. And we're still being church when we reach out to the poor and broken-hearted, when we gather with families struggling with dementias and so on and so on.

And we're definitely still being church when we're

engaging with a whole host of new youngsters bouncing on our newly-acquired castle and when we're giving thanks in song on a Saturday evening at the Big Worship Night In.

It's all Church.
Be part of it.









#### 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: 07931420905

#### 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

lain and Amy Scott
Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

#### ST ANDREW'S ARBROATH

Member Records August 2019

Baptisms and Blessings - None

Weddings -

Lynne Dennison and Mike Garrett

Funerals - None

Martin and lan, 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 <u>OFFICE</u> by the <u>FIRST</u> date and <u>NOT</u> to Editor.

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

Please <u>DO NOT</u> embed articles in an email as these then need additional formatting work.

Friday 18th October (Written, preferably typed)
Monday 21st October (Word-Processed file)

### **Service Core Group**

#### Turn it off!

Energy conservation is one of the most important things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint. Leaving your electricals on standby needlessly uses up energy – hit the off switch and you could see huge improvements, most noticeably in your energy bills!

### **Soup Lunches**

BB's

Dates of upcoming lunches -

27 October Dalitso
24 November Havilah
26 January Dementia Café
23 February Guild

## Organisations will alert members when groups resume after holidays or when changes to venues are made.

22 March

#### SHINDAY

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 (07931420905)

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: Last Friday of month

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 2019

Dear Friends,

It's a happy coincidence – or more than that – that we find ourselves on Sunday mornings working our way through Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians – at the time when the Church of Scotland is committing itself to establishing one hundred new worshipping communities in the next ten years.

Paul's entire ministry was about church planting; that is; taking to the Gospel to communities which had never heard of Jesus and through preaching and teaching and the example of Christian living, founding brand new churches. 1st Thessalonians emerges from that period. Paul and his companions had birthed a little Christian assembly in Thessalonica and, despite strong opposition, the church there thrived and became an example to others across the whole of the Christian world.

In 21<sup>st</sup> Christian Scotland, it is now widely recognised that we are in that kind of situation again. So many of our fellow Scots know little or nothing of Christ, or his claims, and fewer and fewer are coming anywhere near existing churches. We've covered this subject before in these pages but it cannot be overstated or ignored. We're in a perilous situation.

One part of the response is, exactly as was Paul's, to plant new Christian communities – new churches. But in doing so, there needs to be a realisation that these are unlikely to look anything like our existing, inherited churches. In fact as we examine the brand new churches that already coming to life, we see communities that are different in almost every conceivable way – apart, that is, from the commitment to Christ. But in terms of the times of meeting, the forms of worship, the activities undertaken, it's all up for grabs.

The fact of the matter is that England is well ahead of Scotland in terms of developing this process of church planting – and it's time that we caught up. This ambitious commitment – to found one hundred new churches – is a step in the right direction.

And as we set about it – across Scotland – Paul should be our inspiration. His heart, his passion, his drive and commitment, were to give his all to make known the name of Jesus and his amazing, saving grace. Now, it's our time.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

## **Remembrance Sunday**

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the 10<sup>th</sup> November and, as always, our service will start at **10.45am** that day to allow for the Act of Remembrance and the associated two-minute silence to take place at 11am.

Those with connections to the armed services – past or present – are especially welcome and as part of the service, we will be praying for the safety of serving soldiers and for the wellbeing of those who remember and who are often scarred by what they experienced. Thereafter, we'll pray for, and commit ourselves to working for, a more peaceful and just world.

## Ask Theophilus

#### **Question:**

Recently I heard a Church of Scotland minister saying that militaristic hymns should be banned nowadays. He quoted 'Onward Christian soldiers' and 'Fight the mood fight'. His argument was that in the kingdom of God the wolf would lie down with the lamb, and swords would be beaten into agricultural implements (Isaiah 2:4; 65:25). Do you agree?

#### **Theophilus answers:**

Two main points must be understood. The first is that the kingdom of God is rightly described as 'already, but not yet'! That little phrase means that Jesus inaugurated the kingdom of God by his coming to earth and by his resurrection and ascension after his work on the cross. Yes, by Christ's risen presence the kingdom is already amongst us.

But though it has been inaugurated by Jesus, his kingdom is not yet consummated. The church is God's agent, working and witnessing to bring about his kingdom. But not until Christ's return in glory will the kingdom be fully realized and enjoyed.

The second point arises from what I have just said that the church is God's agent in the world to bring about his kingdom. That's where the militaristic metaphors come in. And they are metaphors. That is, the Bible, especially in the New Testament, in order to describe the activities of the Lord's people, the writers uses word-pictures such as 'weapons', 'swords', 'wars' and 'warfare'. Why? Because we are surrounded by evils such as exploitation, cyber crime, modern-day slavery, hatred, immorality and all manner of wickedness.

These evils have to be 'fought' against (there's a military word!). But as Paul says, 'For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds' (2 Cor. 10:3-4). In other words, it is a spiritual war in which believers are engaged. Indeed, there are well over a dozen occurrences of this spiritual 'warfare' metaphor in the New Testament.

So what, then, are the spiritual 'weapons' that the churches and her members must use to engage in this war against wickedness? We find them in Ephesians 6:10-19: 'righteousness', that is right relationships with the Lord, with others and ourselves; the 'gospel of peace', that is the gospel's message of wholeness and healing, together with reconciliation with God; 'truth' in a world where 'truth' is twisted and hidden in a morass of lies and deception including the truth about the Lord and the unpalatable truth about our fallen human natures; the 'Word of God', that is the whole Bible; finally and perhaps the most neglected weapon of all, 'prayer'.

I think you will realise that, while I have admitted there was an element of truth in the minister's objection to 'military-style' hymns, there is much more to be said about warfare on this side of heaven. No wonder the Scriptures conclude with the fervent prayer, 'Come, Lord Jesus!'

## **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.

## St. Andrew's Church Coffee Morning

The Coffee Morning will start again on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am – 11.30am and will run on the last Friday of each month.

We look forward to meeting you all again and would like to thank Janis, Sheila and Isobel for their many years of devoted service to the Coffee Morning.

### Guild

Here we are again at the start of a new Guild year. This year's theme is "Companions on the Road" and we have a varied programme which we hope will have something for everyone. Guild week began with the National Annual Gathering in the Caird Hall in Dundee on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and a group of us went through and had a day of meeting up with folk from other Guilds and enjoying a full programme, including personal reflections from the Moderator, Rt. Rev. Colin Sinclair and guest speaker Carolyn Boyd Tomasovic from the Ecumenical Women's Initiative. The highlight (for me!) was enjoying the Dundee Gospel Choir who were full of joy and praise. It was also good to hear that in the first year of three years of the Projects the totals are:

• Crossreach (Loneliness and Isolation): £44.535.93.

Sailors Society: £26,160.49;The Boys Brigade: £53,556.30;

• World Mission Council (Seema's Project): £27,795.14;

• Malawi Fruits: £32,099.68

• Free to Live Trust (Teenage Mothers in Zambia): £42,680.15.

The difference in the totals at present is because the Guilds in Scotland can choose whichever two projects they wish each year and then another two each for the next two years so that at the end of the three years all projects will have been supported by every Guild and the totals will be similar. Last year we supported Free to Live Trust and Boys Brigade and this year we have chosen Malawi Fruits and Crossreach.

Ladies from our Guild took part in the Guild Sunday service on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September and who'll forget our two hill walkers?!

Our first meeting was on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September when Martin took our dedication and communion service.

On the Wednesday evening a few of us joined with other Guilds at the Guilds Together Dedication and Communion Service at Hillside church.

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September six ladies from our Guild spent a lovely day meeting up with seven ladies from Christ Kirk Church Guild, Glenrothes. Time was spent going round the Dundee V & A followed by a super lunch at Sleeperz. The conversation flowed and it was agreed that we will not leave it so long to meet up again, when we can cross the water to them next time.

At time of writing, we are looking forward to our Guild meeting tomorrow night (23<sup>rd</sup> September) when Fraser Fair and friends will be telling us about their time in Rwanda.

Please have a look at our syllabus on the Guild Noticeboard in the Big Hall and come along to any evening that interests you... although it would be lovely if you came to them all!! You don't need to be a Guild member.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Arbroath BB

Our new session started on 5<sup>th</sup> of September. We currently have 5 Anchor Boys, 8 Juniors and 8 Company boys. Both Anchor and Junior Sections have received new Achievement packs, which we are looking forward to using each week. Two of our Company boys are working towards their Queens Badge. They have met with the Queens Badge Advisor and have now planned out their years work.

A residential course is to be taken up in the near future, which will be at Carronvale House our Scottish headquarters.

We are hoping to encourage new volunteers to help out in all of our sections. If this is an area that you would like to serve, within our church family please come forward and speak to us. We are heading towards our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the 2020/2021 session and new people with new ideas to take us forward are needed now.

We break for the October holidays and return on 24<sup>th</sup> of October for our rededication service which we invite you all to come and join in this short service at 7.15pm. All sections meet as normal from 6pm.

Captain Wilma H. Ewart

### **Friends Club**

We started the 2019-2020 session on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

We had some sad news to share with the members, the child we sponsored in Malawi took ill in July and sadly died of kidney failure; we will continue to support the program and will sponsor another child soon.

We were entertained by the Dee Ukes on Thursday, they had everyone clapping and singing, a very entertaining afternoon was had by all. We enjoyed having them and they enjoyed their afternoon with us - details of their upcoming concert are on the Friends Club notice board, they raise money for a different charity every year.

The syllabus for the friends club is pinned on our notice board, everyone is welcome to join us; you don't have to come every month.

There is a misprint on the syllabus, our bus trip in May 2020 leaves the Church at 2.00pm not 12noon.

Our Christmas Party will be on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.00pm, costing £12.00. Entertainment will be provided by Roy Duncan. If you would like to join us, please let us know by November.

We have quite a few new entertainers this year; thanks to Mo Broomfield's research. We look forward to seeing them all.

Our next meeting will be Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2.00pm and entertainment will be provided by Slipway.

Noela

## **Dalitso Project News**

For those at church or watching online on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September you will have heard me feedback to the congregation information from our summer trip. This made mention of the generous donations that allowed the drilling of the new Kambilonjo borehole and the buying of maize in response to the floods in March. I also shared a photo of the Mary Spink Training Centre and of some of our children making use of the tailoring room. We are awaiting the government inspectors that will sign off the building and then provide the staff for this to be officially opened.

I finished with photos of Ishmael and Tryness, two children who were living in a really vulnerable situation that are now boarders at Kabilonjo with massive smiles on their faces. These two children and the 300+ others lives are being transformed by your support.

But... as with all trips we come across situations that require our attention. This list, more often than not, can be added to more quickly than we can take away so we have to prioritise our funds to where the needs are most. What was clear is that housing is an issue at Thyolo with little land available to purchase. It is difficult to find and priced far higher than almost all can afford. And so we have discovered that our poorest children are living in extremely low standard housing. That is why one of our priorities at Thyolo is to build rentable, affordable housing. We understand this is a big undertaking and that it will not be immediately realised but when we look back over what has been achieved in 12 years we know it is something to plan ahead towards. We look forward to sharing with you our progress.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Charis Bowie

## Trainee Minister Placement David Galbraith

Occasionally in our lives we have a feeling that we are not doing what we really want to be doing; that there is something more worthwhile that we could be doing. Sometimes, if we are lucky, we come to the realisation that the feeling is because God has something in mind for us. What that something is, is different for all of us, different but important, as we all play our roles in God's Kingdom, here on Earth.

These feelings started up in me a few years ago, and I am now travelling on a journey with God, that brings me to be with you for the next 7 or 8 months, so it seems like a good idea to introduce myself to you, in part so I don't have to keep saying the same thing.

Firstly, some facts about me. I live, with my wife, Ann, of some 35 years, just outside Auchenblae, in West Mearns Parish which is just to the West of the A90 near Laurencekirk, in the Presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside. We have lived in that area since a year after we got married, so we are getting used to the locality.

We have 3 children and two grandchildren (so far), all of whom live in and around Edinburgh. I have worked in the oil and gas industry as a structural engineer for 40 years. We have however reached a stage in lives in which our children are generally financially self-sufficient, and as such I now have the luxury of being able to work part-time.

Over a period of several months I sought to understand specifically what it is that God is asking me to do, in a process called Discernment, and during that time I was based at Banchory Ternan East Church with the Rev. Alan Murray, who was my mentor. It was through being involved with the

congregation there and with a couple of other congregations, and after many hours of drinking coffee while chatting to Alan, that I came to the realisation that God is calling me to be a minister, to spread His Word, and to be involved in pastoral work with communities.

The specific form of ministry I feel called to is known as "Ordained Local Minister" which is a part-time ministry of Word and Sacrament, working within a Presbytery, but not necessarily to a specific parish or group of parishes. Ian Grey is an example of an OLM within the Angus Presbytery.

Following various slightly intimidating assessments and interviews, I was accepted as a "Candidate OLM" in May of 2018, although it is probably easier to think of me as being a student or a trainee. My first training placement was under the supervision of Rev. Linda Steven in the West Angus Area Ministry around Kirriemuir – Linda herself was a one-time trainee under Martin at Arbroath St. Andrews.

I have now started my second placement with you, being supervised by Martin, and you have already made Ann and I feel very welcome. I specifically asked to come to St. Andrews, partly because of Martin's reputation, but more particularly because of the more contemporary style of worship and especially for the outreach work undertaken in the parish with addicts, mental illness and refugees. I am firmly of the belief that we are called not just to "minister to the faithful", but also to the "least of our brothers and sisters" both in the local community and wider world.

I am not a stranger to the ways of the Church of Scotland, having been a Presbytery elder for 11 or 12 years, I have now escaped from being a session clerk, but for the last 2 years I have been the convenor of one of the Kincardine and Deeside Presbytery Committees. In addition I am also the Interim Moderator for the newly united Stonehaven Carronside parish where, after taking 12 months to negotiate the move to a union, we are now starting the search for a minister in earnest.

I am looking forward to my time with you, worshipping together and getting to know you while you get to know me. Martin and I will be discussing exactly what I get involved in, but I hope to be with you as much as my time allows.

May God's blessings be with you all, and ... See you around.

#### David

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### October

Sunday 6 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 13 11 am - Worship Service, with guest speaker, Jim McCluskey (Salvation Army)

Sunday 20 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 27
11 am - Worship Service, inc. our Autumn
Great Communion
4 pm - Messy Church

#### November

Sunday 3 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 10 10.45am - Worship Service; Act of Remembrance

Sunday 17 11 am - Worship Service; followed by a short communion service

Sunday 24 11 am - Worship Service 4 pm - Messy Church

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.

## **Youth Work Update**

We are now well into the new academic year and our work with the schools is carrying on and growing in strength from last year. In the last session we completed the Bible Alive programme with Warddykes, Hayshead and Ladyloan P6's (around 150 children) and are looking forward to continuing this with their current P6 pupils. We will also be adding Timmergreens and Muirfield to this programme and are excited to share with these new schools.

The Bible Alive programme works through the whole bible in seven hours over seven weeks and uses a wide variety of storytelling methods to engage the children. To make the delivery of the programme more manageable, we are splitting the schools and running three sessions throughout the year which will all take place on a Thursday. I am very grateful for the help that Joan Finlayson gives me in these sessions through assisting with my storytelling and also taking a central role in sharing some bible stories herself. The children really love her taking part and she brings so much enthusiasm to these classes!

In recent weeks we have taken the decision to open up our Sunday night Youth Group to P7's to try and maintain a relationship with some of the children who have finished the Bible Alive programme. We have had an extremely positive response and have seen our numbers grow quite dramatically through handing out flyers at their schools. It is lovely to see how relaxed and familiar the children are being in our church building with many commenting on being there for the 'Bubblegum 'n' Fluff' and 'Easter Code' programmes in P5 and 6.

We hope and pray that they feel very welcome at our group and that they are keen to keep coming along to take part in activities, socialise with others and to hear more about God and His relevance to their lives.

On Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September we used our new bouncy castle with the 25 young people at Youth Group and they all had a fantastic time. It is great to have a resource which can be used in a variety of contexts throughout the year to reach more children and young people and to see them enjoying it so much. We also plan to use the equipment at a Holiday Club day in the October holidays with primary aged children. Information for this event and sign ups will be given in the bulletin and on the church Facebook page.

Please pray for all the children and young people we have worked with in the past and will be meeting in this academic year.

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

#### Carla Ingram

standrews.yg@gmail.com or 07931420905

## The Pope's Astronomer!

Our minister is a member of the steering board of the ecumenical organisation, Grasping the Nettle. The group's aim is to challenge the myth that science and religious faith can only ever be enemies and in doing that, to offer an alternative view to that of Richard Dawkins and his allies who through their new atheism have sought to attack Christian (and other) faith at every opportunity.

To that end, Grasping the Nettle, which came into being in 2015, has hosted a number of events and conferences featuring some world-renowned speakers, among them theologian and eminent scientists. Coming up soon there is to be a series of events featuring Dr. Guy Consolmagno. Guy is a Jesuit brother and a leading astronomer.

Pope Francis installed him as lead astronomer to the Vatican Observatory and alongside his astronomical research he tours widely giving talks to a range of audiences.

We're delighted, therefore, to announce that Guy Consolmagno will be speaking at a special event to be held in the Dundee Science Centre on Friday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> November. Tickets are only £5 which includes nibbles and refreshments. These can be purchased from our own church office.

This is a wonderful opportunity to hear someone of this level of expertise who will make it abundantly clear that science and religious faith are natural allies, not enemies, and that scientific discovery serves only to increase our sense of wonderment concerning God's creation.

## A Season of Prayer

Throughout this autumn, the Church of Scotland is engaging in a season of prayer. With some major changes taking place—all designed to help the church become more 'minion-minded' and less bureaucratic and centralised—it is right that we pray for this process and for those who have been charged with leading it. And of course it's vital that we ask God to guide us in it all—after all, the Psalmist tells us that 'unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain.'

The following prayer comes from the Right Rev. Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland:

Jesus Christ, You call us all to follow You in the adventure of faith.

As we begin the process of change guided by Your spirit, help us to trust You. Help us to willingly let go of all "the ways we have always done things", when it feels safer to shrink from changes that deeply affect us, back into what we have known. Inspire us to take risks, to creatively and courageously be Your church today: looking to You in worship, reaching into our communities venturing out in service. Bless the Church of Scotland as we seek to build Your Kingdom. Bless the Assembly Trustees in their tasks, bless the new Chief Officer when they take up their post and help us all to see what we can do, together, to bring into being the Radical Action Plan. Let us renew our commitment to follow You as we step out in glad obedience.

For Your name's sake

Amen

## More in pictures





Above: Mary Spink Training Centre Left: The house of Gift - Samson and his family in Thyolo.



Guy Consolmagno: Lead astronomer to the Vatican



Lynne Dennison & Mike Garrett









