SC005478 November 2019

Rev Dr Martin Fair is named Moderator Designate

On Sunday 20th October, Martin announced to the Kirk Session and the congregation, that on Monday he would be publicly named the Moderator Designate of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for the year 2020 – 2021.

This is the first time in the history of the Church of

Scotland that a Minister from Arbroath has been chosen to be Moderator.

As the Church family of St. Andrew's Church, we are honoured and rejoice that our Minister and friend has been called to serve our Lord in this role.

During his press conference at the Church of Scotland offices, Edinburgh, Martin spoke of his passion and the churches obligation to support the vulnerable within our communities.

Here is some of what Martin had to say about his appointment:

"I am really excited about the future of the Church and quite frankly, if I solely focused on statistics that suggested terminal decline I would have quit the ministry years ago," he added.

"It is at a key crossroads and we are letting go of some of what has been and embracing what is to come.

"I am looking forward to getting out and about and being alongside folk in the local church and hope to be an encouraging voice to help prepare all of us for what God has in store.



"There is a wonderful opportunity for the Church right now to rediscover its meaning and purpose for the people of Scotland and beyond in the here and now.

"I am totally fired up as a minister and as Moderator, I want to communicate that excitement and positivity."

This will involve a period of change in our Church but we assure Martin of our support both in prayer and pastorally and we will continue to serve God and His people in our Church and community.

May God Bless Martin, Elaine and their family.

New Elders

We are delighted to announce that eight new elders will be ordained during our morning service on Sunday 1st December – the first Sunday of Advent, traditionally viewed as the beginning of the Christian year. What better that at the beginning of the year we mark this new beginning in the life of our congregation!

The Kirk Session gave considerable, prayerful thought to the question of new elders and recognised that there were many suitable candidates within the congregation. However, it seemed to them vital that, at this time, new elders should be younger than the existing ones with the overriding concern being to lower the age of the Kirk Session.

Of course, it goes without saying that a genuine Christian commitment and a passionate desire to see our congregation flourish were also considered essential. Elders are required to sign a formula, which asks them to agree that they believe the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith and that they will commit themselves to the peace and unity of the Church. All of our new elders are ready so to do.

We should rejoice that God is raising up new leaders among us and that in an age where few want to commit, we have many who are only too ready to commit!

As the new elders are ordained, please pray that God will continue to nourish and equip them and that they will quickly grow into their new roles.







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 October 2019

Baptisms and Blessings - None

Weddings - None

Funerals -

Thelma Birse, Anne McIntosh, Robert Spink

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

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

Friday 22nd November (Written, preferably typed)
Monday 25th November (Word-Processed file)

Service Core Group

Switch to renewables

Changing your energy supplier to one that's 100% renewable is a great eco-friendly tip for any home. Anyone can do it, switching is simple and hassle-free plus all the electricity you use when on a 100% renewable tariff is effectively zero carbon!

Soup Lunches

Dates of upcoming lunches -

24 November Dalitso

26 January Dementia Café

23 February Guild 22 March BB's 26 April Dalitso

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 (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

November 2019

Dear Friends,

By now most of you will have heard that I am the Moderator Designate for 2020-2021 – that is, I have been nominated to be the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for that year. Since the beginning of the Church of Scotland in 1560 there has never been a Moderator from an Arbroath congregation (and very few from Angus as a whole) so it's an honour for me AND for you, the people of St. Andrew's Church AND for the town of Arbroath which, in the same year, will be acknowledging the 700th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath.

- 1. What was the process? Between May and June, I was approached by half a dozen people independently asking if I'd be willing to be nominated. Initially I said no but after further reflection and prayer I decided to allow it and to say to God, 'If this is how you want me to serve you then let it be so.' I was interviewed late in September along with various others (we never knew who any of the others were) and later that evening I got a call to inform me that I had been selected. I was surprised and taken aback but as it sunk in, excited and not a little daunted!
- 2. The nomination was to be kept quiet until the Church made it official something that they are required to do every year before the end of October. And so a press conference was organised at the Church offices in Edinburgh on the morning of 21st October and after that, the news was out in the press, on the television news and extensively on Facebook and Twitter. I was overwhelmed by the response messages of congratulations, support and promises of prayer from across the country and further afield even from people I was at primary school with and haven't seen in over forty years!
- 3. What happens now? Of course I won't be installed as Moderator until the General Assembly next year Saturday 16th May to be precise. Until then Colin Sinclair will continue he's doing an excellent job. For now, I'll be continuing as minister here albeit with preparation for next year beginning. Then in March, I will leave Arbroath and take up residence in Edinburgh to fully commit myself to preparation. There's a lot to be done! I'll have plenty of writing to do sermons, speeches, talks etc. for the flood of engagements and services that I'll be attending. And I'll need to make sure that I'm 100% ready for the General Assembly itself; familiar with every aspect of the life of the church and its engagement with the nation and wider world.
- 4. At the beginning of May, I'll move into the Moderator's official flat and be ready for the big day! Thereafter, it will be a hectic year essentially serving as the ambassador for the Church at home and abroad. While Elaine will essentially remain here in Arbroath, we hope that she'll be able to join me for at least part of the year.
- 5. In future editions of QUEST, we'll say more about how the ministry and mission of St. Andrew's will be maintained during my absence until my return after the end of the General Assembly of 2021.

Allow me to finish with this. For my own part, I've never been concerned with promotion or rank or with prominence. If I had been, I'd have moved on from St. Andrew's a long time ago! I've only ever been concerned with serving. I believe that God called me here and that it has been His will that I remain here. So accepting the nomination to be Moderator is for me nothing more than a continuation of that life of service. Yes, it's an honour. But it's not about pride or prestige. It will be about moving on to the national stage – for a year – and there, using every opportunity to point to the King and his kingdom.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday falls on the 10th 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 will pray for, and commit ourselves to working for, a more peaceful and just world.

Ask Theophilus

Question:

What does it mean in Matthew 4:9 where we read the devil said to Jesus, 'All these [the kingdoms of the world] will I give you, if you will fall down and worship me'? What is meant here by 'worship'?

Theophilus answers:

Today the word 'worship' is probably the most misunderstood and misused word in the whole Bible. The devil was not asking Jesus to sing a song in his praise! 'Worship' does not mean 'singing' *per se*!

We must go back to the book of Exodus. There time after time, Moses made the request to Pharaoh, 'The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, sent me to you, saying "Let my people go that they may 'serve' me in the wilderness" (7:16, etc.). Unfortunately, the NIV usually translates the Hebrew word as 'worship', whereas ESV and AV always translate it more accurately as 'serve'. So why is the word 'serve' a better translation than 'worship'?

The scenario is this. The Hebrew people had become enslaved to the Egyptian Pharaoh. When Moses asks that they be allowed to go and 'serve' the Lord their God, Pharaoh angrily replies that he does not know this Lord God of the Hebrews; because these people were *his* slaves, they served *him*. Therefore he would not let them take time off to go and serve some other God of whom he knew nothing.

As you will know, the story of the Exodus is the story of the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery for Pharaoh.

That is why we must translate the second commandment using the word 'serve' rather than 'worship' (as the NIV unhelpfully) does:

'You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or **serve** them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God...' Exodus 20:4-5.

No longer are the Hebrew people slaves of Pharaoh, serving him; now that they have been redeemed by the Lord God they serve him.

Back then to your question and the meaning of the devil's demand that Jesus bow down and 'worship' him. He was challenging Jesus to abandon his faith and trust in his heavenly Father, and become his servant. Jesus' reward for this treason against his Father would be worldly power and glory. Thus we see that the true meaning of 'worship' is becoming the obedient, unquestioning servant or slave of some master.

It is obvious that there are two distinct ways of 'singing', in the sense of 'worship', as the word is often misused today. First, our praise of the Lord can be a genuine reaffirmation of our total allegiance to him as our Lord and Master, as the one whom we serve and obey. But second, our songs can be purely emotional—we like the tune, we like the music, we like the lyrics; but, having sung our heads off, we then go out and do our own thing, ignoring the voice and commands of Christ. Lip-service is never genuine worship. True faith is characterised by obedience to Christ as our Master. Therefore we are not our own, we have been bought an infinitely costly price. Knowing that, and living it out each day, is true worship.

The Living Room

Our Community Spirit annexe at Fisheracre has been open for quite a few years now and, as we had always hoped, it has in that time become a place where much loving Christian outreach takes place.

It is exciting to see that other congregations are taking similar steps, not least St. John's Church in Largs, under the leadership of minister, Jonathon Fleming.

A new community drop-in centre to support people going through hard times is opening in North Ayrshire.

The Living Room in Largs is a safe space where people can unburden themselves free of judgement.

St. John's Parish Church is at the forefront of the project, opening on Monday, and hopes it will be a "beacon of light". Minister, Rev. Jonathan Fleming, said members felt the need to "reach out" to the growing number of people with mental health issues at a time when local services are increasingly oversubscribed.

Mr Fleming said: "As members of the Christian community and the wider community of Largs, we have a responsibility to reach out to those around us... The church is first and foremost a place of refuge for those who are hurting or struggling."

The Living Room is supported by churches from different denominations across the local area and people of no faith. Douglas Creighton, probationer minister at St. John's Parish Church linked with Cumbrae, said: "We want The Living Room to be a beacon of light for those who are travelling at the darkest points of their life and for us to burn brightly, the light needs to be that of God... It is by being Christ in our community that we are proclaiming the Gospel."

Core to the success of the project is partnership working with Care for the Family. The organisation's national representative in Scotland, Gill Lyth, said: "We are so pleased to be partnering with The Living Room... This place is the ideal place for people to feel at ease and [be] met by someone who cares."

The Living Room has been awarded a £5,000 grant by the Church's Go for It fund and £5,500 from the Kelburn Windfarm Community Fund.

Other church congregations have agreed to support the initiative with prayer, volunteers and varying levels of financial contribution.

The Living Room hopes to develop a partnership with Christians Against Poverty, which will provide advice on household budgeting, and Alzheimer's Scotland in the not too distant future.

Guild

We were very pleased to welcome Fraser and his friend, Hannah, who had been part of the team from Arbroath Academy who had gone to Rwanda in the Summer.

We heard their first hand experiences out in Rwanda as they shared their highs and lows of their time away. They were great young speakers who went to help out in different ways and who came back having learnt a lot from the children and people they met. A Summer they will long remember.

On the 7th of October Glynis and Ken came along with their Dementia dog, Kaspa and we learned how Kaspa helps Ken in his daily life and how the dog's presence is invaluable to Glynis' peace of mind, knowing that Ken has his 'companion' with him and that through his training Kaspa is able to understand Ken's needs.

The 'Guilds Together' Autumn meeting was held at St. Vigean's church hall on the 16th of October and a few of us went along to meet up with other Guilds. The speaker was Margaret Thomson, Area Representative for PAT – Pets as Therapy – who spoke about her work visiting schools, care homes, hospitals, etc. with one of her dogs.

Save the Date: On Saturday 9th of November we have our Soup and Pudding lunch when we also hope to have a small Christmas craft stall – all proceeds will go towards our two projects:

Malawi Fruits (Growing the Future with Solar Futurepumps) and

CrossReach Join the Dots (tackling loneliness and social isolation in Scotland) so please, come along to support these projects.

Wonderful Giving at Harvest Time

Our Harvest Offering this year raised £2,483.72 which will be split equally between the three nominated charities, namely:

- The local Syrian refugee group
- Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance
- World Vision: Empowering Vulnerable Girls project

Also, earlier this year due to the terrible flooding in Malawi an early Harvest collection for the Dalitso project raised the generous sum of £1,748.50.

Thanks be to God for His wonderful provision to us all, that we may have the privilege of blessing others.

Friends Club

At our October meeting, we were entertained by Ian Lamb, Alan Mowatt and Tony Simpson otherwise known as 'Slipway'.

Ian told us about the CD they have recorded and have currently raised £8,000 from sales, which they have distributed amongst local charities.

Ian is the songwriter and writes about almost anything. Alan is the group's singer and Tony, with his accordion brings a haunting sound to the sea songs.

They performed a lot of 'golden oldies' which we all joined in with as well as some of Ian's own songs.

"The Boy and Girl" tells the story of the 'Girl Jean' fishing boat.

"Gamblers Chorus" was written after Ian (who was a reporter with DC Thomson) reported on a case at the Sherriff Court.

"You Mean So Much To Me" is a tribute to Ian's wife.

"The Round O" is about the Abbey and lastly, they played "Shipwreck of Time" which is still to be recorded.

We all had a great time, enjoyed the singing as well as the tea and scones afterwards.

Our next meeting is Thursday 7th November and we will be entertained with more singing; this time from Ian Ramsay with his Ceilidh Band. Come, join us, and have an entertaining afternoon.

Noela

Voice Speech and Drama Classes & Private Tuition

Contact Joanna Cooper

07724 780558

Dalitso Project News

With Christmas coming up we are readying ourselves for a busy few weeks.

Our Alternative Gift Catalogue will be available again. This includes items like mosquito nets, school textbooks, pens and bunk beds that can be purchased for someone on your present list to be used by someone in Malawi. Do get in touch if you would like a copy of our catalogue. For those that have bought in the past you will be pleased to know that we have updated our cards with new photos from our summer trip as I can imagine some of you have used them all by now!

As always we will be holding a Pamper Weekend with Becky Dunphy and Leonie Atalay. This will be prior to Christmas like in previous years.

The date will be announced soon and will be advertised in the church bulletin, local press and on our Facebook page. Again there will be the opportunity to book in to get your nails done or get a physiotherapist treatment or to pop in for a bowl of soup and some tasty cakes. More details nearer the time.

Finally, we would like to thank those that volunteered to sew the blankets. There was such a good response all our smaller blankets have been distributed for sewing. These will be sent out to Malawi to be used by our children and their families.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the November Soup Lunch after the service on the 24th.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Charis

The Gift of Giving

As Christians, we know we are accountable to God for what we do with all our money, all our time and all our talents – not only the money, time and talents we give as an offering to support the work of the Church, but the stewardship of all we have and how we use it in our daily lives. The way in which we use our time, talent and money is a fundamental part of our Christian living, our Christian discipleship.

The gift of giving is certainly a beautiful and a wonderful gift. We know how fully and completely Jesus gave Himself for us. Christ gave Himself as a ransom of our sins and He is our benchmark and model for giving.

The incarnation, the cross and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit reveal to us the astonishing depths of God's generosity toward humankind. It is the earthly life and parables of Jesus that show what this generosity looks like translated into human behaviour.

Many of Jesus' parables and, indeed, his own actions involve celebrations, meals, parties and a sharing of food, financial resources and time, especially with those who might least expect to be included.

LOOKING AHEAD

November

Sunday 3 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 10
10.45 am - 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

December

Sunday 1 11 am - All-age Worship Service, first in Advent inc. Ordination of Elders and Communion

Sunday 8 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 15 11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 22 11 am - Worship Service

Christmas Eve 6.30 pm - Nativity & Christingle Service 11.15 pm - Traditional Watchnight Service

Christmas Day 10.30 am - Christmas Day Service for all the family

Sunday 29 11 am - Worship Service; final service of the year

There is no shortage of biblical references to giving, with over 2,300 verses in the Bible on money, wealth and possessions. Jesus talked about it frequently, and over one-third of his parables relate to these topics. These references suggest generous giving should be:

- a priority assessed in relation to all of our income, and not simply the spare change after all other needs have been satisfied. (e.g. Deut 26:2-3, 1Cor 16:2, 2Cor 8:5)
- prayerful an act of worship and thanksgiving. (e.g. 1Chron 29:10-14)
- planned but not prescriptive, and allowing spontaneous generosity. (e.g. 2Cor 9:7)
- proportionate a realistic proportion of our income. (e.g. 1Cor 16:2, 2Cor 8:11-13)
- given in community both for the needs of others, and given with others for a common purpose. (e.g. Acts 2:2-47, 2Cor 8:13,14). The act of giving shifts our focus from individual wants to a communal need, demonstrating solidarity with the poor and a commitment to working together in mission.
- sacrificial in that there is a cost to our giving. As a result, we will have less to spend on ourselves, and our lifestyles will reflect this. Those who have more to give, will give more. (e.g. Luke 21:1-4, 2Cor 8:2-4)
- **cheerfully and joyfully given** whether giving of money, time or hospitality, we give with grace from the heart, as an offering to God. (e.g. 2 Cor 9:7,8)

The scope of Christian giving is not just financial giving but how we use the money, time, talents and possessions God has entrusted to us. Generous giving should become second nature to us, and as it becomes so, our living and our giving are transformed to start to resemble the overflowing generosity of God. This is Giving for Life.

Cont'd on page 7

At St. Andrew's the level of regular giving whether by bringing an offering every week or by standing order through the bank or by other means has, over many years, been exceptional. The beautiful thing about this is that YOU, the congregation of St Andrew's, have a heart to give and as a result, you have given wonderfully for the previous annual Gift Days, and in response to many other requests. As a result, YOU make a difference to the lives of those around us in Arbroath and further afield. Now that is the spirit of giving!

When God moves upon the hearts of people to give, it really is an exciting thing - because when we open our hearts to give unto the Lord it is beautiful and we see God at work, impacting on lives of those who give and those to whom we reach out. We see this through the work we do with children and young people, reaching out to those for whom poverty or substance misuse press in on their lives, those for whom mental issues impact on their lives, or those who in their later years find ill health limiting what they can do. There are many other ways, of course, in which we positively impact on people's lives, often quietly in the background.

So, on Sunday, 24th November, we will have our Annual Gift Day. This is an opportunity for you to support our ministries and mission and ensure that our work is well resourced and effective in reaching out to meet the spiritual and practical needs within our communities. We ask you to consider £50 as a starting point. You should however, only give that which you can give willingly from your heart - an amount which is 'loose change' to one person is the 'widow's mite' to another!

Let's respond generously and pray fervently that our gifts may be used wisely and well in the furtherance of the Love, Peace, Joy and Justice of Jesus:

"We thank you, God, for all your gifts; for life in your wonderful world; for space and time to enjoy your gift of life; for talents that bring us a sense of fulfilment.

We thank you, God, for coming as Jesus: to show us how much you love us; to forgive us through the cross of Calvary; to raise us with Christ to new life with you.

We thank you, God, for your Holy Spirit: your presence to guide us day by day; your assurance of your continuing love."

Yours in Christ, The Finance and Administration Core Group

Did you know?... If you are already giving and pay tax to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have you considered Gift Aid (GA)? If you are not already giving by GA but you pay tax, joining means an immediate 25% increase in what the church can receive without any additional contribution or commitment from yourself – we make the claim from HMRC. It's easy to sign up for this, just speak to Linda in the church office.

Youth Work Update

On Wednesday the 16th of October we held a holiday club morning called 'Tattie Holiday Takeover', similar to our 'Summer Shenanigans' events.

This was a free two-hour event where we welcomed 45 primary school children from our community, many of whom did not have any previous church connections. Most of these children signed up from seeing an advertisement on Facebook, which is becoming a fantastic resource to access young people in our town.

We began the morning with board games and using our bouncy castle — the kids were incredibly enthusiastic and loved using the full bouncy assault course in the church sanctuary. The theme of our morning was the Parable of the Lost Sheep and we illustrated the story with our flannelgraph board.

The children made one of three sheep crafts depending on their age; these were a picture, puppet and pencil topper.

As well as a snack (crisps for the tattie holidays), each child left with a balanced lunch bag prepared by our Catering Team and funded by Angus Council.

All of the children had a fantastic time with many

All of the children had a fantastic time with many saying they did not want to leave at pick-up time!

I would like to express my thanks to all of the volunteers who assisted by leading groups, serving snack, preparing the lunches and resetting the church afterwards – it takes many hands working together to produce a wonderful, fun event for the children to enjoy.

We look forward to holding another holiday club morning soon!

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

Carla

standrews.yg@gmail.com

Selection of photos from our Tattie Holiday Takeover day

More in pictures



The new Mr & Mrs McKenzie



Martin at the press release being named Moderator Designate



lan Lamp and his band Slipway, entertaining the Friends Club



