

New Elders Ordained

On the first Sunday of Advent, we enjoyed the wonderful occasion of the ordination of eight new elders into our Kirk Session and congregation. This move was in response to the realisation that -

1. we hadn't ordained ANY new elders for many years and
2. that our existing elders were becoming increasingly 'senior' in years. While experience is vital within any leadership group, so too are freshness, renewed vision and new ideas.

It was with these considerations in mind that the Kirk Session set about electing new elders who would be, predominately so, younger than themselves. With the exception of Elaine Fair, the most senior of the new elders(!), all of the new elders are younger than Martin, our minister, and all of the existing elders.

This marks an important point in the story of the congregation and puts down a marker indicating our commitment to the years ahead – to investing in the future of our church and, through it, to the work of the gospel in this town.

We'll be getting our new elders involved right away but,



Top row - Elaine Fair, Tracey McLeod, Amy Scott, Michael Marr
Bottom row - Louise Smith, Linda Hunter, Jennie Christie, Carla Ingram

even so, it will take them a little time to find their feet in their new roles. Please take every opportunity to encourage them along the way.

As part of that special service, we took the opportunity to say a sincere thank you to four elders who chose to retire from 'active service' at that time. And so for the record here, these elders were Bobby Craig, Beatrice Gerrard, Doug Hamilton and May Smith.

Moderator

The months have flown by since it was announced that Martin, our minister, had been nominated to be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. While it is undoubtedly a great honour for him – and for the congregation of St. Andrew's – the reality is that we will be without him for a little over a year while he fulfils this particular calling on his life. This, perhaps, is the downside.

With this in mind, a small group – appointed by the Kirk Session – has been working hard to ensure that, as much as is possible, everything is prepared for Martin's departure and for the time ahead. As these plans take shape, what is increasingly obvious is that this isn't going to be a 'stand still' year for St. Andrew's Church. On the contrary, it promises to be an exciting year with lots of highlights along the way, not least in terms of Sunday mornings.

When a minister is off for any period of time, other than for a holiday or short illness, the Presbytery appoints an Interim Moderator. This is generally another minister from the area who provides essential cover. Recently, Martin served as the Interim Moderator for Dun & Hillside Church while Fiona was on maternity leave.

Though it remains to be ratified at the next meeting of the Presbytery of Angus, the proposal is that Ian McLean, minis-

ter of Montrose Old Church, will serve as our Interim Moderator. However, given that Ian is also serving as Presbytery Clerk, the day to day work of Interim Moderator will be delegated to Ian Gray, our Pastoral Assistant. This would be an ideal arrangement from our point of view. Ian first came to us over twenty years ago, as part of his training to become a Reader. Since then he's served widely across Angus, has himself been ordained as a minister, but has always kept up his links with St. Andrew's. So to have an Interim Moderator who knows us so well – and we him – is ideal. Given that Ian is ordained, he will also provide locum cover for midweek pastoral situations that may emerge and will conduct any new weddings that might be booked in the coming months.

Ian will be with us from time to time on Sunday mornings but not as a rule. Rather, we're going to be welcoming a whole range of exciting guests to lead us in worship – ministers like Kenny Borthwick, who was with us last autumn, and Ruth Bell, Stuart Irvin and David Searle, our former associate ministers. On the third Sunday of every month, we're delighted that our preacher will be Grant Maclaughlan from Perth. Grant was with us on several occasions during the time that Martin was recovering from his accident and was a big hit with the congregation! Again, as an ordained minister, Grant will celebrate many of our communion services and baptisms that may occur.

So there is much to look forward to on all fronts! An exciting year for Martin and Elaine and an exciting year for all of us!

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 EDITOR
 Ken Miller: 875235
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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH
Member Records
December/January 2020

Baptisms and Blessings -

Aubree Tasker, daughter of Jordan and Natasha
 Freya Bisset, daughter of Billy and Carolann

Weddings - None

Funerals -

Clive Meldrum, Cathy Black,
 Iris Singers, Roy Baker, Pamela Ramsay

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

MARCH 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 21st February (Written, preferably typed)

Monday 24th February (Word-Processed file)

Please convey my thanks to all at St Andrew's for the use of your lovely Church as the venue for the Christmas Concert, put on by the Friends of Angus Services. This year the concert raised £2,177, a fantastic amount, and we are very grateful for the Church's continued support of our organisation. You have a wonderful Church, and all those that helped on the night were very welcoming and provided great support to the event.

Thank you again for your support - it is greatly valued and very much appreciated.

Kind regards
 Pat Brodlie
 Dementia Resource Worker

Soup Lunches

23 February	Guild
22 March	BBs
26 April	Dalitso
24 May	Havilah

27 September	Mum and Me
25 October	Dalitso
22 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 (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 (553160)

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

**For 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

February 2020

Dear Friends,

Many of the young people of our town were rocked by the tragic death of one of their own, his body having been discovered on the 10th January. Bailey was only 21 and though undoubtedly he had faced various struggles and trials in his young life, he was hugely popular among his peers and, as a result, his loss was the cause of much heartbreak to many.

When it was announced that his body had been found – following five days of searching – I took the spur of the moment decision to open the church that same evening. With only two hours to play with, the obvious way to advertise this was through Facebook. A notice was duly put out and other preparations were made – including the assembling of a small team of welcoming volunteers, all of whom had previously undergone appropriate training.

By the appointed hour of 6pm, there were already young people gathering outside the church and, once the doors were opened, they began to come in in ever greater numbers. Though we were unable to count precisely, the total number who had come into the church by the time we closed at 11pm was in the region of 300. For some it was an opportunity to sit quietly. Some lit candles or wrote in the ‘memory books’ that we made available. Carla, our youth worker, had organised hot chocolate and other refreshments, and some took advantage of that. Many grieved very openly and, through it all, our team was there, quietly and sensitively ‘being there,’ with a quiet word of assurance, a listening ear or a hug, as appropriate in each situation.

Principally, our church served as a gathering place – a space for all those (mainly young) people to come and share the immediate response to what they were dealing with. One by one, they left saying polite, sincere words of ‘thank you’ that we had opened the doors. Many others from across the community did the same in the coming days. The video recording of our service from the Sunday immediately following – during which we referred to the situation and prayed for all concerned - has been viewed over 2,600 times to date - another wonderful example of the benefits of having the technical capacity.

By the time you read this, Bailey’s funeral will have come and gone. As a direct result of our opening the church on that Friday evening, the family requested that the service be held at St. Andrew’s – something that, of course, we were only too ready to do. I and others of our volunteers have continued to be involved in supporting the young people in a number of ways and we’ll continue to do that.

If there was ever any doubt that the issue of mental health – particularly among young men – is a serious issue across this community and country, then that has gone, decisively so. So too, we are affirmed in our belief that this is an issue that the church, locally and nationally, must be involved with. It is my stated aim to use my year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to, among many other things, encourage us all – within the church and wider community – to address this matter in such a way that we’ll begin to make serious inroads into the tragedy that plays out day by day, year by year across Scotland. The suicide rate in Scotland is twice what it is in England and Wales. The incidence of suicide in Scotland’s poorer communities is more than three times what it is in our affluent communities.

May God guide us as we seek to change things for the better.

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk

Guild

On the 2nd of December we enjoyed a lovely Christmas party at the Clifftown Hotel with lovely food, fellowship and party games. There was a lot of chatter round the dinner tables and much fun and laughter during the games. It was an excellent evening rounded off singing Christmas carols.

On the Friday of that week five of us went through to Glasgow for the Guild Christmas Big Sing at St George’s Tron. We shopped and lunched, then joined the Big Sing before going for tea and then on to the train. We must admit the return journey was not as straightforward as the outward journey, but we got home in the end!!

Our first meeting after the Christmas break was on Monday 13th January when Paul Russell from Tayside Mountain Rescue gave a very interesting talk with some wonderful Powerpoint pictures. He explained a bit about the necessary training that is ongoing and the type of emergencies they go out to - a very necessary and sometimes dangerous job carried out by volunteers. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people willing to go out in all kinds of weather to help those who have got into difficulties. Well done Tayside Mountain Rescue!

Our next meeting is on 27th January when Sandra Ramsay will be telling us about her work at Reach Across, another necessary support.

“Whose we are and whom we serve”

Ask Theophilus

Question:

The Bible claims that Jesus was sinless. So why did Jesus insist on being baptised by John whose baptism was for repentance? (Mark 1:4; Matt. 3:13-15.)

Theophilus answers:

The first part of the answer to this question is easy: when Jesus insisted on submitting to John's baptism of repentance, he was identifying himself with the sinfulness of humanity. This was why he had been born - to save his people from their sins. And he was going to do this by bearing our sin on the cross. He was to die, 'the just for the unjust, the innocent for the guilty'. And so, at this inauguration of his ministry, virtually his first action was to pledge that, though sinless, he would carry our burden of guilt.

However, there is more to be said in answer to the question. Baptism which symbolises the washing away of sin, also speaks of the entrance of the Holy Spirit into a person's life—therefore the 'anointing' of Jesus by the Spirit when he came up from the waters of Jordan. The Hebrew word 'Messiah' (= the Greek word 'Christ') means 'Anointed One'.

In the Old Testament, prophets, priests and kings were anointed with oil, which symbolized the Holy Spirit. These

offices were seen by the New Testament believers as foreshadowing the 'Messiah', for he is our Prophet—God's incarnate Word; our High Priest—who brings us into the throne room of God; our King—the kingdom of God is His to rule. Thus, his baptism by John was an essential aspect of his anointing with the divine graces to fulfil all three sacred offices on our behalf.

In addition to these two aspects of baptism, there is a third. For his baptism also pointed forward to the anguish of the cross. We read in Mark 10:38 of another baptism, when he said to James and John, 'Are you able to be baptised with the baptism with which I am baptized?' In secular Greek, the word 'baptism' was used of being plunged into a flood of horrible distress. 'All your billows and waves have gone over me' (Psalm 42:7). In other words, baptism can also mean being cast into a maelstrom of suffering.

While many of the Lord's people can be subjected to great suffering, their suffering is different to Christ's in that his suffering was vicarious on behalf of others. Thus the anguish of the cross was the final fulfilment of his baptism. That was why Jesus said to John that he must 'fulfil all righteousness' (Matt. 3:15). Paul perhaps gives the most succinct summary of what the baptism of Jesus fully means when he wrote: 'God made him to become sin for us, though he knew no sin, so that we in him might become the righteousness of God' (2 Cor.5:21).

David Searle

Re-Affirmation of Baptismal Vows

On Sunday 23rd February, we'll be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism – always a cause for rejoicing within the church family.

But on that day, we will also engage in what is known as the Re-Affirmation of Baptismal Vows – something that we haven't done before, but which will surely prove to be a most powerful and moving experience for all concerned.

Our baptism in Christ is what unites us – with one another within our particular congregation and with Christians across all time and places. It is through our baptism – whether administered in our infancy or adulthood – that we are assured of new life and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In this service, we will have opportunity to affirm our baptism and to commit ourselves anew to Christ's mission. Given that it will be Martin's penultimate service before his leaving us for his Moderatorial year, it seems all the more appropriate. Please do your best to be present. You'll not be disappointed!

Dementia Café

We had our Christmas party on the 4th of December. A good number attended and it was lovely to see everyone enjoying themselves. Santa made an appearance and 37 gifts were handed out.

We meet at 2 pm on the first Wednesday of every month throughout the year - apart from January, as it's too close to the New Year! - so if you have a friend or family member with dementia, please bring them along to join in the friendly chatter and optional activities. Both carer and cared for enjoy their time with us at the Café with tea, coffee and homemaking.

Dear Friends of St. Andrews Church,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. Last year Home-Start Angus hosted 5 Christmas parties with 50 children in attendance. With your

Friends Club

The Friends Club meets again on Thursday 6th February at 2 pm in the church hall.

Our Guest speaker this month is Ian Taylor from Taylor's Auctions in Montrose. Ian is a well known auctioneer. If anyone would like to bring along something to be valued by Ian then he is more than happy to do this.

Everyone is welcome and we will have tea and something nice to eat afterwards.

Noela

kind donation of gifts, each and every child was given a present. Thank you again for your support.

Catherine Fletcher
Co-ordinator, Home-Start Angus

Youth Work Update

On the 10th, 11th and 13th of December we held our 'Bubblem 'n' Fluff' event for P5 children at Warddykes, Hayshead, Ladyloan, Muirfield, Timmergreens and Colliston Primary schools. In the two hours they spent with us, they completed lots of activities which show that the true meaning of Christmas, when you look beyond the decorations, food and presents, is the birth of Christ into our world. We received fantastic feedback from the pupils and teachers who attended and we look forward to planning our Easter Code programme for P6s in March.

At the end of November we held our Youth Group Sleepover. This was a fantastic night for our youths to spend more time together and to get to know each other more. We had dinner together, played games, watched a Christmas film and made jar advent calendars and Christmas pudding pom-poms. This night was thoroughly enjoyed by the young people and leaders.

Throughout the month of December, our Youth Group worked through the 'Four Kinds of Christmas' book which is written by Glen Scrivener. We split this into four sessions which allowed us to consider the different ways we approach the festive season. This book focuses on the darkness we live in, written in Isaiah 9:2, and how we respond through our attitudes and actions. The four choices were Scrooge, Shopper, Santa and Stable. The first three perspectives look at secular or alternative spiritual power ide-

as, and the final one focuses on the birth of Jesus. On our final night before the Christmas holidays, we talked about the true meaning of Christmas and how it relates to Easter. We acknowledge the darkness that we face but see that we are being offered the brightest light through Jesus coming into the world. We then made Christingles and talked about each element pointing to the world, all of God's creations, the blood of Jesus and the light of the world which gives us hope in the darkness.

Our normal Youth Group and school activities resumed after the schools returned and we look forward to more events in the coming months. On the 12th of January we invited the group of Australians who were staying at the Windmill Christian centre as part of a Teen Missions International Australia trip. We spent the night playing and teaching them some games and, in return, they taught us some of theirs. We had hot chocolate, cakes, Tunnocks teacakes and caramel wafers for our snack – these went down very well! Our young people loved having the group visit us and it was great to make some new friends.

I attended the 'Deep Impact' conference on the weekend of the 17th of January in Aviemore. This was a great weekend to share ideas, conversations and worship with fellow youth workers from around Scotland. It was also lovely to spend some time reflecting and refreshing to begin the New Year. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our youth work!

Carla Ingram (standrews.yg@gmail.com)

Message from our Ministry Student, David

Dear Friends,

Does Christmas already seem like a faraway memory? Hopefully you haven't forgotten the opening words of John's Gospel, which we all hear at some time during the Christmas season: "In the beginning was the Word".

One of the anchors of the reformed church is "The Word of God" and a return to being led by the words of the bible, rather than some of the somewhat lax attitudes and practices that had become prevalent in the Roman Church in the decades and even centuries leading up to the Reformation. The Church of Scotland, and indeed the wider Presbyterian Church, believes that the word of God can be discerned from the Bible. That is not to say that we think that the books of the Bible are the literal Words of God – the scriptures were written and translated by men. But even though the Bible is not literally 'written by God', the words we read were undoubtedly prepared by people of deep faith who were inspired by God.

One of the great joys of reading, and rereading, the Bible is that it is timeless, even though times have changed. It still speaks to us today. We can find a meaning in the same words of the Old Testament that are as relevant to our situations in the 21st Century as to the Jews of two and a half thousand years ago in their situation. The words and examples of Jesus are as meaningful to us now as they were to the early Christians, nineteen hundred years ago.

Sometimes though, the words can seem strange to us; it can be difficult to work out what the words are trying to tell us, and that is because it is important for us to understand the context in which the different books were written. Examples of this are that it helps to know Daniel was written about the times that the Jews were in exile in Babylonia, and that the Letter to the Hebrews was addressed to Jewish Christians wondering why Jesus' prediction about the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem hadn't come true (as it happened just a few years after the letter was written). Fortunately, we can usually rely on the preacher to remind us of the context when needed.

Even though our Theology develops, and our understanding of the nature of God increases as science informs us of the nature of the universe, it is still rooted in the words of Scripture. As the words of Scripture, so essential to our faith, are contained in the Bible, we accord the Bible a great deal of respect – in my case that seems to include having at least a dozen different versions of it (not including Hebrew and Greek, but including Scots and some bits in Doric).

So, like many others have done so down the generations, I commend the Bible to you, and also encourage you to get to know it better. There are many ways of doing so, but to get the opportunity to discuss it with others is perhaps the best way and to that end we have various groups within the congregation for precisely that purpose. Maybe it's time for you to get involved?

Blessings to you all.

David Galbraith
Trainee Minister

Dalitso Project News

Our year started with a family event when we decided to run the Snowman Drive again after such good feedback last year from those that came along. And the result was over 50 people turned up. Thanks to all that came along and to all those from last year that invited their friends and family. It was really a great way to start the year with over £200 raised.

Also in January was our Burns Supper. Thanks to Elaine and Martin, Dr Rusty Smith, Mike Christie, Shona Kemp, Helen Addison, Jack Newth and Amy Tasker, we had a lovely evening of traditional Scottish food and entertainment. The evening raised over £800 towards the work.

As we enter a new year, as Trustees and Management Committee we will be deciding on our priorities for 2020. The list continues to grow as we develop the work at our centres, so time is spent working with our friends in Malawi to prioritise the work. What is clear is that your ongoing support allows us to continue, and it is important for us to share with you our plans. With this in mind we will be holding a feedback night on Friday 6th March at Arbroath Bowling Club, Dishlandtown Street. Time and details will follow. This is for everyone - those that sponsor, those that support fundraisers, those that want to find out more. Why not invite a friend or family member to join you to hear about where your money goes. Look out on Facebook, our mailing list or the church bulletin for more details.

Amy Louise

Those of you who subscribe to the Church of Scotland's Life & Work magazine will have read the following article in the last issue. It features our own Amy Scott. In the article, she discusses the importance of the church family.

There's an African Proverb that says 'it takes a village to raise a child'. I disagree. I think it takes a church.

When babies are baptised in church the congregation promise to make church a place where children are welcomed, not just tolerated, and commit to pray for the family as they bring up their child. On Easter Sunday 2018, we were surrounded by our family and friends as our little boy was baptised. Since then we have been hugely blessed by our church family as, week by week, they show their commitment to honouring these promises.

Eighteen months on and church is one of Ruaridh's favourite places to go. It isn't the singing, the prayers or the sermon that he loves. He loves the people; the ladies that give him an extra biscuit, the men that roll toy cars under the chair to him, the crèche ladies that look after him while I am in the service and everyone else that smiles and chats to him – not just on a Sunday morning but when they meet him in the supermarket, café or wherever else he might be. They show Ruaridh who God is and how much He loves him. Church is a safe and welcoming place where he feels loved and cherished and, for me, that is the most important thing for him right now.

I understand why taking a young child to church is daunting. I've been the mum that has rushed in the door at the last minute, I've been the mum with the baby that cries and squeals at the worst possible moment and I've been the mum that bribes their child with snacks and toys so they will stay quiet during the prayers. I'm currently the mum whose toddler just won't sit still. In the last two years, I've come to realise that, actually, the person that is most concerned about any of these things is me. Ruaridh spends his time in church surrounded by adopted aunts and uncles, grannies and grandads that love to see him happy in church. It gives them hope that in forty years' time there will still be people in church, worshipping and following Jesus.

On top of what they do for Ruaridh, I don't think they realise the impact that it has had on me as I started out as a new mum. On a Sunday morning, I am surrounded by mums, aunts and grannies that have been there and done that. They give a smile to let me know that, despite my concerns, I'm actually doing a good job. They give a word of encouragement that I didn't know I needed to hear. Most importantly, they love my little boy. At a time when it would have been really easy for me to be taking a step back from church because it was just too much and too stressful, I find myself standing firmer in faith, taking on new roles and responsibilities and excited about what lies ahead for me, my family and, of course, my church.

Church congregations - don't undervalue the influence you have on those families with their young children. Your warm smiles, words of encouragement and the love you show to those little boys and girls are exactly what encourage the parents to come to church. And families with young children - don't forget the encouragement that you bring to other people in the church. You show them that our church has a future and it gives them hope.

I will never be able to thank my church family enough for the love that they have shown to my family in the last two years. They are standing with us as we raise our little boy. Not judging. Not complaining. Just loving. Sowing the seeds of a faith that I hope will one day bear fruit.

So yes, some may say that it takes a village to raise a child; but let's make our churches places where our children are welcomed, loved and raised in faith so that, one day, they can come to a faith of their own.

LOOKING AHEAD

February

Sunday 2

11 am - Worship Service; Pulpit swap with St. Vigean's. Martin will be there and Keith Scott will be with us.

Sunday 9

11 am - Worship Service

Sunday 16

11 am - Worship Service; followed by short celebration of communion

Sunday 23

11 am - Worship Service; including Sacrament of Baptism and Re-Affirmation of Baptismal Vows

March

Sunday 1

11 am - Worship Service; including Celebration of Communion (Martin's last service before leaving to take up his duties as Moderator)

Sunday 8

11 am - Worship Service; with guest, Jonathon Parker, leader of Caring for Life (Leeds)

Sunday 15

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

Sunday 22

11 am - Worship Service
4 pm - Messy Church

Sunday 29

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.

Here I Am, Lord

Could you help us just once a month? We are seeking volunteers to deliver the Quest magazine, once a month (excepting January and August) in the areas of

- The Church
- The Beechwood Road Area in Kirkton

This does not take a lot of time but is a vital connection for keeping in touch with all members. Please phone our office.

Remote Control Heating

Our church already has remote control heating but we are looking to update. Do you know of anyone who makes use of the Lightwave RF system of remote control as we would like to further investigate its potential - particularly the latest App?

If you do, then please contact Ken Miller on 875235.

Thank you.

Annual Stated Meeting

As is required of us, the congregation will hold its Annual Stated Meeting following morning worship on Sunday 15th March 2020. Though the Kirk Session – as the congregation’s trustees – will already have approved the accounts for 2019, and though they will already have been subject to external examination, this is the opportunity for members of our congregation to see for themselves how we are doing, financially speaking.

Of course there’s much more to church life than the finances but without healthy and properly stewarded finances, there’s precious little that a church can do by way of ministry and mission!

Please make a note of the date and do your best to be present. The minute of the previous year will not be read out, as it is given below for your convenience.

The Kirk Session met on Sunday 17th March 2019 in the Sanctuary for the Annual Stated Meeting and was constituted with prayer.

Moderator: Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

Sederunt: 51 members attended

Minute: The minute of the Annual Stated Meeting held on 18th March 2018 was approved on the motion of Roberta Brand and Derek Scott.

The Moderator thanked Susan for her years as treasurer, and Heather Black for stepping into the role without hesitation. The Presentation of the Accounts: The accounts for 2018 were previously scrutinised by the Finance and Administration Core Group, approved by the Kirk Session and finally examined and approved by the independent examiner and presented to Angus Presbytery.

Scott Anderson, Leader of the Group presented details of the figures for 2018 which showed a net movement of funds of £972. Within this, the General Fund produced an “Operating surplus” of £11,018. A rebate on our M&M contribution for 2018 has assisted us in achieving this surplus. There are sufficient funds in our Ministry Team account to cover our Ministry Team members for a further year. There has been a good return on the Lets of our premises during 2018. The surplus in the General Fund of £11,018 will be split 50% to the Fabric Fund and 50% to the General Reserve Fund. Scott advised that changes had been introduced by the Regulator regarding how much money should be held for unforeseen circumstances. The Finance and Administration Group have met and as an organisation have decided what our reserve should be.

Thanks were expressed by the Moderator to Scott Anderson as leader, and all members of the Finance and Administration Core Group, for their commitment to the management of our finances.

Moderator’s comments: Reflecting on 2018, the Moderator was grateful for the opportunity to thank the congregation for the enormous practical and prayerful support he had received when recovering from the accident to his arm. It had been a tough year, but the support from the congregation had been amazing. The Church was in good hands and going forward with blessing. 2018 was the year we said farewell to God’s faithful servant, Jane Miller. The Moderator gave an emotional account of her faithful service and of how much she had given to the church and the community. He said that God would bless us by raising up others to take on the roles and responsibilities. We look back with thankfulness and forward in faith. The Moderator closed his comments with prayer.

Thanks to Moderator: Elaine Anderson, on behalf of the Kirk Session and congregation of St Andrew Church, thanked Martin for all the hard work and commitment he had given to the church over the past year, she reflected on the difficult year that Martin and the Fair family had had and how Martin had approached it with courage, humour and above all a deep and trusting faith on the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, he was an example of how to walk with the Lord and trust in him no matter how tough things got.

Elaine acknowledged the team work that had taken place in the church over the past year and gave special mention to the role that Jane Miller had played in the general day to day functioning of the church, that she was dearly missed and her passing was greatly mourned, her dedication and selfless commitment would be forever her legacy. There are many who worked hard in the church but Linda Hunter especially was thanked for the warmth, enthusiasm and endless patience that she brings to her role as Church Administrator. Joan Hainsworth, as Session Clerk, was acknowledged for her devotion and commitment to support the running of the church. Prayers and blessings were given to Martin as he leads us, teaches us and challenges us on our faith journey. This coming year has many exciting new initiatives and projects starting up. Elaine finished by commenting on the fact that Martin and Elaine are very much partners in the mission to which Martin has been called and we thank God for them both.

Closure: Elaine Anderson led us in prayer to close the meeting.

More in pictures



Above - The Magic of Christmas - Mum and Me, Santa excitement!, Santa at the Dementia Café, Sunday Club party, Peaceful lighting in the Sanctuary.
 Below - Porty Hillwalkers raised £1,775 and donated it to community projects of St Andrews Church. Youth Group sleepover and activities.

