

## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Well here it is – my last Minister's Letter for the time being!

I learned that I had been chosen to serve as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland back in September and it seemed to me then that this 'day of departure' was a long time off. But here it is nonetheless. The last months have simply flown in – partly because they've been so busy and partly, I suppose, because time seems to go by more quickly the older one gets!

Much as I'm looking forward to the year ahead, serving as Moderator, it's going to be an enormous wrench being away from St. Andrew's Church. There is the two-month period of preparation that I'm about to embark on and there will be a month of recovering at the end! So all in all I'll be away for fifteen months. I'm sure these months will fly by, but I know too that, inevitably, there will be events and happenings here, among my 'family of faith', and the hardest thing for me is that I will not be able to be involved and to minister among you as I have these last twenty-eight years.

Even in recent weeks, we've lost some of our cherished brothers and sisters and there's been a part of me whispering, 'I'm glad this was now and not after my departure'.

All of that arises out of my fondness and love for you all. And in return, the way you have supported Elaine and me and our family, and held us in your prayers, has meant so much to me.

But here's the thing; I would never have accepted the nomination to serve as Moderator if I hadn't been absolutely sure that the congregation would be able to cope perfectly well in my absence. My confidence in this flows from two sources. Firstly, we have within the congregation many wonderful, able and talented people who have a willingness to serve that is nothing short of remarkable. And secondly, I know beyond doubt that it is Christ's church, not mine, and that He will strengthen and uphold His church in all these months ahead – and, of course, when I'm back and long after I'm long forgotten.

This is to say that none of us is indispensable and that we must always look beyond ourselves to the one who is 'King and Head of the Church' – to the one who declares: 'I will build my Church and not even the gates of hell shall prevail against it'. (Matthew 16:18)

I close with these thoughts:

1. Respect and take a lead from those who will be in positions of authority during my absence.
2. Be willing to follow where the Spirit leads – I don't expect to find things the same when I return to you!
3. Where possible, please keep an eye out for Elaine – this will be an extremely demanding year for her as she seeks to juggle her career with caring for her mum and dad, our own boys, and playing her role alongside me as Moderator. It will be challenging for both of us managing everything whilst largely being apart from one another.
4. And finally, I can ask no more of you other than that you continue to uphold me in your prayers in what is shaping up to be a thoroughly exciting, yet daunting, year.

(P.S. Yes, this is my last Minister's Letter for the time being but I'll be endeavouring to keep you up to date with my comings and goings through regular QUEST updates.)

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

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

Dear Lord and Father,

We give thanks that Martin has been called to serve in a special way. We rejoice that, through you and with you, his very special talents can be used to help in leading our national church.

We ask that you strengthen Martin and Elaine as they embark on a very challenging and exciting year.

May we also serve faithfully, by making sure that we allow Martin the time and freedom to serve the national church, while we also uphold and support Elaine and the rest of the family in deed and in prayer

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

**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  
 Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**

**Member Records**

**February 2020**

**Baptisms and Blessings -**

Calum, son of Ian & Fiona Bullock;  
 Sharon Macleod

**Weddings - None**

**Funerals -** Sheila Burnett, Maureen Wood,  
 Jean Scott

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**

**APRIL 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 20th March** (Written, preferably typed)

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

**Soup Lunches**

22 March	BBs
26 April	Dalitso
24 May	Havilah

27 September	Mum and Me
25 October	Dalitso
22 November	Havilah

Rebecca, Hilda, Susan and family would like to thank all for their support, loving words and praying for us all following Pamela's sudden passing in January. A heartfelt thank you to all at the flower club for the beautiful arrangements they made for us, the catering team for a wonderful spread, the servers and all who welcomed people to the thanksgiving service. It has been a difficult time for us all but having our church family around has brought us all much comfort.

A special thanks to Martin and Linda for helping us with all the arrangements.

**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)  
 2.00 pm - Dementia Cafe – First Wednesday – G.Scott (879615)

**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.**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

## Exciting Plans For The Year

As we've stressed a thousand times through the years, the Christian life requires much more of us than that we show up on Sunday mornings. And yet showing up on Sunday (or Wednesday) mornings is hugely important! (Even if we're indisposed, we've got the luxury of being able to join online or to catch up afterwards.)

- Showing up on Sundays is to take seriously the privilege that is ours to 'enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise'! Psalm 100. God invites us into his house - into his presence. Why wouldn't we!
- Showing up on Sundays is to be part of the family. To withdraw is to miss out on the love and support that others can offer us AND it is to deny others what we might bring to them.
- Showing up on Sundays takes us into that place where we can nourish ourselves on God's Word and equip ourselves for the week ahead. Not to do so, would be like having a car but never going to the petrol station (or charging point). We won't go far on empty.

During this coming year, we've got a fantastic programme of Sunday worship lined up - SO MUCH to look forward to.

1. The first Sunday of each month has been designated as Special Guest Sunday. On these Sundays, we'll be welcoming renowned preachers from across the country -

e.g. Kenny Borthwick - and some of our much-loved former students and associate ministers - e.g. Ruth Morrison, Stuart Irvin, Karen Fenwick and Linda Stevens.

2. On the second Sunday of each month, we'll be doing things 'in house' - that is making use of the considerable talent that we've got within the ranks. The Guild will lead worship at the time of Guild Week, some of our younger people will lead worship and so on. Much to look forward to.
3. We're delighted that on the third Sunday of each month, Grant MacLaughlan from Perth will lead our worship. Grant led several times while Martin was off work recovering from his accident and he is very much looking forward to returning. Through his weeks, he is going to lead us through the Apostles' Creed and will ask how the core Christian beliefs contained within relate to everyday life.
4. On the fourth Sunday of the month, we're going to work our way through the whole of the Alpha film series. These are excellent films, each lasting about twenty minutes and each one focussing on a key aspect of Christian life and faith. After each film there will be guided discussion time, allowing for the whole congregation to share together.
5. Finally, when there is a fifth Sunday, these services will be led by Ian Gray, our Locum, and a long time friend of the congregation. (Given that Ian is an ordained minister, as is Grant, baptisms and communions will be celebrated when one of these ministers is with us.)

## Pastoral Care

While Martin, our minister, is away pastoral care will of course continue. Much of it, including bereavement ministry will be done by our Locum, Ian Gray. Ian is a highly experienced minister of many years standing and, of course, he has been known at St. Andrew's Church for over twenty years from the time when he was training for ministerial service.

Happily, we know Ian's wife too! Celia has stood in at the organ on some Sundays and has volunteered at Havilah.

There may be odd occasions when other local ministers will assist if, for example, Ian is unavailable. Ian McLean from Montrose will be on hand and Dolly Purnell from Old & Abbey Church has also kindly offered to step in if we're in need.

Alongside Ian, Gaynor Scott will continue with her incredible pastoral ministry in the various care homes around the town. She's been doing that for quite a few years now and those she visits hugely appreciate the time and care she offers.

And over and above that, members of the pastoral care team and various of our elders will take their place in this ministry.

Given the drastic shortage of ministers across Scotland, many congregations have to get by without a minister of their own - sometimes for many months but more frequently for several years. And, by and large, these churches rise to the challenge and realise that there is much that they can do on their own! Maybe Martin will return and find that he's only got a part-time job to come back to!

## Guild

It was lovely to see some extra folk at our meeting on the 27th of January. This was the evening Sandra Ramsay came to see us and speak about Reach Across, the charity she began after the tragic loss of her son, Ross. Sandra is very passionate about helping those who feel desperate and giving support to their friends and families. She was very open about all that has happened over the seven years since Ross' death and she was an inspiration. She has a big heart and is determined to do all she can for those in need.

Our theme "Companions on the Road" has been mainly about the work of those who help others in difficult situations but we can all be 'companions' in our daily life...

helping neighbours, taking time to chat or to phone someone... so our meeting on the 10th of February was a more light hearted evening called "Team Spirit". Yes, we were put into teams and we had different games/tasks to perform, working as a team, being companions. It was a fun evening and thanks to Jenni and Fiona for organising it. The winning team called themselves the "Fabulous Five" but everyone received a medal for their efforts.

On Sunday 23rd February the Guild will be providing the Soup lunch, with all donations going to this year's Projects. On the Monday, Margaret Clarke will be coming to give us an update on one of our projects "Malawi Fruits" - "Growing the Future".

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

## Ask Theophilus

### Question:

I have been trying to read a psalm every day. I've reached Psalm 119 and was surprised to find that, three times, the Psalmist says God had afflicted him. Is this a kind of spiritual masochism? (My iPad dictionary says that masochism is finding gratification from pain and humiliation!)

### Theophilus answers:

Oh dear, I don't think that masochism is what we find in the three lines in the Psalm that you are referring to (verses 67, 71, 75). The Psalmist, whose name we are not given, says:

*Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word (67).*

*It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes (71).*

*I know O Lord that your judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me (75).*

The meaning of the word 'afflicted' in each of these verses is 'chastened'. I have said before that chastening is not the same as punishment. Rather, chastening is disciplining. We tend to think of discipline in a negative way and wrongly regard it as punishment. But not in the Bible, where discipline means teaching; its 'cousin' is the word 'disciple' and

both words are to do with learning.

Having said that, chastening (the Psalmist's 'affliction') can be hard to bear. Read carefully what he is saying in verse 67. He is admitting that he often left the path of obedience to God's laws (understand 'laws' as the moral law, that is, the ten commandments). In some way that he doesn't describe (it was evidently private and personal between him and his Lord), God chastened him, and he learned his lesson and now was more obedient.

In verse 71 he spells it out clearly: God's discipline was precisely to teach and train him—*that I might learn your statutes*. In verse 75, he acknowledges that it was in God's loving goodness he had been afflicted.

The phrase that comes to mind is that God's love is a 'tough love'. But 'tough love' can be the truest and wisest love. God doesn't have dementia so that he has forgotten his moral laws, but he does know and see everyone of us and he is only too well aware of our human frailty and fallibility. And so in righteousness and faithfulness he 'afflicts' us, that is, he chastens and disciplines us, so that we will learn to walk along that secure and strait pathway that leads to life and ultimately to our heavenly home.

(Some readers of Quest might like to look up Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7.)

David Searle

## 7th Arbroath BB

This session we have been introducing a new programme of activities for both Anchor and Junior Section. One of the new topics was about Martin Luther King and the boys made their own 'I have a dream' mobile clouds which were on our notice boards. Since the New Year, our Junior numbers have dropped to 6. Our Anchors are currently at 5 and our Company section has 7.

We are currently on a mid-term break alongside the school calendar but will be back in full swing when you read this. We still have a good few weeks before the Easter Break for a lot of fun nights.

During the break the Officers met with our Chaplain, Martin, to put in place a few dates before his year's departure for his Moderator duties. One of the items we discussed was our up and coming 60th Anniversary commencing in September 2020 and culminating in a service of celebration

in June 2021.

At our meeting we also intimated to Martin that after 2021 there would be no Company Section. All Officers are retiring from that section. The Anchor section and Junior section will continue with new leaders if that is possible.

We are appealing to anyone in the Church congregation or beyond to step forward and train now to keep these sections going. Any interested parties can speak to any officer for details regarding this matter. This will be brought before the meeting of the Kirk Session on 26th of February.

It has also been time to plan summer trips and we hope to give the boys a great day out. The nights are stretching already but I'm sure winter still has a sting in its tale.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we move forward in this coming year.

Captain W.H. Ewart

## Friends Club

The Friends Club meeting on Thursday 6th February was a very interesting one. Our guest speaker was Ian Taylor from Taylor Auctions in Montrose. Our club members brought along treasured possessions to show to Ian and he gave his valued opinion of them, but unfortunately there were no hidden surprises.

We all laughed as Ian regaled us with some stories of his years as an auctioneer and valuer. We ended the meeting with sandwiches and chocolate biscuits.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 5th March at 2pm in the church hall where we will be entertained with The Steel Band and everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the friendship.



## Generosity

It bears repeating that you, the members of St. Andrew's Church, have been, and continue to be, hugely generous when it comes to supporting your congregation and its witness in the wider community.

As has become our pattern, we held our annual gift day at the end of November and the good news is that just short of £10,000 was realised. This is not 'extra' money but is crucial to us in terms of supporting what we do locally and playing our part nationally.

Over the Christmas Season, we gave worshippers the opportunity to support two charities – here in Scotland, the work of the children's charity Barnardos and in the Holy

Land, the Olive Grove Chapel – a Christian sanctuary and symbol of hope and peace in an area torn apart by generations of conflict. Following the uptake of that offering we were able to send almost £500 to each project. What better than that we were able to support local work among children and, at Christmas, a peace project just outside Bethlehem, where the Prince of Peace came into the world.

We might also mention that in the weeks leading up to Christmas and early in the New Year, we received several very generous donations in respect of funerals that were conducted at the Church. It's not uncommon for families to decide to nominate a charity at the time of a funeral but when the nominated charity is the church, naturally we're especially grateful.

For all of the above, our grateful thanks.

## The Tater People

As we approach our time without Martin leading us, he correctly points out that we must continue to depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us, and to be positive in all we do. So, to encourage POSITIVITY here is some leg-pulling NEGATIVITY! (First printed in the 2015 April Quest.)

Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work.

**They are called "Spec Taters".**

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way the others do the work.

**They are called "Commen Taters".**

Some people are very bossy and tell others what to do but don't want to soil their own hands.

**The are called "Dic Taters".**

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. Is it too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet?

**They are called "Agi Taters".**

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help.

**They are called "Hesi Taters".**

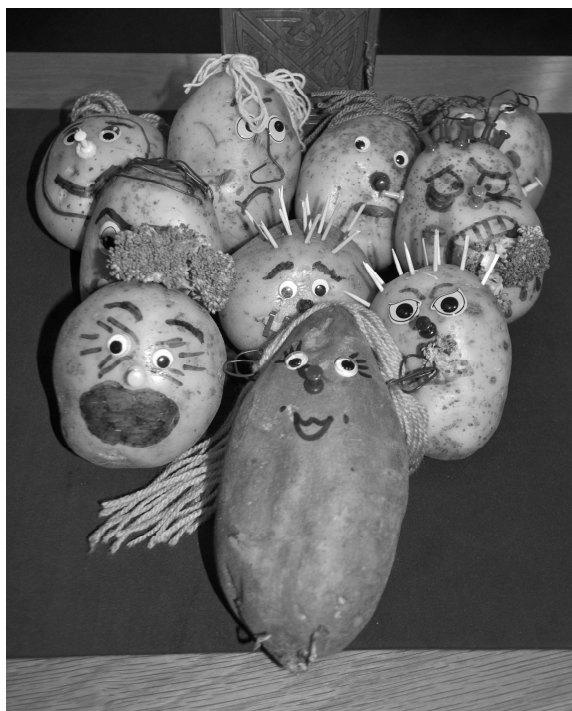
Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not.

**They are called "Imi Taters".**

Then there are those who love others and always do what they say they will; always prepared to stop whatever they are doing to lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others.

**They are called "Sweetpo Taters"!**

**Let's all strive to make sure we stay in the last category in the coming year.**



## 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 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 for more information if you want to consider helping.

## Transport, Soup and Anything Else!

As you know, Havilah is a large outreach project that is part of the church. It is blessed to run mainly with the help of volunteers and that includes many volunteers who help, but do not attend the project. It is these volunteers that we are short of at the moment and would ask that anyone contacts us who thinks they can possibly help with this programme and thus help many others in need throughout the area.

We understand that working in the project is not for everyone, but if you could give an hour once a week to help transport food from Greggs to Havilah it would be a huge help. We are very kindly donated food daily from the bakers, but it must be collected. Anyone with a car who feels they could do this please contact Karen Reaney on 07906 857611. The days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - and also someone who would be willing to do holiday cover. We are looking for 4 people to cover these so that everyone is hopefully doing the minimum.

Also, as you probably notice in the bulletin, we are always looking for new volunteers to make soup. We need around 10 new volunteers for this and would really appreciate any support. This involves supplying soup once every four weeks (some kind souls do it twice) and if you feel you would like to be involved with this, please contact Karen Reaney on 07906 857611.

If you feel led to get involved with this, and feel you are unable to make soup, please contact us anyway and we'll discuss it. Looking forward to hearing from you.

## Dalitso Project News

Good news!! The container has arrived!

The 40ft container finally arrived in Blantyre on the 29th January to the excitement of our Malawian friends. The unpacking began immediately with the boxes and bags split between our 2 centres, our skills and medical centres and the local schools and hospitals.

At this time of year the weather is wet which is great for the maize but not so good for the access road to Kambilonjo. We had expected to have a delay in delivery but we were happy to see a window of good, hot weather which allowed the truck to make it up the mountain.

We hope to have photos from the long awaited Christmas presents next month.

The start of March (if your Quest has been delivered before the 6th!) will see us host a Feedback Night. It has been a couple of years since we have done this and so we felt it was a good opportunity and time to share how things have developed over the last couple of years and to share what we are planning for the months ahead. This really is a night not to missed for those involved or interested in the work of Dalitso, so if it hasn't passed please do come along. It will take place on

**6th March**  
**at the Arbroath Bowling Club**  
**Dishlandtown Street**  
**at 7.30pm.**

Charis Bowie

## LOOKING AHEAD

### 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  
Parkinson leader of  
Caring for Life (Leeds)

#### Sunday 15

11 am - Worship Service;  
Service followed by  
Annual Stated Meeting

#### Sunday 22

11 am - Worship Service  
with guest preacher  
Rev Grant MacLaughlan

#### Sunday 29

11 am - Worship Service

### April

#### Sunday 5

11 am - Palm Sunday  
Worship Service

#### Sunday 12

8 am - Easter Sunrise  
Service  
11 am - Easter Sunday  
Family Celebration with  
Communion

#### Sunday 19

11 am - Worship Service

#### Sunday 26

11 am - Worship Service

## Living Lent

Living Lent, the cross-denominational Lent initiative from the Joint Public Issues Team, is back for another year. Running throughout the 40 days of Lent, from Wednesday 26 February until Thursday 9 April, Living Lent will once again invite all Christians to commit to changing their lifestyles for the climate by signing up for one of the six challenges.

Those who sign up are encouraged to pick a challenge that will stretch them – such as choosing an alternative mode of travel or only buying locally-sourced food.

JPIT hopes that, by making these commitments alongside one-another, Christians will be able to explore the connection between faith and climate action.

“Lent is about living daily with reminders of the sacrifices Christ made as He journeyed towards the cross and the empty tomb”, Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener for the Faith Impact Forum, said.

“Living Lent offers options from which participants can choose what might help to turn eyes outwards as we re-

member the One who so unselfishly gave His all for the world.”

How can you make a difference? Here are some ideas for how you can take part in Living Lent:

- \* Switch to buying loose fruit and vegetables rather than pre-packaged.
- \* Give up your takeaway coffee cup – instead, remember and pack a reusable cup in the mornings.
- \* Switch up your lightbulbs to more energy-efficient alternatives – LED bulbs are the most energy-efficient, using 75% less electricity than traditional incandescent lightbulbs.
- \* If you can, opt for walking, cycling, public transport or lift-sharing over taking your car. If you can't give up your car, look into carbon offsetting to help balance out the environmental impact.

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.

# 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

Sunday Club and Youth Group are enjoying using our bouncy castle while Messy Church certainly lives up to its name.

**Left**

**Clockwise -**

May Smith reaches her XXst Birthday. (Never give a lady's age - even though the candles can be read backwards!)

Tracey McLeod and Tammy Stuart receive a cheque for £400 for Havilah from the Arbroath Burns Club.

The triumphant and jubilant winners of the Guild's Team Spirit competition - Anne Matthew, Evelyn Todd, Gaynor Scott, Pat Mill and Doris Bowie

Ian Gray, our pastoral care assistant with his wife, Celia.

**Right -**

Rev Grant MacLaughlan who will preach on the third Sunday of each month.

