



## Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

Though the restrictions of the Covid response meant that my year as Moderator was largely spent right here in Arbroath, I still have that 'coming home' feeling.

But what am I coming home to? In myriad ways, the world has changed. For many of us, it was a year we could never have envisaged. Self-isolating, lockdown, jabs and double jabs... phrases that were hitherto unknown yet now are fixtures in our everyday vocabulary.

And in terms of church? Some of you who NEVER missed Sunday or Wednesday worship haven't been in the building since the middle of March last year! Who saw that coming!?

But how much have churches been damaged? Today, I heard from a minister in Dundee, and her congregation is not going to re-open. The building will be disposed of and the remaining members will go to other churches... though sadly some will fall away.

And what about us?

There's no doubting that it's been a tough year. We faced challenges that we couldn't possibly have been prepared for! We lost a significant part of our income stream. And of course we lost some of our much-loved members. All in all, we've taken a bit of a battering and in that we're not alone.

But what do you do when you get knocked down? You pick yourself up off the ground and you go again. I'm minded of what Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth that, *'We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.'*

Let us not lose hope for we are not on our own.

And what about you?

Those who have studied such things suggest that it takes

about six weeks to form a habit and the same length of time to get out of a habit. Of course, some habits are bad and we'd be well to be rid of them! But others are important - not so much 'habits' as key Christian practices. There's no doubt that meeting together to worship is one of those and that's why many have missed it so much. But as restrictions are gradually lifted, and the number of people allowed in the sanctuary increases, it's time for us to resume our practice of gathering, all the while bearing in mind what is written in the letter to the Hebrews: *'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.'*

While physical gathering wasn't possible, online meeting certainly was and for many it was a lifeline. We were served so well by Iain Scott and his team who got worship online Sunday by Sunday despite the not insignificant challenges. In fact for many of us, we got to more church services than ever before, some people watching three or four throughout the course of a Sunday!

There's no harm in that but it can never - should never - be seen as a substitute for involvement in and commitment to a local body of believers. That's our first calling.

So for each of us and for all of us together, there's much to be considered in terms of how we 'build back.' And in each step of that way, let us seek God's guiding light. But of this, I'm sure; it's never been more important that we each resolve to 'dig deeper' both in terms of our relationship with our Heavenly Father and with our brothers and sisters. To paraphrase JFK: *'Ask not what your church can do for you - ask what you can do for your church.'*

Onwards.

Martin

## Thank you!

It's a dangerous game to start making a list of folks to say thank you too! Inevitably someone will be missed off that list. But if you're not aware then let me assure you that a small group of our people - with our Session Clerk, Joan, at the centre - have gone far and beyond the call of duty in their service during this last year. Remarkably so.

There's not much by way of reward in terms of service within the Church but the words of Ignatius of Loyola bear repetition:

*'Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
To give and not to count the cost;  
To fight and not to heed the wounds;  
To toil, and not to seek for rest;  
To labour, and not to ask for reward -  
except to know that I am doing your will.'*

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**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****June 2021****Baptisms and Blessings** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Andrew Welsh**IMPORTANT DATE****SEPTEMBER EDITION****Word Processed files, as attachments, should be sent directly to the Editor****Tuesday 24th August (Word-Processed file)**

## For All The Saints

We are very conscious that during the last year and a bit, we've lost quite a few of our members and, sadly, that we weren't able to meet as ordinarily we would have, to remember and give thanks for them and to commend them to Almighty God.

In time - when it's possible for most, or all of us, to gather in worship - we will remember them. But for now, we are mindful of these of our church loved ones and of their families who were lost to us from the start of the pandemic until now. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

May Smith  
Sheila Reid  
Doug Hamilton  
Gladys Cooper  
Margaret Taylor

Rita O'Neil  
Earl Matthew  
Margaret Burnett  
Dave Hutton  
Mary Walker

Nancy Craig  
Jackie Carnegie  
Nora Boath  
Andrew Welsh

## Theophilus

### The Fifth Commandment

*You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.*

Exodus 20:7

*God has highly exalted him, and given him a Name which above every name... Jesus is Lord*  
Philippians 2:9-11

In days gone by, 'In the king's name!' meant 'By the authority of the king'. To ignore or disobey a proclamation made in the king's name was treason. In other words, the *name* stood for the *person*. So with our God. Reverence for his Name means reverence for him.

Lord, on Sunday in Church, I enjoyed the singing. Especially one hymn. It was one of my favourites. The tune was catchy. The organ was majestic. I really 'let go'! Indeed, we all did. When we sat down, I didn't close my hymn book (though the words had been up on the screen). I wanted to run over again what we had been singing.

In the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess him King of glory now.

It suddenly struck me, Lord, how far we are from that. I thought of so many of my friends who don't know you as Lord. I couldn't help thinking of the way in which your holy name is used as a swear word—on the bus, in the office, at the club, even by shoppers at the check-out. I found myself saddened that your great Name is dishonoured scores of times in my hearing every day. How I long that my friends' attitude to you would change.

There was more that came to me in the hymn, Lord. It was that line, 'In your hearts enthrone him...' I'm beginning to see that dishonour for you goes much deeper than ignoring the Commandment about your Name. It includes my obedience to you and my reverence for you as my Lord and my God.

*My Child, I am glad that you have been touched by that jealousy for the honour of my Name. I too am grieved that men and women treat my Name so lightly. But it is because they do not know me. My love can only reach them when those who do know me enthrone me in their lives. Then I will have channels through whom I can flow, instruments that I can use.*

Thank you, Lord, for Sunday's worship. Thank you for the atmosphere and warmth of the fellowship. Thank you for the presence of your Spirit, and for the Word you spoke to my heart. Help me to carry my reverence for you into my daily work. May I not just *call* you 'Lord', but may I be enabled to *do* the things you say.

**David Searle**

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

It is hard to believe that we have now passed the longest day of the year and not that much summer weather to shout about. I write to you today with some good and not so good news about our BB company.

The good news is that

**Tom Christison and Robert Thomson**

have gained their Queen's Badge. The final part was conducted as a Zoom call, all too familiar in this day and age. It was such a pity that they did not experience a weekend at our BB headquarters with other young men. A presentation will hopefully take place in the near future.

The not so good news is that the Company folded as of 11th of June which would have been our 60th Anniversary Display Night. All the Officers had indicated that they were stepping down from their rolls in the Company. It was made clear in all sections during the Covid Pandemic that the interest was not there to continue. The BB nationally had launched a BB@Home activities but no one took up this challenge.

I would like to thank **Sharon Jamieson and Mandy Tasker**, Officers of the Anchor Section along with parent helper Holly Cameron for their years of dedication and service to the Company.

Thanks to **Cameron Tasker** for his help over many years in the Junior Section and to **Karen Gammie** for her help within the company when required.

Company Section Officers **Michael Clark, Keith Ewart, Craig Paton and Andrew Moore** have also given great service to the company and helped so many young boys get their Queen's Badge. Grateful thanks to them all.

You may or may not know that my father started this company in September 1960 and retired in 2011 after 50 years service, first as Officer in charge of the Life boys and finally as Captain. I took over and have served as Captain for these past 10 years. I have considered it an honour and privilege to have been appointed this position by the Kirk Session but feel that in these unprecedented times the time had come to close..

**Captain Wilma H Ewart**

## Guild News

Although the Guild is now on its Summer break the committee is busy behind the scenes planning the programme for the new session in September. As mentioned in our last Newsletter the new Guild projects for the next three years have now been announced, but before I mention them, let me just say that at the last count Scotland's Guilds had raised over £551,000 for the last six projects (Boys Brigade, Malawi Fruits, Seema's Project, Sailors' Society, CrossReach and Journeying Together – supporting teenage mothers in Zambia). Fantastic news!

The six new projects are all completely different and are in South East Asia, Brazil, Tanzania, Uganda as well as two in Scotland. In a 'nutshell' we have *The Vine Trust - The Kazunzu Village of Hope* in Tanzania; *BEAT* – "Blether with Beat" working together to beat eating disorders in Scotland; *Home for Good* – a small charity focussing on fostering and adoption and helping churches in Scotland develop support

for fostered and adopted children; *Pioneers "Chocolate Heaven"* – supporting sustainable chocolate production in south east Asia, ensuring fair prices for farmers and regular employment; *Unida/Hear our Voice (Brazil)* – "Faith in the Future", a project designed to empower young women through theological education. *Starchild Uganda* – hoping with the support of the Guild to build a centre for children with a range of learning disabilities, but particularly autism.

If you haven't already watched the Guild "Virtual Big Sing" on 18<sup>th</sup> June you can find it on the Church of Scotland YouTube.

Unfortunately, the Annual Gathering in the Caird Hall has been cancelled as it was impossible to plan with restrictions ever changing. However, one will be held in the Assembly Hall (which holds approximately 100 people) on 4<sup>th</sup> September and I think more 'locally' a Guild Rally is being held in St Andrews (Fife, not our church!) but we're still waiting for details.

**Gaynor Scott**

## Dalitso Project Update

The 2021 sponsor presents are starting to come in which is great. Thanks to those that have already been in touch to organise drop off. Although the deadline for the summer gift has now passed we will, as always, continue to collect these.

The Christmas backpack presents are due by July 31st. The early deadlines allow for time to check off and pack the parcels into maize sacks ready to be put in the container. With 250 sponsor children that's 500 parcels so it is a lengthy process to ensure that no child is missed. As always please get in touch if there are any issues getting your parcel or if you need help with sizing for your gift.

The number of positive Covid-19 cases has increased over the last couple of weeks. Although still low, the steady rise is something we are watching. The government has been

quick to respond with the reclosing of the borders and the reopening of isolation centres in the different regions of Malawi. As of now the numbers being admitted to these centres remains small, but we are encouraged by the quick response of the government. Please keep Malawi in your prayers as they deal with this rise in cases.

Also, please pray for the vaccine programme. Like most 3rd world countries, the numbers vaccinated is low and relies on the provision of doses from countries like ours. Delays in new batches and negative media coverage surrounding the vaccine has resulted in a slow uptake. We do now know of some of our friends in Malawi getting their first dose which is encouraging, especially for those working in the health sector, and we hope that renewed stock will allow for more of the country's population to have access to the vaccine.

**Charis**



## Youth Representative

I was selected as the Youth Representative for Angus Presbytery for General Assembly 2021. I was asked to speak at the Angus Presbytery zoom meeting on the Tuesday the 22nd of June to give an overview of my experience and to also assist in the communion liturgy. I have prepared a copy of my speech to give you a small insight into my experience of GA, particularly in the online format it has taken for 2020 & 2021.

This was my second year as Youth Rep for Angus (having taken part in 2020 too) and experiencing both times online has been very different to the 'normal' pre-pandemic experience I have heard about. Usually all of the youth reps would stay together in a hotel, eat, socialise and learn together. And not being in Edinburgh has definitely limited this interaction and it was very sad we couldn't all be together – however I found being online a very positive experience and we were very much still a close knit team.

One advantage to being online was the preparation sessions which were offered in advance led by Suzi Farrant from 121. We began weeks in advance, reading the reports, watching the speeches and discussing key issues, questions and comments together so we were well prepared for the debates on the day. We were all so well cared for and supported by each other and by Suzi on the lead up to and throughout the week. We opened a Facebook room alongside the zoom and assembly hub so were able to fully chat to each other if we were a bit lost, a little frustrated or if we couldn't understand something – an aspect which would not have been possible live in the hall.

Some other positives I found about being online was the ability to still work and do other things in the mornings before the sessions began – this made the week much more flexible and manageable as we could go and stretch out legs more regularly and have breaks away from the screen in the fresh air.

Personally, I found it much easier to speak on zoom than I would have in the hall. I asked a question to the Safeguarding committee coming from the perspective of a youth worker. A few of us have had discussions around the ease of finding safeguarding information on the central Church of Scotland website and find the separate safeguarding handbook documents a little tricky to manoeuvre when there is a specific question in mind. I had a very favourable answer from the convenor who assured that these issues are being looked at and a full safeguarding handbook is very likely coming in the future so only one document needs to be consulted.

There were too many important discussions to mention but I found the debates around the use and function of church buildings and the reduction in the number of ministries very interesting and I am heartened that the church is discussing the extremely important issue of climate change and are actively looking at ways to reach a net zero goal in the coming years.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed both my times at General Assembly and I am very sad that I am now too old to return. I am hoping to one day return as an elder but in the mean time I would thoroughly recommend participation to any young person who has an interest in how the church works and functions as a whole body.

**Carla**



**In the nineties, with Earl Matthew, the BB reached the football final.**



**An excellent Moderator - and during the course of his year, Martin and Elaine met quite a few dignitaries!**

