



SC005478

October 2021

## Minister's Letter

I'm writing these words on the 1st of October. It's cooler and windy and there are sharp showers blowing through. The sun is setting earlier. Autumn is upon us.

But what a wonderful summer we enjoyed with lots of dry days, plenty of sunshine and some decidedly un-Scottish high temperatures!

Who could have imagined that we'd be going into another autumn season still living with restrictions on our day to day lives? And though things have improved markedly in certain areas, it's hard to imagine that it's going to be anything other than a difficult winter. Already we've seen problems with fuel supplies and warnings have been issued that supermarket shelves may be emptier than normal as we head towards Christmas.

For the Church, the ship has steadied and various parts of our congregational life are now back up and running - not least The Guild and following it, the Dementia Cafe. The Havilah project is running four days a week and the food bank -

housed at Old & Abbey Church - continues as it has done throughout the pandemic.

At the same time, we know that much is changing. The Friends Club and the Boys Brigade company will not be re-suming. It may be that some other activities will close too. In this in-between time, as we leave one era and search for the next, we should be thankful for what was, and open to what will be.

But when change and uncertainty are all around, let us be glad that in God we have one who is constant. Let us then continue to build our lives on the rock of God's Word, in the knowledge of God's Love for us.

*We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
Then wither and perish, but naught changeth Thee.*

With every blessing,

Martin and Elaine

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

## Reconnecting

I can't tell you how much I've enjoyed the last couple of months - and principally that's been about reconnecting. What a joy to visit in the homes of members (where safe to do so) and to see friends not seen since before March of last year!

And even more so, what a thrill to see more and more faces coming back to Sunday and Wednesday morning worship. We've not yet had to turn anyone away as a result of being full up but Linda, our Administrator, has had her hands full trying to arrange the seating so that everyone can be accommodated.

There are some churches who have now done away with all forms of social distancing and in the fullness of time, we'll move to that position ourselves - but not before we deem it to be the right thing in terms of doing all that we can to keep our members and guests safe.

While it's been great to reconnect with so many, it's been exciting too to connect with new people who have been coming to St. Andrew's for the first time. Church families should never be closed; on the contrary there should be much gladness in welcoming new brothers and sisters into the fold.

But there's something deeper for us to consider in all of this - and that's our connectedness to God.

The principal danger for Christians - when not able to meet together and support one another - is that we drift from our moorings. Of course, it's not inevitable that that should happen and some people are able to maintain spiritual vibrance from their living rooms. We can devote ourselves to scripture reading, to times of prayer and to listening to worship songs and hymns and all of that can help us to nourish our relationship with God.

But when little or none of that is happening, and when there are far fewer opportunities for supportive fellowship, many find themselves becoming increasingly distant from the Father. In other words, there's a link between involvement in the life of the Christian community and the 'aliveness' or otherwise of our relationship with God.

The good news is that (as we see in so much of Jesus' teaching) God loves us no matter what and is in the business of welcoming us back into his loving arms. So though you may feel a little distant from God right now, you needn't imagine that to be the final outcome.

But of course nothing happens without us showing ourselves to be willing participants - without us taking some steps. Just as you need to throw another log on the fire if the flames have died down, so we need to attend to our faith if it is to burn within us. It was always so. Surviving a pandemic has simply increased the need for us to do that.



**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD  
07889 982 216**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Ian Gray: 01674 677126

**CLERK TEAM LEADER**

Joan Hainsworth: 875409

**TREASURER**

Pending

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark: 878594

**YOUTH WORKER**

Carla Ingram: 07931 420 905

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
LEADER**

Tracey McLeod: 434088

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
WORKER**

Tammy Stuart: 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT  
WORKER**

Karen Reaney: 01307 818277

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Blair Fletcher: 07868 697 932

**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****August/Setember 2021****Baptisms and Blessings - None****Weddings - None****Funerals - Bill Cruikshank, Ann Ross,  
Elizabeth Eddie, Jennie Mill**

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 DATE****NOVEMBER EDITION**

Word Processed files, as attachments, should be sent directly to the Editor by

**Tuesday 26th October****Remember In Our Prayers**

Various of our families have suffered bereavements and among those who have been lost to us, one of our elders, Jennie Mill. Though funeral services come and go, the hurt continues. With that in mind, please pray for these families that they would know God's comfort through this season in their lives.

**Guild News**

Hello everyone, my it's nice to be able to report on actual face to face gatherings. Our Guild Sunday was well supported; thank you to all who were able to attend and for those watching on-line, we hope you enjoyed it. As usual we had participation by Guild members albeit in a reduced capacity. This was followed by our first meeting of the Guild session on Monday 13th of September. Wow! What a turn out - we certainly are blessed. The meeting began in the sanctuary with Martin leading our Dedication and Communion Service. Jenni, our new Guild Convenor thanked Joyce for her years of service and for ensuring, with her team, that "Guild at Home" kept us all in touch and engaged. Tea and a chat concluded the meeting with the ladies setting off on the "First Guild Flight" in the Main Hall.

The seating was reminiscent of being in an aeroplane and tea was served by Guild "trolley dollies" Isobel and Fiona.

The next meeting was on Monday 27th September when Gaynor introduced us to the new theme "Lights and Bushels", the first year of our three year plan "Looking Forward in Faith". It was really lovely to see new faces at our Guild meeting - a warm welcome to you and any others who would like to join us.

Our next meeting is on the 11th of October, when we will hear about the new Guild Projects for the next three years and the following meeting is on the 25th of October when we will welcome Martin and Elaine sharing their time when Martin was Moderator - "When one door closes another opens".

**"Whose we are and whom we serve"****Dalitso Project Update**

Our 10th 40ft container left for Malawi on September 17th filled to bursting with 1000s of items destined for our 2 centres. Included was 300 sacks of clothes and accessories, 98 boxes of linen, 146 boxes of First Aid supplies and 76 boxes of school supplies. Thanks to all that donated to this container. We will collect again in October and November before we stop for December to concentrate on our Christmas fundraisers.

With in-person events continuing to be on hold, we will again be offering a range of Christmas Fundraisers to get involved in. This will include our Alternative Gift Catalogue and from last year our delicious cake boxes. If you are not on our email mailing list please contact [info@dalitso.org](mailto:info@dalitso.org) to be added so you don't miss out on hearing about what we have on offer. If you are not online then please do speak to Sheila or Doris to be kept informed.

This month we celebrated with one of our young men, Brian Phiri, from Thyolo - he has featured regularly on our Christmas Countdown on Facebook and in our online magazine. Brian has been supported since primary school and this month he has graduated from the University of Livingstonia with a Bachelor of Science in Food Security and Nutrition. Well done Brian. We look forward to seeing your graduation photos on the 12th October.

We have a couple of prayer points this month. The first is for the safe transporting of the container. We have sent it slightly earlier this year in the hope that it will arrive by Christmas. Please pray for good weather as it makes its long journey. Please also join us in praying for one of our young people, Mary. Mary has worryingly been diagnosed with heart failure and so is undergoing many tests to understand the cause. She will require medication and close checks from now on. With added complications recently please do keep her in your prayers.

**Charis**

## Weekly prayers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic continue

On Sunday 3 October, Christians across the country – and further afield – continued to join together in prayer and reflection at 7pm in response to the pandemic. As with previous weeks during lockdown, 15 Christian churches and organisations across the country, including the Church of Scotland, have co-signed the letter calling for prayer.

Scottish Christians have been continuing to answer the call to pray at the same time each week, and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Lord Wallace, is taking part alongside them -

"We should always be mindful for the wisdom handed down to us from past generations; much of it learned the hard way, from mistakes made and consequences suffered," Lord Wallace said.

"So, too, we are grateful for the richness that comes to us from living alongside people of other traditions. In our day and generation we must surely allow our minds and hearts to be open so that we can risk getting to know them and learning from them.

"In this pandemic, our responsibility is to come together and offer our prayers for all the many diverse expressions of our Christian faith that enrich life, as we have done for many months now.

"Let us not forget that behind each death there will be grieving family and friends; behind each hospitalisation there will be a suffering patient, an anxious family and a caring and skilled medical team.

"And behind each vaccination, let us recognise, with thanks, the skill of the scientists' research and those who make distribution and vaccination possible. Let us remember, too, those in countries who still wait anxiously for vaccines to arrive. May our leaders respond imaginatively and generously to that challenge.

"A pattern has been set for us, lived out in Jesus Christ, made possible by the Spirit. May we follow in His way, and be guided by the one over-riding rule of love in all that we say and do."

This week's letter accompanying the prayer, which is also available in Gaelic, states: "What do we see? As we survey the day-to-day progress of life: What do we see? What we might prefer to see is a world that is coherent and ordered, with everything in its place and a place for everything.

"Equally, we might prefer to see a world subject to a guiding hand leading us on to a place of certainty. Whatever we might prefer to see, we may be certain that it is not yet the world as we see it today.

"The Letter to the Hebrews takes up the words of the Psalmist and pictures the 'son of man' as the One who has all things subject to Him. Indeed, the Letter affirms that: 'God left nothing that is not subject to Him.' Immediately thereafter, it states: 'Yet at present we do not see everything subject to Him.'

"There is a vision of the world as it shall be and a realisation that the world in which we live is not yet aligned to that vision. What we see is the world as it is and not yet the world as it shall be in the providence of God.

"The place we inhabit is the point of tension between the world we see and the world as God intends it to be. In this place, and by the grace of God, 'we see Jesus...now crowned with glory and honour because He suffered death' and we resolve to live out our faith as we follow the One who is the author and pioneer of our salvation. (Hebrews 2: 5-12/Psalm 8: 4-6)"

We pray:

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And we seek Your guiding hand  
In the days in which we live.  
Grant that we might discern Your guidance  
And live faithfully in accordance with Your will.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And Your care for Creation  
Overflows to all the earth.  
Grant to us the resolve to care for Creation  
In the place we inhabit and in the time You have given to us.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And You create us to reflect  
The image of God.  
Grant to us that we may see in our neighbour  
A reflection of Your image and so value the lives of all.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.

Living God,  
You give life to the world  
And to all Creation,  
And we see the world as it is  
And know that it is not yet the world as You will it to be.  
Grant to us faith that we might see Jesus and follow the One  
Who is the author and pioneer of our salvation.  
Lord, in Your mercy,  
Hear our prayer.



## The Kirking of Parliament

The Moderator, the Rt Hon Lord Wallace (Jim Wallace), led worship in the annual Kirking of the Parliament service, held at St Giles Cathedral on the evening of Friday 1 October, delivering his sermon to a congregation that included HRH Prince Charles, The Duke of Rothesay, as well as Scotland's political leaders.



## Sunday Club Picnic in June



## Skydive

Giving a HUGE thank you to all the Church Family who generously sponsored me on my Skydive.

It was an incredible experience and I have raised approximately £1,500 for the Mental Health Charity "Reach Across." Thanks so much. God Bless you all. Billy.

