



## An Easter Meditation

John 6:54: 'Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise them up on the last day.'

In the first century of the Christian era believers were being persecuted and killed. Nero reputedly played a violin while Rome burned; he had set the city alight, but he blamed the Christians. They were being slaughtered without mercy. One accusation against them was that they celebrated their easter with cannibalism—feeding on human flesh and blood. The evidence came from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke and the accounts of the Passover on the eve of Jesus' death.

Some have suggested that in his Gospel (written several decades after the first three Gospels), John deliberately omitted the account of the Passover and the Last Supper. The suggestion was that John didn't want to add further evidence to the enemies of the early church, so he tucked away the Last Supper in chapter 6 of his Gospel, where the believers' accusers would never think of looking for it.

For a long time, I accepted this explanation of John 6:53-54ff. But now I think these words do not refer to the Communion Service at all. Why? Every other NT reference to the Lord's Supper refers to the bread as the 'body' (Gk. soma) of Christ, never to it as his 'flesh' (Gk. sarx). So, what does Jesus mean in these words I have quoted above?

The word used here for 'eating' (used 7 times in 6:50-58) is unusual. Literally, it means something like 'to ruminate'. Just as cattle feed on grass and then lie down in the meadow 'to chew on the cud', as we say, so believers must learn daily to chew on the 'bread of life' which is Christ.

So this Easter season, ruminate day by day on Christ the 'bread of life'. Take time this special season to digest all of Jesus' words, allowing them to permeate our thinking, speaking, loving, acting—in other words, to permeate our daily living. So Easter will be lived out in our homes, work and recreation. Call it 'holy chewing on the cud', if you wish, but that is what Jesus meant when he spoke these enigmatic words.

David Searle

### Guild News

Our evening with entertainment by the Gallus Boys was lively with sing-a-longs, toe tapping, clapping and hand waving.

Our next meeting was a talk about one of our projects - Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania. This is an outreach by The Vine Trust and Africa Inland Church, set up to provide homes and a safe place for orphaned children to grow and develop.

The Guild AGM will possibly also have been held by the time you read this as the date for this is the 11th April. As part of this meeting we will have a talk by Carla bringing us up to date with all the news about our local youth outreach projects.

Something to look forward to:-

**Big Sing Tues 24th May at 7pm.** This year to be held in Assembly Rooms Edinburgh. Gaynor has been asked to speak about our" Guild in a Bag "which took us through lockdown.

The Annual Gathering on **Saturday 10th September** will also be held in Edinburgh. More information regarding this will follow.

We anticipate having Guild information back on our notice board for everyone to peruse at leisure.

"Whose we are and whom we serve."



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**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****March 2022****Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Ken Slater

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****MAY EDITION**

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

**Tuesday 26th April****Editor Note -**

Because the March edition was delayed, this is a much shorter April edition. Also, Covid has been having an effect on our volunteers who deliver Quest, and so this edition will only be available online at first. It will, however be delivered, in due course, with the May edition.

## The Dalitso Project 15 years of Friendship

The planning is well underway for our 15 year anniversary event in June. The trustees and management committee have recently met to put together a programme for the evening. The date has been set for the 17th June - more exact details to follow next month.

The format for the evening will be based around the timeline from 2007 to 2022 as we look at key points and decisions made during this time. This will be done through video, photos and interviews. Already Christopher, a then young lad we met way back at the start, is planning his trips to both centres to take the footage we need for the evening. We pray that by next year's AGM, we have been able to visit, to make this process much easier!

The preparation itself has involved sifting through the hundreds of photos taken over the years and to be honest I am thoroughly enjoying it! Some I haven't looked at in years. The smiles of these beautiful children remain a theme throughout the pictures, capturing the excitement and energy of those we have met.

The photos tell the stories of the people of Malawi and how the land around our two daycare centres has been transformed into places of opportunities.

St. Andrews Church has been a major part of this journey from giving their blessing to the first group of young people to visit, to the many, many of you who continue to sponsor a child, support fundraisers and donate money towards the work. We remember the service on the day we left for the first trip where we sang "And all I know is You have called me, And that I will follow is all I can say, I will go where You will send me And Your fire lights my way". If we had been told 15 years ago all that would have been achieved in Malawi it would have been natural to think it was impossible. But what has become clear throughout it all, is that with God in the centre, great things can happen.

So I end with an invitation for you all to attend our event. Put the date in your calendar, diaries and phones so we can celebrate all that has been achieved. We thank God that he chose this small community of Arbroath to be part of his work in Malawi, the warm heart of Africa.

**Charis**

## Easter Holiday Club

As announced in the March Quest we are running a Holiday Club for children this Easter!

It will be called **Backpackers** and will be a run-through of the events of Easter week. Because this will be our first such post-covid event, we're proceeding somewhat cautiously and putting a limit on numbers, and running for less days - and so there will be forty places, open to p1-p5 children, and the club will run from

**Monday 11-13th April, from 10am - 12noon.**

Please pray for the success of the club:

- That we'd be able to run it safely
- That all of the places would be taken
- That the children who come would have a wonderful few days of fun and games and, within that, hearing about Jesus.