



Glorious Easter

Easter 2022 was special indeed, for all the right reasons. On Maundy Thursday, many St. Andrew's members joined together with brothers and sisters at the West Kirk for a modest meaningful communion service.

On Good Friday, again we joined together with folks from churches across the town and country for a Walk of Witness through our communities carrying crosses, ultimately converging at the Old & Abbey Church for a beautifully reflective service.

Easter Sunday began with breakfast in our church garden, as we followed the pattern of John 21, including a breakfast of fish and bread in accordance with the text. Thanks to Andrew Moore of *The Wee Fish Hoose* for kindly donating

a lovely side of salmon.

At 11am, we found ourselves having to bring in extra chairs to accommodate all who gathered - regulars and guests alike. We celebrated Lisa-Marie's baptism and shared in Communion, all while celebrating that 'Jesus is Alive!'

The day was completed with a 'Resurrection Special' in which our worship band led passionate praise and Martin shared a reflection on Jesus' words to his disciples, 'Peace be with you.'

But most of all, it was the day when we sensed we were properly back together again in a way that hasn't been possible for over two years. For that, thanks be to God.



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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records****April 2022****Baptisms** - Lisa-Marie Waters**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Catherine Smith, Maureen Glen, Betty Dinnie,
Elaine Hamilton, Betty Crosbie

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**JUNE EDITION****Word Processed files,
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should be sent directly
to the Editor by****Tuesday 24th May**

Easter Holiday Club

As anticipated, our Easter Holiday Club was a much smaller affair than normal but what we can confirm, is that all the children who came had a great time!!

The club was called Backpackers and together we went on a journey - visiting vari-

ous countries virtually - but more importantly, we journeyed with Jesus through the Easter Bible accounts.

Holiday Clubs have long been part of our tradition. If they are anything, they are seed-sowing opportunities. We sew and then trust God for future harvests.

Well done to the Easter Holiday Club Team.



Wednesday Café

We had a lovely time at our Easter themed Café in April, enjoying hot cross buns and pancakes with our tea and coffee. The ladies were very busy at their 'craft and chat' and were able to complete a couple of crafts while the men were busy putting, competing for Easter egg prizes. A few games of Bingo were also played, again with Easter themed chocolate goodies and it caused us to laugh that everyone on one particular table all managed to win!! - though there were also winners on other tables.

All in all, it was a wonderful afternoon for guests and volunteers alike. If you know of anyone who would like to come along, please phone Gaynor on 07736 115640 for details.



Martin Fair

May 2022

Dear friends,

At the end of March, Carla and I attended a seminar in Edinburgh, hosted by the Church of Scotland and featuring the excellent Lorenzo Lebrija as the guest speaker.

Lorenzo heads up a Christian agency called Try Tank. The name is a clever allusion to the more common phrase 'think tank.' His contention is that thinking is all well and good but that what's really required of the Church in these days is that we try things!

He's absolutely right. Simply doing what we've always done because we're used to it and comfortable with it is not the answer. The Church across Scotland, with precious few exceptions, has been declining for sixty years. And yet many simply want to keep doing the same things.

If ever there was a season when trying things makes sense, it's now - as we emerge from the pandemic. There needs to be a new missional focus with our concentration being on reaching out AND on ensuring that Church is as welcoming as is possible.

Of course this won't come easy to some. Some people like to go to the same place on holiday every year or order the same meal every time they go out, or order in. That's fine but when it comes to developing the life of a Church, boldness and a willingness to try new things is pretty much essential.

As a child I was a very picky eater! And when I said to my mum that I didn't like something, she'd reply, 'You'll never know till you try!'

May it be so.

With love,

Martin & Elaine

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Guild News

The Guild held its AGM on Monday 11th April where apart from all the usual business of the day including reports by our secretary, treasurer and president giving a roundup of the past session events we were entertained by Carla our church youth worker.

Carla with the assistance of Joan takes bible alive into the local schools. For those of you who haven't experienced this, I encourage you to ask Carla for a demo. All I can say is I wish we had this when I was at school. Various guild members were encouraged to take part in the interactive quiz and telling of various bible stories. Martin played a very regal Pharaoh during the story of Joseph. It was with great joy we learned of the fantastic work being done in our schools by Carla and her team, and of the wonderful response from the young people. We wish them every success not only with Bible Alive but also with the clubs being set up to provide an interesting fun and safe space for young girls in the community. We are sure that it won't be long before the boys will also have similar clubs.

As we start the summer break during which we hope you will all be blessed with love laughter and light please try to take a look at the guild notice board. On this you will see events we are planning for the summer and if you wish to join with us all information required. You do not have to be guild members to take part just a desire to enjoy some fellowship.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"



The Eighth Commandment

You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15

Zaccheus said, 'If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.' Jesus said, 'Today salvation has come to this house.' Luke 19:8-9

Some years ago, a national newspaper published a Board of Trade estimate that over 18% of our Gross National Product is stolen every year. Those involved ranged from top management to the humblest cleaners. In the building industry alone, enough materials go 'missing' annually to build a fair-sized town.

The eighth commandment says, '*You shall not steal.*'

I had an idle moment to think about this law. My thought wandered round the room and settled on the bookshelf. I found my eye resting on a forgotten volume that I had borrowed years ago... I must have had it at least twelve years! Then I saw another two, no three, unreturned books. Surely Lord, I haven't stolen them?

The commandment murmurs, '*You shall not steal.*'

Through in the kitchen while making a cuppa, I remembered that when the house was built the contractor forgot to include in the final account an 'extra' we had requested—a

very expensive mixer-tap with a mini-shower attachment. I never raised it with him. After all, it was his responsibility, not mine, to keep track of the work he does. I would have paid for it if he'd requested it. Surely Lord, I haven't stolen it?

The commandment whispers, '*You shall not steal.*'

Slipping into the garage to put a tool away, I noticed a large box of screws. I wondered why I felt guilty. Then I recalled that a tradesman had left them behind. 'Just keep them,' he had said to me. 'The foreman will never miss them.' But they were not his to give, nor mine to keep. Surely Lord, I haven't stolen them?

The commandment still insists, '*You shall not steal.*'

Lord, where do I draw the line? Those envelopes in the office... the ream of paper... the drawing pins... the personal telephone call in my boss's time... it's becoming absurd, ridiculous! No one bothers about trivia like this nowadays. It's accepted, Lord, that we help ourselves a little, here and there.

My child, my Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He is pleased to live in a life that is transparently honest with no shadow of deceit, no grey areas. 'God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.' Repay what is owed. Return what is not yours. Then salvation will have come to your house.

D Searle.

The Bible Course

The Bible Course has been voted a big success, with lots of participants really appreciating the quality of the material and the simple joy of being together again! We'll run it again, for sure.

Here's what some of our folks had to say about it:

Carla Ingram: *'An interesting and engaging course with quality videos which sparked deep discussions and conversations in our small groups. Lots of learning points for everyone - no matter where you are on your bible journey!'*

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Linda Hunter. *'I thoroughly enjoyed The Bible Course. The resources are high quality and easy to follow, and the timeline really gave a clear picture of the Bible as a whole. It certainly helped me to better understand the Old Testament, which I've always found a bit daunting, and how it relates to the New Testament. Great course!'*

Ron Morrison *'The way things were explained really helped me understand the Bible better and strengthened my faith - and listening to different points of view helped me to see some things in a different light.'*

Presbytery Planning

The work across Scotland continues and so also in Angus, towards a new Presbytery Mission Plan. This will be the strategic plan by which the Church will lay out how it intends to deploy its ministers and use its buildings (those which it chooses to retain) to better further the mission that we are called to; to make known the name of Jesus in word and deed.

Of course the reality is that we're looking at a drastic cut in the number of ministers. In towns across the country, the likelihood is of one minister where there used to be three. In the town of Arbroath? Probably two ministers where only recently there were four - and likely one minister for all of the surrounding countryside.

In our case, that would amount to our parish increasing fourfold in population terms. Think about the extra demands of that? And yet with so many many ministers set for retirement in the next few years, and with so few new ministers coming through the system, there's no alternative.

We've been fortunate in having a minister and should remember that some congregations have been without one for

two, three and four years. But the times are changing and though Martin will almost certainly still be our minister, he may well find that his role changes and that, for example, he leads our Sunday service as well as another elsewhere.

As for buildings, right now there is an assessment process taking place whereby every church building in Scotland is being assessed for suitability, under the criteria: 'Well equipped spaces in the right places.' Every building will be scored and then graded A or B, where A will mean 'this building has a future behind 2025 and B that 'this building should be disposed of by 2025.' While this will be a painful business, and not least for those who will see their buildings close, the reality is that we've got too many buildings and they're an enormous strain on diminishing resources.

These, then, are the discussions that are taking place and when concrete proposals are made, our Kirk Session will have sight of them and will prayerfully deliberate on what it might mean for St. Andrew's.

Challenging times indeed but we should not fear the future and where all of this leads to churches working much more collaboratively, we should welcome it.

Pentecost

This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday 5th June and we're very hopeful it's going to be a wonderful day. Plans are underway nationally for congregations - and groups of congregations - to come together for Pentecost Picnics in open-air spaces and there, to fly kites!

Our hope is that Christians from across the churches in Arbroath will gather together after our various morning services. What better that Pentecost be about God's family coming together!

And the kites? Well as a kite won't fly without wind, so the Church without the Holy Spirit can never get off the ground and be what it's called to be. Watch out for all the details coming soon!

Pandemic Restrictions

Most restrictions have now been lifted but, even so, though rules have been downgraded to 'guidelines' maintaining a degree of caution continues to make sense.

Therefore, we should continue to be mindful of our own health and if we're exhibiting any covid-like symptoms we should do a test ourselves and stay away from church if unsure. And while masks are no longer required, you should feel entirely comfortable to continue to wear one if you wish. There will be no judgement or pressure either way.

And finally, though the balcony continues to be out of use - and we've no plans to open it again any time soon - if you want to come to worship but feel that you must distance yourself, please speak to Martin to discuss arrangements.

The Dalitso Project

Dear congregation of St. Andrews Church,

June 27th, 2022 marks 15 years since the first team of 9 visited Malawi and the beginning of a wonderful partnership with Aquaid Lifeline. During that trip the group attended a church opening at Thyolo. The hope was for a daycare and residence to eventually be built to cater for the most needy orphans in the area. With the amazing fundraising effort prior to the trip we decided as a group to put some of our money towards this build, creating the St. Andrews Daycare. The story of the Kambillonjo partnership, started with a visit by half of the team to the already opened daycare. The group will always remember the faces of the children sitting freezing cold on the daycare floor, no jackets, no windows, the wind howling, trying to eat their nsima. The other half of the team then travelled with jackets and we all knew God was calling us to support this area. Since then we have supported the centres fully.

15 years later, these 2 communities have been transformed.

What started as a youth venture, became The Dalitso Project, but the support from the people of St. Andrews Church has remained consistent throughout. Whether through donations, sponsorship, prayer, attendance at fundraisers or the 101 other ways you have supported us, each effort has ensured that young people in Malawi are fed, clothed, educated and have access to medical care.

So it is with all this in mind, that I invite you all to our 15 year celebration event that will take place on Friday 17th June at 7pm at Arbroath Bowling Club, Dishlandtown Street, Arbroath. We are so grateful for all the support we have had over the years and will continue to have in the future. We thank God, for choosing St. Andrews, Arbroath to be part of his work in Malawi.

On behalf of the children of Thyolo and Kambillonjo I thank you and I look forward to seeing you on the 17th.

Charis.

On behalf of the Trustees and Management Committee.

Quest Online

Much has changed as a result of the pandemic and one thing that all organisations have noticed is the reluctance of folk to take on voluntary roles, or to resume them. It's part of the post-pandemic world.

Our ability to deliver Quest has been affected by this. Last time around, our Administrator, Linda, had to deliver lots

of the magazines on her own, on one occasion starting at 4.30am to get them done before starting work. That cannot continue!

As a response, we'll need to consider reducing the number of issues but if you can get online PLEASE let us know so that we can email Quest to you, or so that you can read it via the website. And of course, far better if we can avoid using so much paper!

Toiletry Donations

Many thanks to everyone who donated toiletries during the Covid restrictions of 2020 and 2021. We were able to deliver 60 bags of toiletries to the Women's Refuge in both

years and as always they were much appreciated.

Donations of toiletries, stamps and postcards and for Dalitso should be left in the cupboard in the small hall.

Thank you.

Utility Bills

We're all painfully aware of the hike in our gas and electricity bills, domestically speaking. But of course, the same is true for the church though in some senses it's even worse as there are no caps on our bills as is this case for our

homes. We're looking for better alternatives but our present supplier quoted us a threefold price increase!

On the upside, warmer weather is coming but we need to ask all hall users to think carefully about ways in which energy consumption can be minimised.

Praying Together

Matthew 18:19-20

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

I'm sure all of you will agree the last couple of years have been very challenging. We have missed so many of the opportunities to meet and worship together as a result of the restrictions placed on us through the pandemic. However, out of these difficult circumstances there are positives. One of these has been the number of people who now come together to pray for our families, friends, church, local communities, and the wider world on Zoom. Over this time we have been so blessed and encouraged as we have seen God answering prayer. Finally, one for the guys, an opportunity on a Tuesday morning to start the day in prayer and thanks.

We all know the value of coming before God every day in prayer in our private devotions. There is much to be gained however when two or three (or more!) come together in Jesus' name to seek God, draw close to him and each other in our walk with God.

If you have never prayed in small groups before, perhaps God might be asking you to take a step of faith and join one, or more of the prayer groups which meet regularly each week.

Each meeting has a slightly different focus. On Thursday evening we pray for our church families and those known to us who are in need of prayer. On Sunday evenings, we pray for the churches in the town, their ministers and their families and church leaders as well as the church nationally and worldwide. It is also an opportunity to pray into world events which we see on the news.

Prayer accomplishes much. Sometimes we feel helpless and feel we can do nothing, but prayer is powerful and changes situations (and us!).

During his ministry one of John Knox's greatest opponents, Queen Mary of Scots, is alleged to have said, *'I fear John Knox's prayers more than all the assembled armies of Europe.'* John Knox, one of the Reformation's greatest prayer warriors, is famous for crying out to God and praying, *'Give me Scotland, Lord, or I die!'*

Just imagine... the power of collectively coming together to pray! The possibilities are endless!

All these meetings are on Zoom. During the meeting we come together then break into small groups of five to six people to pray for a short while.

The times are:

Tuesday: 7.00 – 7.30 am

Thursday: 7.00 – 8.00 pm

Sunday: 7.00 – 8.00 pm

The Zoom Meeting link for all the meetings is always the same:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89873923460?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89873923460?pwd=NzkzYzdWREFuYXBLa0RhZnZuU2VEexzUT09)

[pwd=NzkzYzdWREFuYXBLa0RhZnZuU2VEexzUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89873923460?pwd=NzkzYzdWREFuYXBLa0RhZnZuU2VEexzUT09)

Alternatively, you can enter the joining detail manually into Zoom as follows:

Meeting ID: 898 7392 3460

Passcode: 476522

If you have any questions, would like to know more about it, or would like help on joining a Zoom meeting, please call Scott on 07081 787303 or Elaine on 07941 941758.

Looking forward to seeing you on Zoom.

God bless, Scott and Elaine

Connections

Whether in person or online or through some of the photographs in this edition of Quest, you'll have seen something of our new Sunday morning format.

Is it different? Yes it is! And thus far, most people have embraced it as being an important step in our way forward. On Easter Day, one of our younger members declared, *'This is Church!'* And one of our more senior members left afterwards saying, *'That was one of the most special services I've ever been at and to share communion with friends at the table, was beautiful.'*

Of course, as with anything new it will take a little time for us all to get comfortable with it and to see the benefits.

The Kirk Session has agreed on this direction for two principle reasons.

Firstly, because **mission** must be our key driver and it is our belief that newcomers, guests, visitors and seekers will have a much more positive experience of being among us when seated at tables. By definition, they will be warmly welcomed and will get to interact with people which was much less possible than when sitting in rows. If bringing new people into our family isn't our top priority then decline will be inevitable. We'd love for more people to hear about, and to respond to Jesus, and we reckon that more likely in this format.

Of course, the content will not change. The Gospel is the Gospel and always will be. But times change and the Church generally has been notoriously bad at adapting. Again, the message doesn't change but the way we go about being church together should always adapt.

The second thing is this: our worshipping together will be enhanced - and will certainly be more accessible to younger age-groups - when it becomes less passive and more interactive. And, as above, if we're not thinking very carefully about including younger people more fully then there's only going to be one direction of travel. Putting this another way, we're committing ourselves to the **Growing Young** agenda which is about being an inclusive, participatory, inter-generational community of faith. It's not enough just to say that and our new Sunday format is one of the ways in which we are looking to put it into practice.

Finally, we should have biblical roots in mind. Some are unsure about eating in church but there's no question about it that many of Jesus' most important encounters took place at the table. And in terms of the Last Supper, of course it followed naturally on from what was a meal.

It seems clear that there was little of the division that we are want to impose - that some things are 'sacred' and others 'secular.' When God's people are together, the sharing of table fellowship and the worship that these people offer are bound in one indivisible whole.

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More In Photos Easter Sunday Holiday Club Dalitso



**15
YEARS**
2007-2022

THE DALITSO PROJECT
FRIDAY 17TH JUNE
ARBROATH BOWLING CLUB,
DISHLANDTOWN STREET
7PM