



SC005478

October 2022

PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN - CONTINUED

It is right that members of the congregation be kept abreast of the plans for the Church in our area. Of course, the very same processes are being engaged in across the whole of Scotland but, naturally, we have a particular interest in our locale.

To that end, a special meeting of the Presbytery of Angus took place on Saturday 3rd September at which a Presbytery Mission Plan was presented. This Plan detailed 1) where the much-reduced number of ministers will be deployed and 2) listed every church building as either 'A' or 'B.'

Our own building was designated as 'A' meaning that it will be used for the foreseeable future. Many other buildings across Arbroath and Angus more widely, received 'B' ratings, meaning that they are to be disposed off within a given time frame - sooner rather than later in some cases.

This is quite simply an acknowledgment that we have too many buildings and that too many of them are poorly equipped, badly maintained and far too big for modern-day congregations - many of which number not much more than a handful or so.

After considerable debate and discussion - not to mention

counter proposals from some of those whose buildings were deemed to be surplus to requirements or who were not being offered a minister - the Plan was approved and transmitted to the national Church. All being well, before too long it will reach final approval and we'll all know where we stand.

And then the real work can begin!

Congregations will be asked to work together as never before. Although a number of buildings will be retained and there will be services across the town and country areas, we will essentially come together as one church. Bringing it all together from an administrative point of view will be a challenge in itself - as will encouraging everyone to work together for a common goal.

But that goal is unchanged. To glorify God, to make known the name of Jesus and in our words and deeds, to point to his coming Kingdom. This is the mission of the Church. Anything less than a wholesale embracing of that mission will see nothing other than continued demise.

Working out what this will mean Sunday by Sunday and in the day-to-day sense is the work that lies before us. Keep your eye on Quest magazine for regular updates.

Rising Costs

We have made mention of this in recent weeks and though it would now appear that the Government is introducing plans to lessen the impact of the sharp rise in energy bills, we will need 1. continue to be vigilant and 2. accept that our buildings won't always be as warm as we'd want and that certain of our spaces will be more or less shut for the

winter months.

Discussions are underway in terms of how we might best address these challenges but most important, we don't want to be in a position where some of you will consider not coming for fear of being too cold. We will manage, one way or another, and even if it means a woolly jumper and a thick coat, so be it!

Guild News

Due to the death of Queen Elizabeth events on our calendar have understandably been postponed while along with the nation we mourned Her passing.

Sadly my news for our guild ladies begins with the information that one of our much loved and longstanding guild members, Jean Kucharski, passed away on Monday 19th September. Jean with her lovely smile will be missed by us all.

On Sunday 18th September guild members took part in the morning service, this being the beginning of our guild session. The coming activities for anyone who would like to join with us are as follows:

Monday 3rd October 7.30pm Dedication and Communion Service in the small hall. This will be taken by Martin.

Monday 17th October EARLIER TIME OF 7.00PM World Day of Prayer, speaker Marjorie Paton her topic: - The Past, Present and Looking to the Future.

Monday 31st of October 7.30pm We will have a presentation on our guild project "UNIDA". Hear our Voice! Training Women for Ministry and Service in Brazil. Plus an introduction to our theme for this session Wee Seeds Big Trees

Please may we ask if guild members can bring along their cup (for cuppy after) and perhaps think of wearing LAYERS as we all strive to reduce those dreaded power bills.

Some news for us to look forward to: - five of our guild members are to visit the Holy Land in October. Their travel stories and hopefully pictures will brighten our approach to winter.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"



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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records****September 2022****Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Dot Gillespie, Jean Kucharski

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 25th
October**

The Monarch and the Kirk

Here is the oath read by King Charles at the Accession Council meeting at St James's Palace in London:

"I, Charles III by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of My other Realms and Territories King, Defender of the Faith, do faithfully promise and swear that I shall inviolably maintain and preserve the Settlement of the true Protestant Religion as established by the Laws made in Scotland in prosecution of the Claim of Right and particularly by an Act intituled 'An Act for securing the Protestant Religion and Presbyterian Church Government' and by the Acts passed in the Parliament of both Kingdoms for Union of the two Kingdoms, together with the Government, Worship, Discipline, Rights and Privileges of the Church of Scotland. So help me God."

Why is the Church of Scotland singled out and the new monarch obliged by law to maintain faithfully its status in our nation?

It all goes back to the Act of Union in 1707 when James VI of Scotland succeeded Queen Elizabeth, daughter of Henry VIII, and became James I of England, Wales and Ireland. Before this Union of the Crowns, James Stewart, son of Mary Queen of Scots, had had an increasingly stormy relationship with the Kirk. He wanted to emulate his grandfather, Henry VIII, and become head of the Church of Scotland in much the same way as Henry had made himself supreme Head of the Church of England.

One of his ploys was to try and gain control of the Kirk, by demanding that bishops should be introduced. He would appoint the bishops and grant them benefices which would make them both wealthy and powerful in the Kirk, but importantly would also oblige them to obey him. But the Scots ministers consistently insisted that the only Head of the Kirk was her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In 1595 a famous incident took place in Falkland Palace when one of Scotland's leaders and finest theologians, Andrew Melville, during a heated discussion with James VI, took him by the sleeve, called him 'God's silly vassal', and said:

'I mon tell yow, thair is twa Kings and twa Kingdomes in Scotland. Thair is Chryst Jesus the King, and his Kingdome the Kirk, whase subject King James the Saxt is, and of whose kingdome nocht a king, nor a lord, nor a heid, bot [merely] a member!'

Needless to say, Melville's boldness did not endear him to the king; quite the contrary. But it famously summed up the Presbyterian view of the monarch, and it was by the steadfast insistence of the Kirk that since 1707 at every accession of a new king or queen of the United Kingdom, the solemn promise had to be made to protect and defend the Kirk's autonomy under Christ's Headship alone.

In England, King Charles III is titular Head of the Established Church. In Scotland, he is a merely member, equal alongside all other members. However, when the General Assembly is convened, the monarch has historically been granted the right to be present as a Guest (or to appoint a Lord High Commissioner as his representative at the Assembly). But although neither the monarch nor the Lord High Commissioner has any authority or vote, always granted is the honour of addressing the Assembly. And the address is invariably listened to with the highest respect.

And that is the historic position of both Queens and Kings of the United Kingdom, dating back 315 years! And that is how it came about that all monarchs must take the oath, quoted above, as did our new King, Charles III.

D Searle.

Martin Fair

October 2022

Dear friends,

When writing my last Quest letter, I made reference to my visit to Balmoral - my second such opportunity to spend a weekend with the Queen and members of her family. Little did I know then that by the time of the next Quest, I'd be writing about the Queen's death and the beginning of the reign of Charles III.

All of that represented the end of an era and many wonder if we'll ever see the likes again?

Of the late Queen's many stand-out qualities, her fortitude and steadfastness were particularly noteworthy. She kept her head when all around, others were losing theirs. She stood as a constant in a world that, over the seventy years of her reign, changed beyond all recognition.

But above all, it was the Queen's sincere Christian faith that shone through and, thankfully, that was very much to the fore in the news coverage of her funeral and throughout the period of national mourning. And her more recent Christmas Day messages have been very 'up front' in terms of the Christian content. May her faith be an inspiration to many in days to come.

As I have reported in previous times, I had sight of it myself when visiting Balmoral - when on the evening before Sunday Worship, she requested a note of the Bible readings and hymns so that she could properly prepare herself for the service.

This we know: beyond preparation for worship, Her Majesty the Queen had very much prepared herself for her death and for eternity thereafter. It's faith in Christ that gives us assurance that, as the Apostle Paul put it, 'death has lost its sting...'

Therefore we need not fear. The final enemy has been conquered. Thanks be to God.

Martin & Elaine

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Dez Johnston

What a treat to have Dez Johnston back in St. Andrew's Church. Dez, who heads up Alpha Scotland and Alpha Youth across Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, was our guest on Sunday 25th September and a very busy church listened with great interest as he shared something of his life journey and of the challenges he and his family

have faced in recent times. Dez's faith is infectious and his down to earth nature makes him the perfect communicator, particularly where young people are concerned. With that in mind, what an inspired choice he was in being appointed to the position of President of Boys Brigade UK and Ireland. We wish Dez well in all of his work and pray that God would use him powerfully to communicate the Gospel to a generation that largely has not heard it.

Dalitso

On Saturday 15th October a team of 7 will travel to Malawi, over 3 years since our last trip. To say that we are excited is an understatement as we look forward to seeing the children, staff and the various parts of the work. Our time will be split between Thyolo and Kambilonjo. Some of our time will involve meeting with each child, interviewing them and of course, giving them their 'summer' gift from their sponsor. We look forward to bringing home letters and reports that I know so many have missed over the last few years. Please pray for the trip as the 'to do' list is massive and with only a 2 week trip possible at this time of year, we will require things to run smoothly for us to get to the bottom of it. Also pray for our travel plans. For the planes, trucks and trains we will use to get there and around Malawi, that nothing will be cancelled and the fuel shortage in Malawi will be resolved in time for our arrival.

At time of reading, Container 11 should be on its way. The 24th September was packing day! We are again really thankful to all that contributed to this container and we look forward to its arrival in the coming months - hopefully a bit quicker than last years!

With the price of everything going up and up, here in the UK and also in Malawi, the container delivery is no different. It has always been our thought that as long as what is in the container is worth more than the cost of sending, then it was worth it. However, over the last couple of years in particular the cost of the container has been rising significantly so this is likely no longer the case. So a hard decision has been made by the Trustees that this container will be the last. Although really disappointing, currently we have no other option but to stop this part of the work. This will raise for many of you the question about Christmas presents as these have always been sent in the container. We are looking into a couple of different options that we will share with you at a later date if either looks workable.

For now, we thank you all for the contributions you have made to the containers. They have really blessed the communities of Thyolo and Kambilonjo since 2013 when we sent our first. Who would have thought back then that we would have sent 10 more in only 9 years. On behalf of the children of Thyolo and Kambilonjo, we thank you.

Charis

Alpha

As mentioned elsewhere, we were joined in September by Dez Johnston - head of Alpha Scotland. The good news is that, starting right after the October school holidays, we're going to start a brand new Alpha right here in Arbroath!

For the better part of forty years, Alpha has been amongst the most widely used resources in the Christian world. It's a perfect way for Christians to revisit the core truths of their faith but, even more importantly, it's a great introduction for those who know nothing about faith and who have rarely, if ever, set foot in a Church building.

Watch for full details as they are published and ask: 'Is there someone I could invite to Alpha?'

Holy Land

Between the 7th and 16th October, a twelve-strong group from our Church will be visiting The Holy Land to engage in a pilgrim journey - both seeking to 'walk in the footsteps of Jesus' and to engage with the present day circumstances of those who live in these lands now, not least the fragile Christian community.

This is the third such trip from St. Andrew's - the first having taken place some fifteen years ago. Our prayer is that everyone in the group will make memories for a lifetime and that their sense of the presence of God in that 'Holy Land' will be powerful.

Watch out for reports in a future edition of Quest.

Start Your Day Right

The UCB Word for Today – 28th August 2022
'Abraham...stood before the Lord.'
Genesis 19:27 NKJV

Abraham was known as 'the Friend of God' (James 2:23 KJV). What an honour! But the secret of his greatness is easy to overlook: 'Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord.' He started his day with God. Do you?

The way you get up in the morning sets the tone for your day. So try this: first thing tomorrow, get alone with God for a few minutes and go over your plans for the day. As you're going over them, you will have some concerns. Just hand them over to Him. Maybe you will notice a particular problem you're worried about. Ask Him for wisdom. The Bible says He will give it to you gladly (see James 1:5). If

He doesn't give you an immediate answer, realise it's because He wants you to trust Him. He has something in mind, something that you haven't thought of yet.

So many of us start our day anxious, hurried, fearful, or rushed. But you don't have to. You're going to start your day anyway; why not start it with God? You're going to have a first thought anyhow, so why not let it belong to God before whom all our anxieties flee? When you're having a bad day, pause and ask yourself, 'Did I start this day with God, or did I forget to include Him?'

Here are two Scriptures you need to consider: 'In the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly' (Psalm 5:3 NIV). 'Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days' (Psalm 90:14 NIV).

Thank you to Lynne and Ron Morrison for this submission.

More In Photos



The Girls Group



Martin with Dez Johnston



Our Sunday Coffee Morning Team



Friends Choir Concert for Dalitso Fundraising