

Holy Land Hallelujahs

Twelve disciples set off from Arbroath on the 7th October. All twelve returned on the 16th, but none were the same as when heading out. More to come in the months ahead, but here are some photos of our trip and, inside this edition, on page 4, you can read the wonderful and inspiring reflections from four members of the group.



At Jerusalem with Martin and the guide (centre)



On the Sea of Galilee



Outside the
Dome of
The Rock
Mosque

Communion
at the Tent of
Nations near
Bethlehem



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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records****October 2022****Baptisms** - Isobel Wright**Weddings** - Sally Reid and James Lee Beattie**Funerals** - Dot Gillespie, Jean Kucharski, Helen Duncan,
Alice Fairweather

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**DECEMBER EDITION****Word Processed files,
as attachments,
should be sent directly
to the Editor by****Friday 25th
November****St Andrew's & Old and Abbey Church Foodbank**

A very big thank you to everyone who has handed in donations for the Foodbank. Every item received is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Great Scots who must not be forgotten**1. George Wishart (1513-1546)**

George Wishart was born in 1513 in Fordoun, Kincardineshire. His family were aristocrats and so were comfortably off in an age when there was much poverty and few children received any education. Not so George. He studied first in Aberdeen University and then in the Netherlands where at the age of 18 years he graduated from the University of Leuven. Fourteen years earlier Martin Luther had nailed his famous 95 theses to the church door in Wittenburg, and the great reformation doctrines (which became known as the three Sola's—though faith *alone*, by grace *alone*, through Christ *alone*) had spread throughout the Netherlands like fire on the heather.

Wishart had firmly grasped this teaching from the Bible which at that time was unknown in the Roman Catholic churches. Returning home to Scotland, he taught Greek for a time in a school in Montrose. He had translated the Swiss Confession of Faith from Latin into English and that made him famous on both sides of the Border. Hence his invitation to teach in Cambridge University for six years from the age of twenty-five.

At the age of thirty he returned once again to his native Scotland where he preached to large crowds in Montrose, Dundee and then along the Ayrshire coast. People clamoured to hear how their sins could be forgiven without needing confession to a priest or doing penance or buying indulgences to shorten their years of torture in purgatory—a Roman Catholic doctrine not found in the Bible.

When he travelled east to preach in the Lothians, he began to say frequently that he knew he would soon be made a martyr for embracing the biblical teaching of both Luther and Calvin. (One of his constant companions at this time was a young man called John Knox.) His premonition was correct for in 1546, when he was only thirty-three years of age, he was arrested in Ormiston, East Lothian, and ended up being tried for heresy in St Andrews. There he was hanged, and his body publicly burned.

He was remembered with great affection by the inhabitants of St Andrews where there still stands a memorial to him. Also, in Dundee there is in the Cowgate an Archway, the only remains of the original city walls; it is still known as Wishart's Arch for many believed that from that ancient gateway he had preached to plague victims who were not permitted to enter the city. Fourteen years after his martyrdom, the Reformation would sweep across Scotland. This brilliant young man's untimely death had not been in vain.

D Searle.**Wednesday Café**

What a lovely time we all had at our October Café, and we were very pleased that two new folk joined us. It was an afternoon of chatting, enjoying home baking and cups of tea and coffee.

This month our craft had an autumnal feel to it and while some chose to craft, others

chose the putting. Then before it's time to go our separate ways we come together for a game or two of Bingo.

With more folk enjoying the putting, I wonder if anyone has any 'putters' (or whatever the golf club is called) that they would like to donate to the Café please – we would be very happy to receive them. Thank you. (See back page for photos).

Martin Fair

October 2022

Dear friends,

It's a sure sign of getting older when with increasing frequency, we find ourselves saying things like: *'Where has this year gone?!!'*

And so it is we approach the final weeks of 2022 and as people like to remind us... only so many days till Christmas!

But this year, and the two that preceded it, have been hugely significant - principally in terms of the enormous changes that we have experienced.

- At Westminster, we've seen a revolving door of Chancellors and Prime Ministers and a period of political instability unlike anything in the last fifty years
- After seventy years, we've said farewell to Her Majesty the Queen. If ever the phrase 'end of an era' was appropriate, it was as we moved from the Elizabethan to the Carolean age and as the anthem became, *'God save our gracious King'*
- As war has once more raged across our continent, few have been left untouched. Millions of refugees have sought safe places and changes to the cost of living have hit pockets across the world with rates of inflation soaring at the same time
- And covid is still with us. Vaccinations have become the norm and other aspects of life are forever changed

Back in 1993, the boy band *Take That* had a hit song entitled, *'Everything Changes but You'*. Of course - as with so many pop songs - it was a love song of sorts.

But the sentiment is one that we Christians need to embrace and apply to times like these. When everything is changing - including church life - we need to take our stand on the rock that is an unchanging God and to say of Him... everything changes but You.

In that, we can go forward in hope. Our Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is Alpha and Omega, unchanging from beginning to end. When uncertainty stalks us at every turn, let us have faith in the One who discontent, reliable and trustworthy.

Yes, this year has fairly flown in! But as God was with us at the beginning of it so God will be with us to the end of it.

With love,

Martin & Elaine

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Presbytery Mission Plan A Brave New World

By the time you read this edition of Quest, Angus Presbytery will have heard the news that the national church has approved its plan for the way forward.

These Presbytery Mission Plans have required a tremendous amount of work - not all of it easy - as presbyteries across the land have looked for equitable ways to deploy ministers and reduce the number of buildings being maintained. (It's been no surprise that many congregations have been dismayed to learn that their buildings are to be let go and indeed, some are choosing to appeal these decisions.)

In terms of Arbroath and the surrounding area, the various congregations will be uniting as one. Various suites of buildings are to be maintained - including our own - and on

any given Sunday morning there will be worship services in several of these centres.

But in terms of the mission of the Church - how we look to impact our communities (in word and action) with the Good News of Jesus Christ, we'll be looking to do that together as never before. And because mission is to be central, we're going to see a much more together approach when it comes to administration - so that people are freed up to serve rather than devoting endless hours to committee meetings etc.

The detail of how all of this will be worked out will emerge in the coming months. That in itself will be an intensive piece of work.

But the bottom line is this: we're entering a brave new world and our prayer must be that what emerges is a Church fit for purpose - a Church not clinging to the past but confident in its calling and ready to go where it is called for the glory of God in 21st century Scotland.

Holy Land Reflections

Carla Ingram

When I first signed up, I knew this trip would be an amazing experience – but my expectations were surpassed in every way possible!

I am thankful and feel utterly blessed by every person who accompanied me. The laughter, learning, love, tears and peace we shared were profound and brought us together perfectly.

Spending times of worship, prayer and communion together as a small group of twelve was contrasted by the bustling nature of the Holy sites we visited each day. At first, I was mildly annoyed with the noise and commotion (that definitely took a bit of getting used to), but soon I realised that this gave a wonderful glimpse of the wholeness and vastness of the world-wide church. To see people of many nations and languages praying, praising and being at peace with God in places where Jesus walked made my heart sing.

I commented at the end of the week that I tell lots of 'Jesus stories' to the children in church and in school, describing the places he went, taught, performed miracles, relaxed etc. But dipping my feet into the Sea of Galilee, standing in the Judean wilderness, looking at Skull Rock and stooping to enter the garden tomb has brought everything into clear focus. It is like going from seeing in black and white, to seeing in perfect vivid colour.

On reflection, I spent the entire trip saying, 'I just can't believe we're here!' and now I'm home, I keep saying, 'I just can't believe we were there'. The whole trip was an unbelievable and unforgettable experience that I will remember for the rest of my life.

Pat Mill

For me the sharing of fellowship together in our small services, having communion and singing reflective songs and hymns in places where other people were. Witnessing to our faith in front of others in alternative holy places - inside buildings, and outside in the open. From the serenity and simplicity of the Tent of Nations farm to the busy, noisy boat on the sea of Galilee.

A week of love, friendship and fun which grew with every day and experience shared.

Linda Hunter

Reflecting on our trip to the Holy Land is difficult when I still can't believe I was there!

With a packed and full itinerary those ten days were incredibly busy and tiring. Having to get up early every day but somehow being able to do it feeling refreshed and knowing that God was with us every step along the way.

The boat trip on the Sea of Galilee I found overwhelming and my tears flowed freely, our quiet service on still waters was so lovely, but to end it with singing and dancing was surreal!

Visiting many of the sites, and what was Jesus' stomping ground, will also allow me to read the Bible and now see it in vivid reality. It was a privilege to visit the Wailing Wall, where Jews loudly pour out their hearts in prayer to God; and in stark contrast to see the beautiful Judean wilderness, which remains as a silent witness to a holy history.

I went knowing a little of the modern history of this beautiful country but have come home feeling a bit more informed – but still saddened by the almost unfathomable state of struggle and strife for Palestinians.

Personally for me, it wasn't the big sites and shrines that had the most impact but the small, intimate, quiet places that were less busy, where we were able to find a little bit of peace to pray, to break bread, to sing, to cry, to hug and be still – these are the memories that I think I will treasure most.

A trip of a lifetime!

Isobel Wright

From the minute my pilgrimage started I was on a journey and by the end of it I was wishing I was on the magic roundabout and would never have to get off! Every day was better than the day before, knowing that each day I would be following in the footsteps of Jesus. I was so blessed to be baptised in the River Jordan by my own wonderful minister - and having Elaine by his side made it really special. How often does that happen! It was so emotional for me, my faith in the Lord has been uplifted in so many ways, thanks be to God.

Gift Day 2022 - Sunday 27th November

Gift Day 2022: less than a month to go!

Over recent years at St Andrew's Church we have set aside a time of thanksgiving on the last Sunday in November. This has been a time when we can look back and reflect on what God has done for us, both individually and as a community, and give thanks. Of course, it is more than just looking back, it is also a time to look to the future... seeking God's guidance in our lives, both as individuals and as a fellowship, and to give thanks for what our God will do in the year ahead. This year is no different and we will be having our annual Gift Day on Sunday 27th November.

Reflecting on last year, Church of Scotland promoted a National Giving Day which provided "people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God". Indeed, they were challenging times yet who could have known that as we slowly began to emerge from the impact of the COVID pandemic, another set of challenges would arise through 2022!

Money received through our Gift Day over recent years has ensured that we have been able to achieve what we set out to do. At St Andrew's we will continue to use these gifts as we have done in previous years, that is to support the day-to-day work of our church fellowship, much of which is often unseen in the background. The generous giving in previous years has always ensured that we have been able to reach the end of the financial year in surplus for the General Fund – the main operating fund of St Andrew's. This has been particularly crucial over the past couple of years as, like churches across the country, the impact of the pandemic has been deeply felt in human and financial terms. Added to this there are the new challenges of 2022 – inflation and spiralling energy costs – which affect us all, at a personal level and the communities in which we live. This also includes our churches which face huge challenges in keeping their spaces warm and welcoming – we are no exception!

So, in the weeks and days before Gift Day 2022 let us prepare our hearts through prayer:

Proverbs 11:24-25

*'One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.'*

*A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.'*

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

'Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'

How can I give my donation this year? This year there are a number of options for giving your donations.

If you use digital/online banking your donation can be made by bank transfer. Bank details are as follows:

Sort code 80-12-35

Account number 00438921

Please ensure you include **your name** and **'Gift Day'** in the payment reference – to enable us to identify that your donation is part of the Gift Day collection and of course if you are a tax payer, your name enables us to claim a tax refund directly from HMRC (£2 for every £10 donated – this may not seem like a lot but last year we were able to reclaim £1,624 from HMRC on Gift Day donations, so well worth doing!).

For those who wish to make a cash or cheque donation, a Gift Aid form will be available with the November edition of 'Quest'. This should be completed and placed along with your donation into an envelope marked "Gift Day". Envelopes should then be dropped off at the church, either at the Sunday service on the 27th if you are attending, or by dropping through the letter box. If you can't drop your envelope off on the 27th, don't worry, they can be dropped off between Sunday 27th November and Sunday 4th December, including the Wednesday morning service on the 30th November. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact the Church office.

On behalf of the finance team, I would like to thank you.

Scott

GIFT DAY 2022	
Gift Aid declaration. I would like to enhance my donation through Gift Aid. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.	
Title:	Full Forename(s):
Surname:	
Home Address (first line)	
Postcode:	Date:
Signature:	

Warm Spaces

Representatives from churches across Arbroath and the surrounding villages have been meeting during recent weeks to plan a response to the cost of living crisis that is going to affect all of us over this coming winter. Even allowing for the mitigation measures which have been announced, many will struggle to stay afloat financially as energy bills and the cost of food shopping soar.

In response - and in keeping with churches and communities across Scotland - our local churches are going to be working together to provide spaces for 'Fun, Food and Friendship' throughout the dark days of winter. Our Community Spirit building will be the town hub and will be open five days a week from 4-8pm and the Community Hub at Friokheim will serve there outlying areas being open every Saturday from 11am-3pm.

These initiatives are entirely dependent on two things:

1. Financial provision
2. Volunteers.

In terms of the first of these, various grant applications have been submitted and we await the outcome of these. But as is always the case, our trust will be in God who provides - often in amazing ways - when we seek to serve.

When it comes to volunteering, could it be you?!? We're going to need people from all the churches who will be willing to take on various duties - welcoming people, helping with activities, pouring teas and coffees, cooking meals and so on.

From time to time, one of our Sunday morning songs is 'Jesus went out of his way to help others.' The question is: will you be?

Dalitso

Hi everyone, Seems I've been left to keep you all up to date with the Dalitso Project whilst our chairperson swans off to Malawi!!

Charis, Sheila, Fraser, Becky, Naomi, Stephen and wee Ayla left on the 15th October for what I am sure will be a whirlwind trip, our first visit in 2019!!! I contacted Kiri to check they arrived safely and all I got was 'Yes, it's a lovely time'. I have since received a couple of photos and all seems well - Ayla seen playing with Iona, Kiri's youngest.

At the time of writing this article, a week has passed which they will have spent at Thyolo, moving to Kambilonjo for around five days and back to Thyolo for the last day or two.

Becky and Naomi will be overseeing the work at the clinic and the others will be dealing with the centres, gathering in information of sponsor children, and seeing how everything has gone during Covid. They will arrive back in the UK Sunday 30th. No doubt there will be many stories to tell, and we look forward to hearing about it all.

As you know our last container for the foreseeable future is making its way to Malawi hopefully in time for Christmas. It is somewhere in the Mediterranean Sea heading to Port Said, top end of Suez Canal. We hope after the trip to Malawi to have thought of a way to be able to get Christmas gifts to the children. The summer gifts have gone out with the group.

Fundraising has started up with us manning the kitchen at the Christmas Fayres that are being held in our church over three months. The next is on 5th November and final one on 10th December. Why not pop along for either your lunch of soup and crusty bread or a cuppie and cake? £3 for each or the full works for £5!!! We'd love to see you there.

I am sure there will be other ways to support the Dalitso Project over the Christmas period and details will be in the December Quest.

Thanks again for all the support and please continue to pray for our Malawian family as they face the global challenges of rising prices too.

Normal Quest article from Charis will resume next month.

Doris Bowie

Guild News

Hello folks the latest news and information for St Andrews Church Guild is as follows:-

On Monday the 3rd of October the Guild dedication and communion service was conducted by our minister who had some very pithy words for all the ladies, encouraging us to think about our role in Christ's kingdom. Following this we "as is our wont" lightened the proceedings with a plants and seeds quiz set by Joyce and Sharon. To round off the evening a spirited karaoke rendition of "Build me up buttercup" preceded a welcome cuppa.

On Monday 17th, Marjorie Paton, a volunteer official with World Day Of Prayer organisation, gave us an interesting

and informative talk on the meaning and influence of the organisation.

On 31st of October, Gaynor will introduce us to the guild theme Wee Seeds Big Trees. On this evening we will also hear more about the project UNIDA from Brazil. Hear our voice! Training for women in the ministry in Brazil.

ADVANCE notice for anyone interested in hearing more about the Dalitso project in Malawi, Charis Bowie will be joining us to give an update on how our wee seeds have grown on the 14th of November. On the 28th we will have an evening of Christmas crafts and sales table.

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Life and Work Magazine

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland.

Life and Work is central to the communication strategy of the church and so the magazine is key to staying connected. The pages will carry official updates from different areas of the central church, including monthly updates from those tasked with delivering the Faith Action Plan. We will also be incorporating an easy to reference contacts guide.

We will be launching a new style layout and introducing new contributors to our editorial offering. The magazine will continue to be packed with news, features and opinion of Christian life in Scotland and further afield. To give back to our loyal readership we will also be promoting a range of reader offers too.

There are various options when it comes to ordering.

1. It can be ordered via the church office. The cost is £42 for 12 issues and can be paid directly to the church. Contact the office by Monday, 7th November if you would like to place an order.
2. You can purchase a personal subscription and have it delivered directly to your home address. Further information can be obtained from the church office or you can order online at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe
3. You can subscribe to receive a digital edition via the magazine's website www.lifeandwork.org 6 months £11.99 | 12 months £20.99 | single issue £1.99

Moderator Designate

The head of a Christian charity which fights global poverty has been named as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, 58, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, will take a year's sabbatical to become the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for 12 months from next May. She said she is looking forward to meeting and encouraging people involved in church work at local, national and international levels at a time of unprecedented challenge and opportunity.

A minister with experience working in parishes, hospital chaplaincy and as convener of the former Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, the Moderator Designate said "I'm excited about what the year will bring. I genuinely love and am inspired by the Church of Scotland and its people. Over the past years of the pandemic in the face of a global climate emergency and now a cost-of-living crisis, people across the Church have been stepping up and doing their very best to make an extraordinary impact in communities, locally, across our nation and in the world."

Born and raised in South Carolina in the USA, Mrs Foster-Fulton is married to Rev Stuart Fulton, a fellow Church of Scotland minister who serves the parish of Newlands South Church in Glasgow. The couple have two adult daughters, Alex and Gracie. She earned her university degree at Presbyterian College in the USA, focusing on English Literature and Religion. She was accepted at Princeton Theological Seminary but her plans were put on hold after she was injured in a car crash and then took a job as an educator with an Atlanta Church. There the Moderator Designate met a minister who encouraged her to apply for a scholarship to Columbia Theological Seminary, in Decatur, Georgia and at Columbia, she met Stuart Fulton, an exchange student from Glasgow who was to become her husband.

When she came to Scotland, Mrs Foster-Fulton received an exchange scholarship to Glasgow University's Trinity College, where she completed her Divinity training. After completing her BD, she worked as a chaplain at Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary and The Royal National Scottish Hospital in Larbert, before being accepted as a candidate for ministry in the Church of Scotland. Ordained in 1999, her first charge was Camelon Irving Parish Church in Falkirk where she spent four years as parish minister.

It took some time for the couple to decide where to make their family home. In 2003, they took up the role of co-pastors for the PCUSA congregation in Seneca, South Carolina, and stayed for four years. Mrs Foster-Fulton said: "I love partnership work and at Seneca we were able to create partnerships with Habitat for Humanity, United Way and many others which was a wonderful experience. But all four of us wanted to come back to Scotland because it is our home."

It is a decision for which Mrs Foster-Fulton will be forever grateful. "I have a deep love for Scotland, it is a very inclusive and welcoming place," she said. "I've never felt an outsider, and it is here that I feel most alive, most challenged and most at home."

The Moderator Designate will serve at a time when presbyteries are making radical reforms, against a backdrop of falling income, declining membership and fewer ministers, to ensure that the Church operates more effectively and efficiently to meet 21st century mission needs. Mrs Foster-Fulton said: "It is painful but at the same time there is a deep desire to get this done and move forward. It is difficult and necessary, but a critical piece of work for today, and there will be more work when we begin to live out the new plan. So, we need to lift our gaze, remember who we are and why we're here – to love God and each other. The message of Jesus Christ is not just hope for the future but is life-giving right here and right now." (Article extracted from Life and Work)

More In Photos

Holy Land

At the residence with
Jerusalem in the background

Cooling feet in the
Sea of Galilee

Martin and Elaine, at the top of
the Mount of Olives with the
City of Jerusalem in the back-
ground and the Kidron Valley
below



Harvest Thanksgiving



Café - Enjoying Craft Making



Sunday Club



Wednesday Café - Having a cuppie, enjoying bingo, and the world putting championships.