



# QUEST

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SC005478

February 2023

## Martin and Elaine

### A Celebration of Thirty-one Years

At the end of last year, when Martin announced to us that he felt the call of God to move on to pastures new, there was a deep sense that we were witnessing the end of an era. What an era it has been, and it is right that we should pay tribute to the thirty-one years of faithful service which Martin and Elaine have given to St Andrew's Church.

Thirty years ago, the national 'picture' of church life in Scotland was very different than that which we see today. Martin has always been aware of the challenges faced proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in an increasingly secular society. The many initiatives which he has implemented and supported have reflected this. We have seen the organisation and structure of the church itself changed with the introduction of the Leadership Group and support teams, the Havilah project, Mum and Me, mental health support work, children and schools' outreach work, and support for international work such as the Dalitso project.

The refurbishment of the sanctuary must surely stand out as a hugely significant milestone. It was a bold step to take, requiring much sacrifice from many, but Martin's vision for an open flexible space has resulted in us having a wonderful sanctuary and a building which is fit for twenty-first century worship.

In 2020, we celebrated with Martin and Elaine as he became the Right Reverend Dr Martin Fair – the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Twenty-twenty turned out to be a year like no other when the landscape of our lives changed with the arrival of the Covid-19 virus. Martin, however continued his work undaunted through the wonders of technology - Zoom now being a word with which everyone is familiar!

During these thirty-one years, Martin and Elaine have always worked as a team, Elaine for many years has been deeply involved with children's ministry, and latterly we have enjoyed her beautiful singing voice as Sunday by Sunday she is part of the worship group and, I'm sure you will agree with me, her smile is infectious!

Although Martin and Elaine will no longer be leading us in worship each Sunday, he will continue his service in supporting new ministers in the early years of their ministry. Martin's warmth and ability to 'come alongside' others will serve him well in this new role.

I end with a quote from Martin himself from his address to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on 22nd May, 2021.

"I believe the Holy Spirit is still in the business of starting fires. It's time for the church to start fanning the flames, and to put away the fire extinguishers. The Good News of Jesus Christ is not subject to a health and safety committee. Let the fire burn!"

Martin, we pray that you will indeed ignite the flames of faith within all those for whom you will provide guidance and support in your new role. We know too that you in turn will be praying for us, that as we close this particular chapter of our church life, we too will move forward under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, Martin and Elaine, for your years of dedicated service and may the Lord richly bless you and your family in the years ahead.

## Very Special Dates

Here are details of two occasions when we can publicly thank Martin and Elaine for their ministry to us.

**Friday 3rd March** – Congregational Social Evening with Buffet in the Church 7pm for 7.30pm. Sign up sheets will be available at the church throughout February for you to add your name and any dietary requirements.

**Sunday 5th March** – This will be Martin's last service with us. During this service we will celebrate Communion with all the church family.

We look forward to seeing you at these special occasions.



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Linda Hunter: 431135

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Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****December 2022 / January 2023****Baptisms** - Una Smith, daughter of Matt & Elise;  
Alexander Patterson, son of Adam & Alison**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Rosemary Yule

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****MARCH EDITION****Word Processed files,  
as attachments,  
should be sent directly  
to the Editor by****Thursday 23rd  
February****Geoff and Jonathan**

When Martin leaves, following worship on Sunday 5th March, we'll have two other ministers each of whom will have a role in overseeing the congregation until such times as a new minister is appointed.

Firstly, the Presbytery of Perth (of which we're now part) has appointed Rev Geoff Redmayne to be our Interim Moderator. Geoff will lead our Kirk Session meetings and will advise on all matters relating to the vacancy. Geoff is minister at Montrose South

and Ferryden and so is near at hand.

Secondly, our own Kirk Session has appointed Rev Jonathan Humphrey as our Locum Minister. This will amount to Sundays and two days midweek during which, among other things, Jonathan will offer pastoral care as appropriate.

Both Geoff and Jonathan are experienced ministers who will fit in nicely with our Church family. We look forward to them joining us and wish them well in their respective roles.

**All Change**

Meetings and conversations continue towards the new plan for what Church will look like in our area going forward. At the end of January, for example, over a hundred elders from the various Church of Scotland congregations came together to consider the legalities involved, the structure of the new united congregation, how it would be led and administered... and even what it would be called!

This we do know that though united as one, there will be six worship centres where weekly services will be held. This will mean that the three ministers - Chris Hay, Peter Phillips and Martin's successor - will each lead two services on a Sunday, most likely one at 10am and another at 11.30am (though these details are not as yet finalised.) The worship centres will be St. Andrew's, the West Kirk, St. Vigean's, Friockheim, Inverkeillor and Carmyllie. So there will be various services held allowing for different expressions and styles of worship. That's good and proper - variety is better than uniformity! But other things, not least administration and the mission of the new united congregation as it works out through the week are better done together.

Of course this is all new and so annual reviews will assess how things are working out and what, if anything, needs to be adapted.

Some people ask why all of this is required? Well of course it's a good thing when God's people work together! But beyond that, the reality is that many, many churches are struggling. Some once strong congregations have attendances of no more than twenty or so and some of the rural congregations struggle to muster more than seven or eight folk on a Sunday. The harsh reality is that that is simply unsustainable and so the Church across the land is having to figure out new ways of being present and of ministering to the people of our communities.

Time will tell how how it will all work out but in the meantime, it's essential that we go into it positively and prayerfully, being fully prepared to play our part. May God build His Church once more in our communities.

**A Look Back To Christmas****Santa's Idea For A New Revenue Stream!**

Dear Mr and Mrs Mac, I have received little Jimmy's letter. Unless I receive £500 by Christmas Eve I shall do as he asks and leave a drum kit under the tree. Yours sincerely, S. Claus.

# Martin Fair

February 2023

Dear friends,

Here I am writing a letter, the composing of which on one hand fills me with joy and gratitude and on the other, with the deepest possible sadness and sense of loss. To have been your minister for 31 years will - regardless of what comes next - stand as my greatest honour. It's what I've given my life to since showing up as a callow youth all those years ago and though there are some things that I'd do differently if given another run at it, by and large I look back with much fondness and with a sense of 'I gave it my all.'

Of course first and foremost ministry is about people and it's the people of this church and wider community who have made it such a happy time for me. When I pause even for a few moments to ponder these things, I'm faced with a sea of faces passing before me - some still very much with us and others gone to glory but all holding a special place in my heart.

- \* I think of the near 400 baptisms (and many blessings on top of that number) - the privilege of thanking God for the gift of new life and of new life in Christ
- \* I think of the 200-300 marriages conducted - the privilege of officiating as a couple commits themselves one to the other
- \* I think of the over 1,500 funerals conducted - the privilege of being alongside families in their darkest hours
- \* I think of the thousands of children we've welcomed to holiday clubs - the privilege of sharing Jesus with the young
- \* I think of the staff I've worked with - the privilege of counting as colleagues those who have served as administrators, youth workers, community workers, Havilah workers, pastoral workers, church officers, cleaners etc.
- \* I think of the countless hours in bible study and prayer groups - the privilege of studying God's word and bowing before Him
- \* I think of the groups sent out to Cambodia and Malawi and the groups I led to the Holy Land - the privilege of journeying in community
- \* I think of the selfless service of elders and office bearers and church members - the privilege of seeing people respond to invitations to step up
- \* And I think of the many men and women and young people who have found faith in Jesus - the privilege of guiding people to that biggest of life's moments

Laughter, tears and everything in between but all of it adding up to an 'all of life' experience which I wouldn't have traded for anything.

The hardest bit comes in taking my leave of you, though I'm thinking of it less as me leaving you and more as you sending me out to serve across the nation. I have a huge challenge ahead of me, but am looking forward to it (even if with a little trepidation!)

But the hardest part is that **leaving really does mean leaving**. Once a minister goes it's simply not appropriate for him or her to be coming back and forward in response to things happening. And apart from that, I'll be working a 9-5 job (no doubt with some evenings and weekends added in) as part of a team and so it simply won't be possible to continue with anything here. That's going to be extremely hard for me but it's what's required.

My new role is, some might say, an impossible task but I will step into it in the same way I've faced everything whilst here - trusting that the God who calls also equips and strengthens. My immediate task is to rekindle a sense of vocation across the Church, that may more people (and not least younger people) will sense a call to ministry. When I came here, I was 27 and I wasn't alone - many of those I trained with were in their 20s and 30s. The average age of new ministers now is closer to 50! My other principal responsibility will be adapting the way in which we prepare people for ministry, acknowledging that 21st century, secular Scotland requires a different form of preparation to what we have hitherto offered. In all of that, your prayerful support - from a distance, as it were - will be much appreciated.

But that's to come. For now, there are a few days and weeks left of my time here and I very much hope that as many of you as possible will manage to be at one or all of our worship services - which is to say that that will be more doable than me trying to visit all of you!

And so ends my final letter for Quest magazine (and with it a big thanks to Ken and his predecessors for compiling and editing.) It leaves me, with a tear in my eye, simply to say THANK YOU for the way in which you took Elaine I - and our boys - into your hearts and made these years we've spent among you ones of which we can genuinely say, *'these were the best years of our lives.'*

May God richly bless you in all the days to come as He surely has in the days now gone.

With love,

Martin & Elaine

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## What's In A Name!

At a recent meeting of all local Kirk Sessions who will join together to become one united Arbroath Area church, there was a discussion on what we should name this new congregation. (Formed from, in alphabetical order, Arbirlot, Carmylie, Colliston, Friockheim and Kinnel, Inverkeilor and Lunan, Old and Abbey, St Andrew's, St Vigeans, West Kirk)

So, for example, at the moment, our church is known as - **Arbroath : St Andrew's Parish Church**. In this case, 'Arbroath' is the area or general location identifier, and **St Andrew's** is the specific church identifier.

Here are the area suggestions that came from this meeting and we are looking for your feedback.

Do you feel particularly strongly, positively or negatively, about any of the suggested names?

Do you have a name that you would like to submit into the mix? All are welcome! Any new suggestions must follow the required format:

1. Location indicator 2. Congregation Name 3. Church of Scotland. (The use of the terms Parish and Kirk are optional.)

Please let us know your thoughts by dropping a note into the box located on the information table in the gallery by 6th February or email the church office.

### Potential Names for the United Congregation (in no particular order)

Arbroath and District Parish Church of Scotland

Arbroath and District Church of Scotland

Arbroath and Area Parish Church of Scotland

Arbroath and Area Church of Scotland

Arbroath and Wider Area Church of Scotland

Arbroath and Environs Church of Scotland

Arbroath Aberbrothock Church of Scotland

Arbroath Abbeylands Church of Scotland

Arbroath Abbeylands Kirk, Church of Scotland

Arbroath AbbeyGrove Church of Scotland

Arbroath Church of Unity Church of Scotland

Arbroath Abbey United Church of Scotland

Arbroath Inchcape Church of Scotland

Arbroath Round 'O & Rural Church of Scotland

There was also a suggestion that the town churches could be renamed, for example, as Abbeylands East, Abbelyands West and Abbeylands North.

Once an area name has been chosen, then decisions need to be made for specific congregation names. To take a fictitious example, and using the first listed suggestion, a church full name might be -  
Arbroath and District Parish Church of Scotland : St Paul's Church of Scotland.

## Fun, Food & Friendship

What a great initiative this has been! Responding to need is, of course, at the heart of our calling as Christians but that this is being done by various congregations working together makes it even more special.

Fun, Food & Friendship runs from 4-8pm Monday to Friday at the Community Spirit building on Fisheracre and on Saturdays from 11am - 2pm in Friockheim. And what do people who visit find? Warmth of welcome, good wholesome food freely provided and great company - all that's needed through these dark winter days when the cost of living crisis continues to bite.

Of course it wouldn't be possible without a small regiment of volunteers and we're very thankful to those from our own congregation and many others who have rallied to this cause - most of them serving on a weekly basis according to a carefully worked out rota. Some cook, some serve, some clear up and some focus on making sure that everyone who comes is made to feel welcome.

These may be small first steps but they pave a way towards a future which is based on churches collaborating as never before. And why not!? We worship the same God and share the same mission. It was Jesus' final prayer for his disciples that they would all be as one. May it be a prayer answered in our day.



## Great Scots who must not be forgotten

### 1. Patrick Hamilton (1513-1546)

One of the first 'traditions' I learned when I began my studies at St Andrews University in 1956 was that one should never tread on a monogram embedded in the ancient paving stones at the entrance to St Salvator's Chapel. The monogram—in dark stone to distinguish it from the rest of the very light-coloured paving stones—spelled PH for Patrick Hamilton, for it was on that spot that this young man was burned at the stake on 27 February 1527.

Patrick was born in 1503. On his father's side he was related to the Earl of Arran and on his mother's side to the Duke of Albany; he was also related to King James V. In his teenage years the abbacy of Ferne in Ross-shire was conferred on him, which gave him a annual income enabling him get the best education. He was a diligent and brilliant student. After several years at St Andrews University, he was eager to continue his education in Europe and chose Wittenburg University in Germany. There he became a firm friend of Martin Luther who in 1517 had nailed his famous 95 theses to the door of the Church, thus initiating the Reformation in Europe.

Returning to St Andrews at the age of 23, he began bolding lecturing on Salvation *by faith alone, through grace alone, from Christ alone*. This of course ran contrary to the teaching of the mediaeval Roman Catholic Church. At first, he was listened to by eager students, who turned to Scripture to find out if this was genuinely its teaching.

At this time, St Andrews was dominated by powerful clergy in the Catholic hierarchy. Archbishop Beaton developed a deep hatred for Patrick, but hid it behind a false pose of friendship. Resolving to get rid of him, a plot was devised. First, they persuaded some of the clergy to agree with Patrick that some reforms were clearly needed. Second, they enticed him to take part in a conference during which he had to 'dialogue' with Alexander Campbell, Prior of the Black Friars. The Prior lured him into making statements which would be considered heretical.

Third, they persuaded King James V, to undertake a pilgrimage to Ross-shire, where he would be well out of the way, as they knew he would not want his brilliant young kinsman to be harmed. Fourth, under cover of darkness they then arrested Patrick and imprisoned him in St Andrews and put him on trial.

Undaunted, during the trial Patrick Hamilton affirmed certain biblical statements. 1. That confession to a priest is not necessary for salvation. 2. That penance and purchase of indulgences cannot buy forgiveness from God. 3. That there is no purgatory in Scripture... and so on.

He was now condemned to be burned at the stake outside the entrance to the Chapel. As he was tied to the stake and the fire was kindled, Friar Campbell taunted him and urged him to cry out, 'Hail Mary, Queen of Heaven!' But the martyr's last words were, 'O Lord, how long shall darkness overwhelm this realm? Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit!'

However, the flames which consumed this 24 years old young man also kindled a fire in Scotland that spread quietly in many hearts until 33 years later John Knox returned to Scotland from exile and the Reformation began in earnest.

David Searle.

## Carla Ingram

It was back in 1999 that St. Andrew's Church first took the bold step of employing a person to oversee our work among children and young people. That was Elaine Hamilton and in turn Elaine was succeeded by Sheila Dunphy and then Adele Marr. Each brought their own gifts and skills to the role and the fact that we have younger adults around our church today (and that churches elsewhere in the country have younger adults who were nurtured in our congregation) is testimony to the work done.

The commitment to that work by you, our members, has been remarkable and apart from the early years when we were able to access some grant aid, we have financed it exclusively through the generosity of those of our members who have seen the value and invested in it.

Carla Ingram was baptised as an infant in St. Andrew's Church exactly 27 years ago. Nurtured in our congregation, she returned here after completing her studies in Edinburgh and St. Andrew's and shortly afterwards stepped up to the youth work role. Isn't it a joy when we see the turning of generations and young people embracing faith and going on themselves to positions of leadership and influence! We've said it before but it's always worth repeating: unless congregations place a very high value on their young people then the future is nothing but bleak. Sadly we're seeing that across the country in these days - churches devoid of almost anyone under fifty years of age.

Following these years when we've done this on our own, the great news is that Carla is now - from 1st February - employed by the Church of Scotland to do this work. That sees her moving from part-time to full-time with 50% of the costs being met by the national church and the other half from the churches across Arbroath and area who will, as we know, shortly be operating as a united congregation.

We wish Carla well in her expanded role.

We rejoice in her faithfulness.

We ask God to bless her work in these coming days.

## Guild News

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our lovely Guild members and friends.

We rounded off 2022 with a delicious Christmas meal at the golf club on the 6th December. In addition to our meal we had hilarity (of course) during some table games and raised our voices in song with some “weel kent” carols and favourite Christmas songs. Everyone left the golf club full of Christmas cheer (not the liquid kind) and a wee gift as always from the guild.

To start the year the guild along with other friends and some church folk were treated to a wonderful presentation of A VISIT TO THE HOLY LAND. This was done by Martin and the folk who took part is the trip last year. Each person gave their personal story of what the visit meant to them, believe me when I say I for one was envious of the depth of feeling, comradeship and laughter these lovely folk experienced. All of this was accompanied by a wee taste of the different food and drink which our intrepid travellers were exposed to. The evening passed all too quickly with awe, laughter and at times sadness. At the end of the presentation we were treated to something very special. The singing of a hymn written by our very own guild member Joyce McPherson. This hymn sums up perfectly what we heard from the entire group.

On Monday the 30th of January the guild ladies will enjoy a Pampering/Wellness evening which will no doubt leave as all relaxed and ready for the week ahead. A musical evening is planned for the 13th of January when Ian Ramsay will have toes tapping.

Looking forward to meeting everyone and always remember.....

**“Whose we are and whom we serve”**

## Dalitso

Hi everyone,

So sorry to all who like the updates from Malawi as we missed the December Quest. We had a busy month though with various fundraising ventures. We were grateful to be asked to provide soup and cakes for the Christmas Fayre and had our busiest one yet. Over £500 raised. Our Christmas hamper raffle made £188 - winners Annette Burns and Pat Mill. Thanks to Elaine Anderson and Carolyn Farquar who held a craft fayre at the Windmill Christian centre and a film night. We also sold cartons of soup and desserts for Christmas Day meals. Crazy month of dumplings, cheese-cakes and sticky toffee puddings but £700 made it all

## AS WE WALKED IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR LORD

(Sung to the tune of - We are one in the spirit)

- 1)  
There were tears when we worshipped  
There were tears when we prayed,  
There were tears at the River Jordan  
There were tears at Yad Vashem  
But these tears were not all, of sadness, but of great wonder and thankfulness  
As we walked in the footsteps of our Lord, of our Lord  
As we walked in the footsteps of our Lord.
- 2)  
There was peace and tranquil moments  
Feeling closer to the Lord  
There were prayers and meditation  
As we listened to His word  
There was a pouring of emotions as we considered what we learned  
As we walked in the footsteps of our Lord, of our Lord  
As we walked in the footsteps of our Lord
- 3)  
There was laughter and great humour  
Lots of fun and fellowship,  
There were times of celebration with good food and merriment.  
And the bond that grew between us was beyond what you'd expect  
We were blessed with each other; we were blessed by our God  
As we walked in the footsteps of our Lord.

worthwhile. We were again grateful to those who supported the Alternative Gift where this year we specifically sold maize. The maize price has escalated so much that it is becoming so difficult for families to survive

So, a massive thank you to all who have given so generously to the Dalitso Project.

Apart from that great news, we are so happy to let you all know the container arrived safely on the 16th January. Christmas gifts are being distributed and I'm sure we will have plenty of photos next month.

We have been asked to man the kitchen at the next craft Fayre in March but more news of that next time.

Doris

## Christmas at the Café

What a wonderful time we had at our Christmas party at the beginning of December. We were blessed in so many ways; at the start of the afternoon, around sixty children and their teachers walked from Ladyloan School to join us. The children from Primary 1 came to perform their Nativity play while the older pupils belonged to the school choir and they sang a variety of carols and Christmas songs. All the children did so well, it was a joy to watch them and it was obvious the children were enjoying themselves too. Many said that it really felt 'more like Christmas'. So well done

Ladyloan for all the hard work put in by teachers and pupils – please come back soon! It added a special touch to our afternoon.

Following this we enjoyed a Christmas tea and another visitor arrived – this time, Santa who had gifts for everyone. We had a few games of Christmas Bingo and Ruairidh entertained us with Christmas songs he had learnt at Nursery and everyone was delighted with his impromptu 'mini concert'.

All in all it was a lovely afternoon, so many thanks to everyone who made it possible.



## More In Photos



**Dementia Support Café**

**Our Guild Christmas Meal**

**Fun, Food and Friendship Warm Space**



**Welcome ■ Worship ■ Witness**



## And Even More In Photos



Above and right -  
Ladyloan School visiting the  
Dementia Support Café with  
songs and nativity



Christmas  
events with  
our children  
and young  
people.

Carla taking  
a well  
earned rest  
from the  
above!

Modern  
Ministers?!

