

Wonderful Memories



Top
I say unto you!
Marathon man
Married man

Middle
Our young Minister team
First born (Callum)

Bottom
Anything to get the message across!
(Children's address)
Anything to get the message across!
(Holiday Club)
Finding faith in the
great outdoors

(Continued overleaf and back page)





A major refurbishment to progress our mission

Family complete with Callum, Andrew and Fraser

Serious studying to gain a Doctorate at Princeton University in the USA

A Wonderful Honour - Moderator Of The Church Of Scotland in the main pandemic year



CHURCH OFFICE: 431135**ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

MINISTER (Until 5th March)

Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD

LOCUM MINISTER

Rev Dr Jonathan Humphrey

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Rev Geoff Redmayne

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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records****February 2023****Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - None

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**APRIL EDITION**

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

Thursday 23rd
March

Minutes Of The 2022 Annual Stated Meeting

Please read these minutes before attending our 2023 ASM
which will be immediately after the Service on
Sunday 19th March.

The Kirk Session met on Sunday 24th April 2022 in the Sanctuary for the Annual Stated Meeting and was constituted with prayer.

Moderator: Rev Dr W Martin Fair BA BD

Sederunt: 36 members attended.

The Presentation of the Accounts:

The accounts for 2021 were previously scrutinised by the Finance and Administration Core Group, approved by the Kirk Session and finally examined and approved by the independent examiner and presented to Angus Presbytery.

Scott Anderson, Leader of the Group presented details of the figures for 2021. Scott gave details of the bigger picture with more monies coming in than going out. The positive income was dependent on two factors: The grants obtained by Havala for 2020/2021 and the Jean Scott legacy, without these the balance would be less favourable, so we need to be careful but positive going ahead. He went on to explain and detail the restricted and unrestricted funds and General Fund. The offerings that have come in so far have been hugely positive but the open plate monies have greatly reduced. The use of the premises has also been down due mainly to the aftermath of the Covid pandemic. If we had not had the job retention scheme the accounts would be in the red. There are reserves but we don't want to have to use them unless necessary. This coming year is likely to see a deficit but there are reserves which can be used. The congregational numbers are down which also affects the finances of the church.

Thanks were expressed by the Moderator to Scott Anderson as leader, and all members of the Finance and Administration Core Group, for their commitment to the management of our finances.

Moderator's comments:

The Moderator looked at the big picture and said we had weathered the storm but couldn't be blasé. We needed to be aware of energy costs and adjust accordingly. He also stated that there has been no treasurer for over a year but Scott has stepped in and the Moderator thanked Scott for his faithful service. We had to look forward with faith and hope. The Moderator closed his comments with prayer.

Thanks to Moderator:

Elaine Anderson, on behalf of the Kirk Session and congregation of St Andrew Church, looked at the past year and what had been going on and thanked God for his protection, provision and comfort during that time. She thanked all those who had supported the church both with their time and financially. Martin was now back into his role as our minister. 2022 is a significant year for Martin and Elaine as we celebrate Martin's 30 years of ministry in this church and parish. She outlined Martin's work and contribution over these 30 years and his modatorial year.

Closure:

Elaine Anderson led us in prayer for Martin and his family and also for ourselves in the year ahead to close the meeting.

Rev Dr Jonathan Humphrey

Hello St Andrew's Church family!

My name is Jonathan Humphrey your new locum minister and together with my wife Kate we are really excited about coming to join you in March. I was born in Dundee but brought up on the Isles of Lewis and Skye, so I have always had a love for getting outdoors hiking in the wilds and enjoying creation. After studying forestry at Aberdeen University, I had a research career with the Forestry Commission and got involved in policy work for government and the European Union. Kate was born and raised in Fife and works as an early year's teacher for Angus Council. We have been incredibly happily married since 1988 and have two fabulous grown-up sons.

I came to faith in Jesus when I was 19, but it was not until 2003 that God called me into ministry. Over the years I've had ministry posts in Midlothian, the Highlands and Dundee, and currently I'm working part-time for the Christian charity Signpost International in Dundee.

I believe that Kate and I are called to minister together and our passion is to help people experience the reality of Jesus' love in worship and community. I love preaching and teaching God's word in the power of the Spirit and seeing people grow as disciples discovering their gifting and purpose in Christ.

Since moving into Angus, we have had fun getting to know the hills, and a few coffee shops, and really looking forward to getting to know the people of Arbroath in the months ahead.

Great Scots who must not be forgotten

1. John Knox (Part 1)

Born near Haddington in 1505, he was educated first at the local Grammar School and then at St Andrews University where he distinguished himself as a brilliant scholar. He was ordained a priest in the Roman Catholic Church in 1536 but became disillusioned with much of the Catholic theology through the preaching first of George Wishart and then of Patrick Hamilton, both of whom as we have learned in earlier issues of *Quest*, were martyred for denying much of the teaching in the churches of their day. (Indeed, before George Wishart's death in 1546, Knox had accompanied him on his travels as his bodyguard, bearing a two-edged sword to defend him from assaults.)

In 1543 he became a tutor to the sons of two nobleman, Hugh Douglas of Longniddry and John Cockburn, both of whom had been persuaded by the preaching of the early Scottish reformers. Indeed, many of the Scottish noblemen, who were appalled at the corruption of the Catholic Church, were strongly in favour of the reformers.

Because of a rising tide of opposition to reformed preachers, Knox and his pupils took refuge in St Andrews Castle, where for a short time he became chaplain. But when in 1546 a French warship attacked St Andrews with canon fire, seriously breaching the castle's walls and capturing it. Knox was taken prisoner by the French and made a galley-slave, chained to his seat for nineteen months. His health suffered greatly and had not unknown persons of high estate obtained his release (possibly King Edward VI for whom Knox had earlier preached with great acceptance), he would almost certainly have died.

Readers might wonder why ever the French would have wanted to attack St Andrews, but the answer is easy. Mary of Guise, Dowager of Scotland and mother of Mary, future queen of Scotland, had called on her French relatives for help against the reformers.

In 1549 he took refuge in England where for a year he ministered in Berwick on Tweed and then in St Nicholas Church in Newcastle. Congregations flourished and grew under his preaching. He was appointed by King Edward as one of his royal chaplains. But when the young king died in 1554 and his half-sister Mary (whose wholesale burning of prominent Protestants earned her the title 'Bloody Mary'), he found sanctuary in Geneva where he met John Calvin.

He did return for several months to Scotland where he spent time with one of the strong supporters of the reformers, John Erskine of Castle of Dun. While under Erskine's protection he travelled throughout the county, preaching in the houses and castles of many of the Scots nobility. He wrote to the Dowager Queen of Scotland urging her to grant the reformers complete freedom of worship, but she regarded his letter as a joke. Therefore, he returned to Geneva and the friendship and company of Calvin and his many friends there, preaching daily as well as writing and studying.

In 1558 Elizabeth I had ascended the English throne, and she was a declared protestant. So Knox finally left Geneva and returned to Edinburgh in 1559. It is said that news of his homecoming went round the nation in a few days as horsemen galloped along country roads shouting to the workmen in the fields and the women in the villages, 'John Knox is back! John Knox is back!' (Part 2 next time)

David Searle.

Guild News

Hello all - as I write this I am picturing in my head our last two meetings and the fun we had. The pampering and wellness evening was a new venture much enjoyed by everyone, with a selection of activities followed by both healthy and, dare I say it, decadent eats. Our meeting on the 7th of February had us singing, clapping and foot tapping to the wonderful music of "Spindthrift". At church on Sunday it was lovely to hear guild members saying how much they have enjoyed our programme so far (hopefully we will not disappoint with future meetings).

Our next meeting will focus on one of our Guild projects "Home for Good".

This will give us an insight into the work which through our fundraising the Guild is able to support.

The following are dates for the Guild diary which concern Guild as a whole.

Sat 11th March: 10 am Preparation Day, Lowson Memorial Church Forfar

Wed 22nd March: 3pm Regional Big Sing, Queens Cross Church Aberdeen

Tues 23rd May: 7pm The Big Sing, Assembly Rooms Edinburgh

I will publish the diary entries for the latter half of the year in the May Quest.

As always we look forward to seeing you on our Guild evenings.

Remembering.....

"Whose we are and whom we serve"

Dalitso

After a busy time collating all the information, I think the majority of sponsor letters and photos have been distributed. If you have not received an update of your sponsor child, please get in touch as it will be an oversight, (as can happen when there are over 250 photos floating round my living room floor!!).

I saw a huge difference in Deborah – quite the young lady now and we are all indebted to either Charles or Kiri for the way they continued to look after the children during the time we were unable to visit.

At Kampilonjo and Thyolo the container goods have been distributed and we are seeing lots of photos via Whatsapp

of Christmas parcels being received, new clothes and shoes given out. Hopefully we manage to get a couple of pictures on the Quest picture page.

We have a few fundraising events coming up. There will be an Easter fayre in the sanctuary on the 11th March and the Dalitso Project will man the kitchen once again. Nice hot soup and bread (£3) as well as cakes and coffee (£3) or why not indulge and have the full works for £5. Always a good selection of soups and cakes to choose from.

We will then be responsible for the Soup Lunch Sunday on the 19th March. That happens to be Mothers Day, so why not come along after the service to support us. Look forward to seeing you.

Doris

Standing to Attention

A lesson to be learned from the way people pray.

Once Jesus prayed to God in the garden of Gethsemane and when he prayed his sweat was as drops of blood.

At that moment the Cross was facing Jesus. He was only 33 years old. No man wishes to die at 33, and least of all does he wish to die upon a cross.

That is the prayer of the man who wrestles in prayer.

Sometimes we know what is right, but it is desperately hard to do it.

Sometimes we have to face things which are apparently impossible to face.

Sometimes a man has to wrestle in an agony of prayer until in the end he can say: 'Thy will be done.'

Sometimes a prayer can be an agony of struggle to gain that self-conquest which will make us accept the will of God. But when we do reach acceptance, then comes peace.

One of the most gallant exploits of the South African War was the defence of Ladysmith.

The leader who was responsible for that brave defence was Sir George White. It was his courage, his cheerfulness, his leadership which made the garrison hold out. When he came back to England, he was regarded as a hero.

Everyone was eager to learn his secret of his continual fortitude, his continual cheerfulness, and his continual vigour. He would never say, but one day, when he was pressed even more strongly than usual to say how he got through the strain and tension of those days of siege, he answered: 'Well if you want to know, every morning every day, I stood to attention before God.' This was the prayer of a man of faith.

What a difference it would make to life if we always began the day with God; if, before we met men, we had met God, if each day we took our orders from God. No man could possibly begin a day better than by standing at attention before God or kneeling before God's throne.

February at the Café

It was lovely to meet up again in February – we are open every month of the year apart from January, as being the first Wednesday of the month it is usually too soon after the New Year.

Everyone was looking forward to seeing each other to catch up on their news, over a cuppie and homebaking. Our 'putters' were eager to see what Jim had made for us at the

Men's Shed and as you will see from the photos he made some wonderful wooden 'targets' that are so much easier to see and drive towards. Thank you so much Jim for all your hard work. Whilst a large number went to try out the new targets, some of the ladies stayed behind to craft....or maybe chat and craft – but that's the whole idea....being able to support each other and have a relaxing afternoon.

Following another cuppie and a few games of Bingo it was time to say goodbye and 'see you next month'. If anyone wants to know more about the Café please let us know.

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 min-

ster at Montrose South and Ferryden and so is near at hand.

Secondly, our own Kirk Session has appointed Rev Dr 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.

Pray For Ukraine

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is encouraging people to pray for all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine as we approach the first anniversary of the invasion.

A special ecumenical service was held in Edinburgh on Friday 24 February in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, Broughton Street. The Moderator represented the Church of Scotland at the service along with Bishop Kenneth Nowakowski, representing the Ukrainian Catholic church; Archbishop Leo Cushley of the Catholic Church in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields, said:

"I cannot begin to imagine what a tragic day this is for the people of Ukraine as they enter a second year facing a future filled with uncertainty and fear.

"The Church of Scotland, locally and nationally, has been working to support all those affected by the war against Ukraine through prayer, through welcoming Ukrainians in our local communities, by reaching out to churches in the region, and through supporting our partners in the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid emergency response, along with partners working in neighbouring countries.

"On this first anniversary of the invasion we stand alongside the people of Ukraine and express our sincere sorrow and lament for their suffering, displacement and loss of life. In deep longing for peace, we look to the Prince of Peace and Giver of all Life to grant an end to the suffering, protection for those in need, hope for the weary and endurance for all.

"We cannot properly appreciate or fully understand their plight, but we pray that all those affected by the conflict in Ukraine will be comforted by the words of St Paul: 'May

the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'." (Romans 15:13)

Prayers for Ukraine

A variety of prayer resources can be found on the Christian Aid website along with this special prayer written by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Congregations are invited to use this prayer.

Almighty and Great God,

Accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquility, and good fortune.

We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion.

Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need.

Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

Amen.



More In Photos





**Still enjoying the hills
A good golfer too
25th year with St Andrew's Church
Leading many trips to the Holy Land**

