



## Easter At St Andrew's

### Holiday Club

We had a fantastic week at Holiday club which ran the first week of the school holidays (3rd-7th of April). Around 35 children joined us for the week and both children and volunteers had so much fun together. We followed the Scripture Union material for the club which was called 'The Restoration Station'. This was based on the BBC programme 'The Repair Shop' and each day we had a bible story and drama which showed that Jesus heals and restores people. Our halls were decorated in a construction theme with barrier tape bunting, road signs, tools etc. to make our theme come to life.

Each session began with group time with a game or activity, then we came together for our short fitness session, bible story, drama, video and reflection time (with a choice of

talking, creating or silently reflecting). We then moved back to groups for their snack which consisted of veg sticks, dips and a different sweet treat each day - pancakes and waffles were definitely the favourite. We then completed the workbooks with stories, puzzles and activities and finished off the session with games. Each child went home with a lunch bag containing a choice of sandwich, crisps, fruit, yoghurt, treat and fruit juice. This was funded by the Holiday Food & Fun grant from Angus Council.

Thank you so much to all of the volunteers who came and worked with the children throughout the week and who ran our kitchen. We could not run a programme like this without willing helpers and I am sure you saw how happy you made the children by giving up your time for them.

We look forward to the next Holiday Club which will be in the summer holidays and hosted by the West Kirk.



Easter floral displays by the Flower Club

### Easter Eggs

I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who participated in our Easter Egg Sponsorship Programme!

We had a fantastic response from both St Andrew's and West Kirk congregations which meant we were able to provide eggs for our Holiday Club, Girls Group, Sunday Club, Dear Theo Group, West Kirk Sunday Club and Youth Club.

Children received a chocolate egg (or dairy free alternative if required), an Easter card with a short greeting and an Easter tract called 'The Eggcellent Egg Hunt' which con-

tained the Easter story and some written activities. Children at Holiday Club also received a palm cross as a reminder of the Easter story.

The children were so keen to open their cards and see who they were from! Some were from named individuals, others 'from the church family' and this provided the opportunity for some very interesting conversations about everyone in the church feeling like a family together. I can absolutely say that the children were touched that someone they didn't know personally wanted to give THEM an egg and card.

We really appreciate your generosity with this programme.

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

Jonathan 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,  
as attachments,  
should be sent directly  
to the Editor by

**Tuesday 23rd May**

or to the church office by  
**FRIDAY 19th May**

**Diamond Wedding Celebration**

Allan and Roberta would like to thank everyone who sent cards, gifts and donations to us for our sixtieth anniversary. Also to those

who attended our evening meal at the Park Hotel in Montrose. We received £800 which we have donated equally to Macular Degeneration and also to Parkinsons UK.

**Iona Youth Worker  
Conference**

In March I was blessed to be able to head off to the Island of Iona for a four-day conference with approximately 30 youth workers from across Scotland. Most of these other workers came from various Church of Scotland congregations, with a few ecumenical partners joining us too.

We travelled separately to meet in Oban and then took a ferry together to Mull, a bus across the island and a smaller ferry to Iona before a walk to Iona Abbey. It was a long journey but also provided some nice down time to prepare our minds for being open to what God wanted to say to us. This was needed after a busy Easter Code week, and I really tried to leave thoughts of my planning for holiday club and long to-do lists in Oban!

We stayed in Iona Abbey which is absolutely stunning and shared meals, worship and some learning sessions with members of the Iona Community. The conference was led by Suzi Farrant from the central offices of Church of Scotland and was the first in-person Time & Space gathering we have been able to hold since the pandemic. The content was a mixed programme featuring time together to learn, grow and reflect on our own children, youth and families work in our congregations. There were also slots of time set aside to go on walks to a different parts of the island and to spend time with God in such a beautiful, peaceful place.

I found that this was a really special time to focus on God and to spend quality time with a strong community of youth workers who know and understand the challenges and opportunities this time of change and reformation has brought within the church.

**Carla****Guild News**

On 27th March the guild was treated to a very interesting talk by Malcolm Finlayson (MD of Radio North Angus) giving an insight into the remarkable achievements of this unique venture. Its growth for a wee idea with a cupboard as a studio to 5 studios, a unique education programme and hours of music and programmes prepared and presented by volunteers. The information sheet prepared by Malcolm for the guild, giving a detailed account of RNA growth, is on the guild notice board for anyone interested to read. This was a fitting final guest presentation as it truly embodied the theme for guild of "wee seeds to big trees". I personally recommend reading this incredible story.

The last meeting for the session was held on the 10th of April encompassing the AGM, an Easter Bonnet Competition and a lively Quiz. Thanks to Jim Tosh for setting the quiz and our companion Monday evening group who judged the Easter bonnets. The committee was re-elected with the addition

of a new member Patricia Meldrum. Welcome Patricia to our merry band.

Currently the committee are exploring venues for a summer afternoon tea and possible visit to the movies. We will keep everyone abreast of any and all developments in these ventures.

On the 23rd of April the guild hosted a soup lunch after morning service. Thanks to all who helped by working, providing soup, washing dishes or serving. Most of all thank you to all who stayed to support us and, we hope, enjoy the soup. An update on funds raised will be made in the next quest.

The first meeting of the next session will be Monday the 18th September.

Ladies, the guild committee wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to our next meeting with you be that at a summer activity or guild

Bye for now and haste ye back. **Fiona**

**"Whose we are and whom we serve"**



## Rev Dr Jonathan Humphrey

Dear friends

Last year I really enjoyed reading the book “Sleeping Giant” written by my friend Rev Tommy MacNeil Minister of Martin’s Memorial Church in Stornoway. Many of you will remember that another Martin, (...Fair!) spent a few days there earlier this year speaking at the communion services. Tommy believes that the Church of Scotland is like a “Sleeping Giant” that needs to awake and arise. Encouragingly there is a sense of God on the move and reports of fresh moves of His Spirit breaking out in Scotland.

There is an opportunity at the next Sleeping Giant Conference in June to hear more about what is going on, and to seek after God in prayer, worship, and teaching. Kate and I and some St Andrew’s elders have already booked tickets for the conference, and if you are interested in going then it is 2nd to 3rd June, in Trinity Church of the Nazarene, York Place, Perth, or get in touch with me directly, or look at - [www.sleepinggiantbook.com](http://www.sleepinggiantbook.com).

I would encourage you to pray for the church across Scotland and in our own town. May and June will be important months for us all when the churches in Arbroath and surrounding countryside come together into one congregation. Now more than ever we need to seek God in prayer for the

direction of His Spirit and for the boldness to follow His lead.

In recent weeks we have been meeting for prayer at 10.30am before the service on Sundays and it has been a tremendous encouragement to experience His presence with us. Please come and pray if you have not managed along yet. In addition, we have our regular opportunities to pray in the church on Tuesdays and online Thursdays and Sundays (See “What’s on” sheet).

In his letter James reminds us that “*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*” (James 5: 16b-18).

When we join in with what God is doing then things happen!

If you are interested in reading Sleeping Giant there are copies in the church office available for loan. I would encourage you to delve in and be inspired by Tommy’s heart to see the church renewed and revived to bring the Good News of God’s Kingdom to a dry and needy nation.

Love to you all

Jonathan

### FLOWER CLUB

Do you enjoy seeing the different floral decorations which appear as if by magic to accompany different events and seasons in the church calendar? Have you ever thought I think I might like to have a go?

We are a friendly bunch of busy-lizzies looking to recruit some wallflowers. Come along and give it a try. We meet alternate Mondays in church hall.

### April Café

Easter was our theme at Café this month, so apart from our usual lovely home baking we also had delicious hot cross buns. The crafting folk made Easter bunnies and Putting and Bingo prizes included Easter eggs. Our next Café will be afternoon tea which we’re all looking forward to. It’s so good that we are able to meet together and enjoy different activities but also to enjoy the company of others.

## Great Scots

### 2. John Knox (Part 2)

One of the rather sad episodes in Knox’s ministry was his publication of the book, *The First Blast of the Trumpet against the Monstrous Regiment of Women*. To understand its background and the reason he wrote it, we must remember that there were three queens Knox had in mind, for his *First Blast* was directed against women in positions of authority. There was Mary I of England, daughter of Henry VIII. She had succeeded her brother Edward VI, a very committed supporter of the Reformation. But Mary I (sometimes known as ‘Bloody Mary’) was just as deeply committed in opposition to the reformers and she cruelly martyred scores of them during her short reign.

Second, in Scotland there was Mary of Guise who was Queen Consort, the second wife of James V. As the daughter of a distinguished and powerful French nobleman, she was a committed Roman Catholic. She had powerful friends in France and French troops were sent to protect and support her. She was certainly no friend of John Knox. Her young daughter, Mary (to become Mary Queen of Scots) was being brought up in France as a devout Catholic. When James V died in 1554, Mary of Guise became Regent of Scotland as her daughter was too young to rule.

Third, there was Elizabeth I, Queen of England. Although a Protestant, she was no was a friend of Knox either, whose rhetoric against the Pope seemed to her to be ‘over the top’, as we say. One biographer of John Knox has also suggested there was a fourth woman who ‘bugged’ him—his mother-in-law! While he was living in Geneva, she was a member of the household and apparently rather got on his nerves—so some have alleged.

Knox therefore saw himself as hemmed in on every side by women. So he wrote his book against the fairer sex in positions of authority over men. Perhaps the most important point about his *First Blast* is that on every point of his theological arguments—beginning with Adam being created first—John Calvin openly disagreed with him. Indeed, Calvin pled with him not to publish the book, for he correctly foresaw that its publication would cause Elizabeth I to withdraw support from the reformers in Scotland.

Knox planned to elaborate on his opposition to women in positions of leadership and intended to write two further books, *The Second Blast* and then *The Third Blast*. But when he saw the opposition that he had brought on himself and the Reformation in Scotland, he wisely dropped the idea of doing further unnecessary damage to the cause!

David Searle.



## More In Photos

**Easter evening service - Wednesday service fellowship - Another use of the sanctuary with a craft fair  
Eyes down for Bingo at the Café - Easter bunnies at the Café - The Guild Easter bonnet competition**

