



## Be Strong And Courageous

Dear friends

By the time you read this article Kate and I will have been with you for nearly 6 months, which seems incredible! Thank you for welcoming us so readily into the St Andrew's family and for all your love, support, and encouragement during these uncertain times for us all.

Last week our family made the difficult decision to move my father into a care home after months of exploring alternatives and debating pros and cons, and a lengthy wait for a place to become available. On the day of the transfer it was very emotional to look around my parent's home, knowing that this phase of life was now at an end, and a new way of living was before them. Changes like this are never "all good" or "all bad". My parents left behind the security of knowing they were in their own home, but they also left behind a situation full of risk and difficulty where daily living was becoming untenable even with constant intervention.

I was reminded of the Exodus story and the journey the Israelites made from slavery in Egypt, to 40 years in the desert and then to crossing the Jordan river into the land of Canaan – the land promised by God as their inheritance. At various points in this journey of transition, the Israelites complained to Moses and the other leaders that they wished they had never left Egypt, or there was no way they were going into the promised land because the people there were giants and far too scary to grapple with. Often, they seemed to prefer living in slavery or in a desert with all its risk and difficulty – rather than trust in God's wonderful promises and His presence with them in the journey. It was the same in Jesus's day. He gave his disciples this illustration "no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'" (Luke 5: 39).

All lot of change has happened in our churches over these past years and there is still a lot more change to come. As the Presbytery Mission Planning process gradually inches us towards a union, there will be much that we will have to let go of from the past. There will be good and valuable things that we leave behind, such as memories of family events in buildings that will be sold; dreams of what might have been etc. But we will also leave behind less positive realities, like declining numbers and finances, and fewer volunteers to carry out essential tasks or progress mission.

We will all need to take time to grieve what will be lost whether good or bad (or neither). We need to allow God to take us through that grieving process so that, in time, we are ready to embrace the new and able to hold in tension the grief of loss alongside the joy and hope we have in Christ. We read in the book of Acts that after the death of Stephen "Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him" (Acts 8: 2). They mourned despite knowing he was with Jesus, and they carried on proclaiming the gospel even when their hearts were heavy. We will explore this passage further during our service on 3rd Sept. We will ask the Lord to accompany us and equip us as we grieve, and as we take courage to go forward, like Joshua did when he led the Israelites across the Jordan. For those of you who were at the joint service in Inverkeilor church in August, you will remember that God said to Joshua:

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.* (Joshua 1: 9)

May we all live in the reality of this promise of God in our lives by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Love to you all, Jonathan

### And Another Book

David Searle has written a new book 'Opening up Exodus' due to be published on 1st October 2023.

David writes -

From my student days, I realized that Exodus was one of the most important and perhaps most neglected books in the Bible. After all, its message was at the heart of Christ's redeeming work. For on the Mount of Transfiguration, his conversation with Moses and Elijah was about 'his exodus, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem'. In the shadow of Sinai, Moses' face had shone but now both he and Elijah 'appeared in glory' (Luke 9:30-31). The Tent of Meeting and its furnishings were 'copies of heavenly

things' (Heb. 8:5; 9:23), while the regalia of the high priest accurately expounds the ascended Lord's intercession for his people. Furthermore, Exodus is a 'picture book', illustrating the whole ordo salutis — the 'order of salvation'. And at its heart are the terms of God's eternal covenant with his constantly recalcitrant people. How can we ignore this abundant provision of 'the finest of the wheat and with honey from the rock' (Psa. 81:16)?

Books can be purchased online at the full price of £12 but ordering via Anne Burnett books can be obtained at £6.00. Speak to Anne directly or contact the office if you'd like to order.

(It is amazing that David can show such strength when they both face major illness. We pray for David and Lorna.)

## More In Photos



**50+ Fair**



**Instrumental Band and Friend's Choir**



**A Political Meeting**



**We are now a Vaccination Centre**



**Sunday Club Prizegiving**



**Prizegiving Tower Challenge**



## A Busy Fabric Time

We are so blessed to have a beautiful building in which we are able to conduct a whole host of activities. However, it does take some considerable maintenance behind the scenes to keep it in tip top condition. Over the past couple of months the Fabric Team have overseen a large variety of projects which are now mostly completed and they include:

- repair to plaster crack in an arch in the sanctuary
- repair and painting of the north and south windows
- new flooring in both the small and main halls
- new UPVC windows in the small halls to replace wooden
- painting walls and new shelving in a storage cupboard
- clearing out and painting of the sheds
- many repairs to cupboard locks and chairs /dump runs etc

There are still a few tasks outstanding but they are in hand including the refurbishment of the gents toilets.

A huge round of applause and our very grateful thanks to Ken Miller and the Fabric Group and to all who lent a hand in any of the work that was undertaken. (LH)

**WARNING** - We have a dedicated team of Fabric Group members, but our youngest is well over 60, and some are over 80! We **MUST** recruit younger blood!

If you think you can help us, then please volunteer your services even if you do not wish to be an actual member of the Fabric group. **For example** - two of our grass cutting team are having to retire. If cut on a regular basis, it only takes 20 minutes to do - could you offer to help with this easy task and be on a rota? If so, please give your name to Ken Miller or to Linda in the office. Thank you. (KM)



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**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****July/August 2023****Baptisms** - Sophie Winter      **Weddings** - None**Funerals** - William Marshall, Maureen Coull

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****OCTOBER EDITION**

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

**Thursday 21st  
September**

**Footfall**

What do NHS Vaccine Clinics and Concerts have in common?

They can all be hosted in our building of course! What a year it's been so far in terms of the variety of events held in our building. We have literally had thousands of folk walk through our doors to visit or attend the different events and in many cases lots have let us know that they think it's a beautiful, welcoming space – we won't argue with that!

So far this year we have hosted concerts, craft fairs, information events, public meetings, art groups, keep fit classes, blood transfusion sessions, NHS vaccination clinics, training conferences and meetings.

Of course, we wouldn't be able to offer any of this without the help of stewards and the fellowship group who provide all the refreshments – thank you to each and every one of you who have helped.

PS The second half of the year looks just as busy!

**Guild News**

A WARM HELLO FOR THE NEW SESSION.

We are approaching the start of our new session, which your committee have been planning with their usual enthusiasm.

First news is by the time you read this some of our ladies will have enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea at the Coffee Cabin, Arbroath Golf Club to round off the summer break.

The guild session begins with **GUILD SUNDAY ON 17TH OF SEPTEMBER** when all members and friends are invited to the morning service to worship together. This is followed by our opening meeting and communion on **MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER** at 7.00pm. We are looking forward to seeing weel kent faces and welcoming new faces. Holidays are great but it's good to be able to come together in fellowship once more.

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

**Dalitso Project**

Hi everyone,

I hope everyone has had a good summer and recharged their batteries for all the activities restarting again in the autumn. We have been busy in Malawi, with a few projects started. The installation of a solar hot water system has begun at the 2 residences and clinic. Also adjustments are being made at the Mary Spink Centre to allow better access with a ramp and separate toilets. At Thyolo, a water tank and platform is being installed which will allow the centre to store water for use when the water is turned off which can be a regular occurrence in the area.

Maize prices continue to be a problem as they are always increasing and so we are looking at how we can alleviate this again.

We have had some good results from school exams but even so there are more passes than places available for secondary education so some of our children will resit and hope to gain a school place next year. A far cry from our comparison of the Scottish education system where children automatically move into high school.

If you are a sponsor and have not handed in your autumn parcel, can you, please do this as soon as possible. The closing date was 31st August. We need to check all contents to ensure nothing and no child is missed - separate into Thyolo and Kambilonjo centres, pack and weigh into suitcases for the teams October trip. With this only 4 weeks away at the time you are reading this, it is crucial we get this all done. We have around 300 parcels to check:)

Also, can you please ensure that by the end of September the £25 per sponsor child, Christmas gift money, has been transferred to our Dalitso Project Account. This is the same sort code and account number that is used for your normal sponsor money. Please use the reference 'Christmas'. If you would rather pay cash please get in touch with me or Charis on 07877 256236 or any committee member.

Also, if anyone would like to donate an Autumn or Christmas gift to one of our children who are not sponsored, please also get in touch.

Thanking you all for your continued support.

Doris