

## He Has Plans For Us!

Dear friends, In the September Quest I wrote about change, transition, and the grieving process, about letting go and allowing God to accompany us and equip us as we grieve. This month, we are thinking a bit more about holding in tension the sadness of loss alongside the joy and hope we have in Jesus Christ, and pursuing the plans He has for us as individuals and as a church family. There is no doubt that the Lord has good plans for us – he's told us!

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8: 28 ESV).*

Many of you will also recall the wonderful promise of God given through the prophet Jeremiah to the people of Israel when they were exiled in Babylon:

This is what the Lord says: *"You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again. 11 For I know the plans I have for you,"* says the Lord. *"They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. 12 In those days when you pray, I will listen. 13 If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. 14 I will be found by you,"* says the Lord. *"I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land."* (Jeremiah 29: 10-14 NLT)

This prophecy was fulfilled over a 100 -year time period in various stages and through various leaders (see illustration). In the coming weeks in our Sunday services we will be looking at the life of one of those leaders, Nehemiah, an exiled Jew a servant to the King of the Persian Empire. We will be learning from Nehemiah about how to be bold, pursue vision, navigate change, make courageous decisions, and stand firm against opposition.

By the time you read this article, we will already have had one key lesson from the life of Nehemiah – God changes things when we pray! God longs for us to pursue His heart and His vision for building His Kingdom in Arbroath and beyond. He assures us that if we look for him "wholeheartedly", we will find Him.

If we are willing to be like Nehemiah who *sat down and wept [and] for some days mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven* (Nehemiah 1: 4 NIV) we can be assured that he will hear us and be attentive to our pleas. I will leave you with this question.

Are you content with the status quo in your own life, in our churches and in our town? Maybe, like me, you are experiencing that Nehemiah moment – that "Holy Discontent" and a vision to see the "more" of God, an outpouring of his love, grace and power on needy situations, families, schools, and workplaces around Arbroath.

Be assured that He loves you and zealously seeks your company and your partnership in fulfilling His plans for *His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven*. Amen

### Time to pray!

Love to you all, Jonathan



## Arbroath and District Union

### What is happening?

Since the congregational votes back in June, which failed to get all nine congregations on board, it has all gone a bit quiet - or has it? On the surface it may seem so, but the Transition Team have been busy in the background trying to find solutions. Apart from Transition Team meetings over the summer, members of the teams also met with the Principal Clerk, the Presbytery Clerk and the Presbytery Planning team to consider possible options. There were also Question and Answer sessions at Arbirlot, Old & Abbey, St Andrew's and Inverkeillor over the summer.

At its August meeting, the Transition Team agreed to:

- Seek a slight amendment to the Presbytery Mission Plan to allow buildings to stay open for up to 6 months longer the end of year date in the current plan.

- Arrange a meeting at Arbirlot with Presbytery Clerk and Presbytery Planning Team to outline their options.
- Seek a date for a further round of congregational meetings (and votes) including all nine congregations on essentially the same Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry

The dates for the congregational meetings are still to be agreed but they can be expected to be in mid November. If the votes then fall in favour of the Union then a New Year Union can be expected. If those meetings yield the same outcome as the last round then the Presbytery Mission Plan will have to be revisited. That is a longer process. It should be stressed that there will be no change in the number of ministers available and the fact that we have too many buildings will still be to the fore.

Please commit the whole process and the Transition Team to your prayers.

Geoff Redmayne (Interim Moderator until 30/9/23)

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**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****September 2023****Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Alex Smith, Elizabeth Taylor

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****NOVEMBER EDITION**

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

**Thursday 26th  
October**

**Interim Moderator Change**

Since Martin left I have been your Interim Moderator, perhaps not seen greatly at St Andrews – the day to day ministerial duties being ably taken care of by your locum Jonathan Humphrey – but active at Kirk Session and behind the scenes. I retire at the end of October so 'to that end' I step down as your Interim Moderator at the end of September and Rev Brian Oxburgh has been appointed as your Interim Moderator from 1st of October.

**Geoff Redmayne**

We warmly welcome Rev Brian Oxburgh. We are greatly indebted to Geoff for the valuable time he has given us - not easy when still having full duties elsewhere and about to retire. We wish him well.

**ADVANCE  
NEWS****SUNDAY 5th  
NOVEMBER**

The Guild will have a sales table with various crafts and Christmas items for sale. This endeavour is to raise funds for Guild Projects.

**Harvest Thanksgiving  
Sunday 17th September**

The Kirk Session at its meeting on 12th September agreed that the undernoted organisations should be the recipients of our Harvest Gifts for this year: the first is a Guild project called Starchild. A project in Uganda to build and support a centre called Sunflower Sanctuary for children with physical and learning difficulties. The second, a local charity - CAFE Project which offers a range of activities for all ages in the community.

Gifts in kind of food and toiletries will also be collected and donated to the foodbank based in Old & Abbey Church. Useful items are:

Tinned soup, tinned meat and fish, pasta and pasta sauce, packets of biscuits, tinned fruit, cereal, noodles, small jars of coffee, tea, long life milk.

Of course, by the time you receive the magazine, the Harvest Service will have already taken place but we will continue to receive your gifts for the next few weeks in order that everyone has the opportunity to give thanks to God for His boundless goodness throughout the year and, in turn, we remember those who are less fortunate.

Joan Hainsworth

Session Clerk

**Guild News**

We made an excellent start to the new guild session with our joint Guild and Harvest Service. Fair to say an entertaining and thought producing presentation by Pat and Leah had us all chuckling. Johnathon based his message on our guild theme of New Wine, New Wineskins.

The first meeting was our Communion and Dedication Service. A happy coming together after the summer break. Lots of new ideas have been brought forward for discussion.

The following is our intended programme for October where we will joyfully welcome old, new and visiting friends.

**2nd Oct 7.30pm** Rev Chris Hay from

Westkirk will give us an insight into our new presbytery "From Loch Lomond to Hillside all places in-between". (There will be a sales table at this meeting.)

**16th Oct 7.30pm** Jim Christie will give us a talk on The Men's Shed Project. This will no doubt be of particular interest to the gentlemen of our congregation.

**SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 12NOON  
SOUP AND PUDDING FUNDRAISER  
LUNCH FOR GUILD PROJECTS.**

**30th Oct 7.30pm** Our own Gaynor Scott will introduce us to the new guild theme "New wine, New wineskins".

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

## The Café

We have a wonderful time at the Café – first Wednesday afternoon of the month – a place for folk and their carers to come and relax over a cup of tea and home baking. There are also activities on offer – with crafts and putting – not to forget Bingo – being the favourites.

We were a bit early with Autumn crafts this year, as hopefully we have a speaker for October so we may not have time for a craft as well – we'll see.....

If you know of someone coping with dementia, then please bring them along to join us; we'd love to see you.

## Quest Articles

Would all contributors please note that I cannot guarantee to include articles that come in after the date given for submissions - which is given in every Quest each month. I quite often have to lay aside other personal matters or leisure activity that I had planned. Therefore, if you wish to be sure that your submission will be included, it is best to try to adhere to the dates given. Thank you.

## Life and Work Magazine

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. It is central to the communication strategy of the Church of Scotland and so the magazine is key to staying connected. The pages carry official updates from different areas of the central church, including monthly updates from those tasked with delivering the Faith Action Plan. It also incorporates an easy to reference contacts directory. The magazine continues to be packed with news, features and opinion on Christian life in Scotland and further afield. To give back to loyal readership it also promotes a range of offers.

There are various options when it comes to ordering.

1. It can be ordered via the church office. For 12 issues, the cost is £42 and can be paid directly to the church. Con-

tact the office by Friday, 3rd 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](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe)

If you are a new customer you can sign up for a 3 month trial offer at a cost of £9 for three issues (including delivery within the UK).

A 12 month subscription costs £42 (including delivery within the UK).

3. You can subscribe to receive a digital edition via the magazine's website [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org) with prices - 6 months £11.99 | 12 months £20.99 | single issue £1.99

## Dalitso Project

Hi all,

By the time this Quest reaches you the team will be in the final stages of preparation for their trip to Malawi. Charis, Fraser, Sheila, Becky, Naomi, Stephen and not forgetting our wee Ayla will be counting down the hours!! All parcels will have been checked off to make sure no one is missed, packed into the many suitcases, weighed, and transported to Glasgow a few weeks before so there is no rushing at the last minute. Visas have been applied for and were through very quickly. So though all these preparations will have been done, we ask you now to pray for safe travels for the team, that God will watch over them, and all that they do, and that there will be fruitful discussions and plans for the future made.

We cannot thank you all enough for the parcels coming in quickly and for the many of you who have paid your Christmas Sponsor Child money into the account. Anyone who has forgotten, you have missed the deadline!! But in true Dalitso fashion we will still be happy for you to pay as soon as is possible. It has been all very different this year with no

container and though there is not the usual pleasure of shopping for our Malawian son/daughter it has probably been less stressful!!! And if Deborah, Elia, Frances, etc. etc. have a parcel to open all will be well. We hope the team are able to check/buy some of the items that will make up their backpack this year when out during October.

We are again manning the soup kitchen/coffee & cakes in big hall at Fayre being held in the church on **Saturdays:**

**7th October, 11th November & 9th December.**

Please do support these crafters and us.

Finally, our church soup lunch Sunday is on the 12th November and we promise to have different soups from Saturday 11th so come along twice!!!

Please get in touch with me or Charis on 07877 256236 or any committee member, if there is anything you want to ask about Dalitso. (For anyone who may have jotted Charis number from previous Quests please change to above - The CORRECT number!!! Sorry.)

Doris

## A Continuing Busy Fabric Time

If you can help us with fabric matters, then please volunteer your services even if you do not wish to be an actual member of the Fabric group.

Further to last months report of plaster arch repair, painting north and south windows, new flooring in halls, new windows in small hall, painting and new shelving in toy cupboard, clearing out and painting of sheds, repairs to locks etc, work has continued with -

- main hall ceiling repaired and painted
- broken basketball hoops removed and wall repainted
- grasses and hedges cut at manse and church garden

- church pillars and rear windows painted by Billy Beattie
- garden refreshed by Max and Helen Wallace, Jenni Tosh
- considerable fabric work at Fisheracre by Iain Scott
- PAT testing done by Nathan Christie
- session room and gallery carpets cleaned

In addition, countless hours have been spent trying to trace a leak in the heating system which involved lifting concrete, floorboards, and the new lino. Thanks to Ian Martin for his help, and I can report that what we thought might be a very costly outcome has now been solved relatively cheaply.

The work of renewing the urinals in the gents has now started and was fortunately covered by our insurance.



## More In Photos



**Café 'Golf Club'**



**Pat and Leah our thespians from  
Guild Sunday**



**Café Craft Work**



**Joan and Gaynor in Edin-  
burgh at the annual gathering**



**Harvest floral displays**



**Afternoon tea at the Golf Club**