



## All Children of God

Hello everyone,

Here's a question for you, how do you cope with change? Perhaps you are someone who embraces change and gets a buzz from exploring something new. Maybe it's the opposite and you find change unsettling, anxious making, threatening even. In my work for the charity Signpost International, everyone in the sector is suddenly talking about AI (Artificial Intelligence) and how it has the potential to completely change the way we work. AI can help draft grant applications, write reports, generate images etc. When I think about the implications for people's jobs and knowing whether something is genuine or not, it can feel a bit scary. But the potential benefits of AI are also huge – where would we be without the Google search engine!

We like to think that change should be gradual, non-threatening, gentle, but the nature of change seldom fits that mould. As many of you know, my father died a couple of weeks ago. He had a terminal condition and we knew that he wasn't going to get better, but still his death was a shock; one day he was there, the next he wasn't and everything had changed in an instant. I know many of you could share similar stories of bereavement and loss.

On Thursday 29th February there will be a service of union for the churches in Arbroath, and on the 1st of March lots of things will have changed overnight. We have been progress-

ing towards this day for 18 months or more; we've known it is coming, but once it comes things will be different and the church will be on a new trajectory in Arbroath. Last Sunday I talked about how important it is for us as Christians to be secure in our identity. Knowing who we are in Christ is the solid ground that supports us through these rapid and often disorientating times of change. The phrase "in Christ" is a favourite of Paul's, in fact he uses it more than 80 times in his letters. You might want to look up some of the references. Here is one of my favourites from Paul's letter to the Galatians:

*So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3: 26-28*

I love this picture of all of us being God's children, all one in Christ, with the wonderful invitation to cloth ourselves in Christ. I have this picture of Jesus surrounding me in a warm embrace, a place of love and security. Friends, this is our identity given to us by God's grace. I pray that we will remember that we are His and where we go, He goes. He will never leave us and we remain "in Him" regardless of what changes are going on around us.

Love to you all, Jonathan

### Scottish Heroes of the Faith: Robert Bruce of Kinnaird (Part 2)

So here we have one of Scotland's most distinguished aristocrats studying divinity in St Andrews University, virtually penniless, but already a formidable figure among his fellow students. And remember, all the teaching in the college in those days was in Latin as well as the daily conversation!

After a couple of years, Robert, direct descent of 'The Bruce' (who had routed Edward II at Bannockburn 250 years earlier) was preaching in Holy Trinity Church in South Street. The crowds flocked to hear him. It was widely said of him that the world had not known such power and authority in the pulpit since the apostles.

In 1587 one of his teachers, James Melville (nephew of Andrew Melville, the College Principal), took Robert to the General Assembly in Edinburgh. There, Bruce so distinguished himself by his preaching in some of the city's congregations, that the elders of Great St Giles (as it was then called) invited him to be their minister. Young Robert, however, declined as he was by then preaching regularly in St Andrews. Also, he knew that the twenty-one year old King James VI attended Great St Giles, and he was apprehensive about finding himself in trouble for his forthright uncom-

promising pulpit manner that would be without fear or favour.

However, the elders of the Great Kirk, as he was returning to St Andrews, pursued him across the Firth of Forth and after a night agonising in prayer, Bruce relented and responded to the call, returning to the capital with the elders. He recognised the call was from God.

It is testimony to the high regard in which 33 year old Bruce was already held that he was elected as Moderator for the General Assembly in his first year at St Giles. He issued a call to the whole nation for prayer and fasting that both Scotland and England would be preserved from the King of Spain's attempt to reverse the Reformation through impending attack of the Great Spanish Armada. It was probably due to his godly influence that when fleeing Armada Galleons were wrecked in fierce storms along the rugged Scottish coast, that the pitiful mariners were treated with great kindness and given generous hospitality and shelter.

At first, James VI welcomed his aristocratic minister and showered him with gifts. But, alas, that was not going to last! (to be continued.)

D Searle

**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

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

**LOCUM MINISTER**

Rev Dr Jonathan Humphrey

**INTERIM MODERATOR**

Rev Brian Oxburgh

**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Ian Gray: 01674 677 126

**SESSION CLERK**

Joan Hainsworth:

07943 865 462

**TREASURER****CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark: 878594

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
WORKER**

Carla Ingram: 07931 420 905

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
LEADER**

Tracey McLeod: 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT  
WORKER**

Karen Reaney: 07906 857 611

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Ken Miller: 01241 875 235

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Amy-Louise Scott: 07734939241

Louise Smith: 07508 776 417

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**SAFEGUARDING (Interim)**

Joan Hainsworth: 875409

**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh:

01307 641355

**PRAYER COORDINATORS**

Scott and Elaine Anderson

07981 787304

07941 941758

**SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Janis Clark: 878594

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Ken Miller: 01241 875235

**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records - February 2024****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****PROVISIONAL APRIL EDITION**

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

**Tuesday 26th March**

If you do not have my email,  
phone me on 01241 875235

## Guild News

Once again I have the pleasure of reporting that the guild enjoyed a successful quiz night and the refreshments from 60s and 70s were very well received.

Mo Morrison gave a wonderful presentation of old Arbroath providing the guild with lots of interesting facts and causing lots of laughter. Indeed an old photograph of St Andrews guild had many looking for mums and aunts. This has inspired the next meeting when the members of the guild will attempt to recreate one of those photos. (Away to the loft, the charity shop and the dressing up box all you film extras).

Precious possessions is our main topic for

the 26th of February with members being tasked with bringing an item or photo to show others at their table and perhaps talk a wee bit about why it means so much to them.

On the 11th of March, Kirsty from "Beat" (eating disorder charity) a national guild project will visit to give us an update on progress of this endeavour.

I have included a photo from our Quiz night and one which has inspired our 26th February meeting.

As always ladies we remember

**"whose we are and whom we serve"**

especially during this time of transition for our churches.

## Dalitso Project

.Hi everyone,

We are getting ready to man the soup kitchen/coffee & cakes in the big hall at the Spring Fair. This is on

### Saturday 2nd March

in the church, so we look forward to you supporting these crafters as well as joining us in the big hall for a cuppie and a cake, lunch or both.

Our Church soup lunch is on

### Sunday 19th May

and we hope to see you there too.

The money we raised during December for

the mosquito nets was tremendous and so our Malawian family have been distributing to those who have none, also educating them on how to use and the benefits it gives their health. See pictures of this good work.

We had at the weekend news which we ask you to pray for. As we all know climate in Malawi can be extreme, too hot, too wet, etc. Right now, they need good rain for the maize crops. Thyolo has had a bit of rain and both centre crops are doing well but the rain is required for the continued growth of these healthy plants.

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.

Doris

## Wednesday Café

February Café, was the first of the year as January is the only month it doesn't run, so it was lovely meeting up with everyone again.

There was plenty of chat as we caught up with all our news, whilst enjoying lovely

baking with our teas and coffees. We decided on a Scottish theme for our craft as Burn's Night had only recently been celebrated and all the crafters enjoyed making their 'highland coo' magnets.

Our 'putters' were eager to get on with their putting and all were winners and our afternoon was rounded off with a few games of Bingo.

It is normal practice for us to publish the previous year's minute of the Annual Stated Meeting, and this is given below.. There will of course be no St Andrew's Congregation Stated Meeting this year, because we have now become a new united congregation .

## Annual Stated Meeting - Minute for 2023

The Kirk Session met on Sunday 19th March 2023 in the Sanctuary for the Annual Stated Meeting and was constituted with prayer.

Moderator: Rev Geoff Redmayne

Sederunt: 54 members attended.

**The Presentation of the Accounts:** The accounts for 2022 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 2022. Scott gave a warning that 2022 was very challenging financially and this would ripple into 2023. There were some areas that were causing concern. Energy cost were the biggest problem. Scott explained the way various funds were used: restricted, unrestricted and main account funds. He detailed the cash in hand for Havila and the general fund and explained that there was a need to look at various funds and costs. There was an overall deficit in 2022. In general the income in 2022 was more than 2021 but the job retention was no longer in place and the use of premises was down. There was a decline in the number of people to give an offering but they were faithful in their giving. The direction of travel is downhill which is challenging but we need to grasp that challenge and difficulties and rely on God and prayer and make savings where we can. There was some discussion on what the future holds for the accounts at the union of the churches. The day-to-day operations were to go ahead at the moment. Scott offered an invitation to all to go and see what happens at Havilah.

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 and all the work that involves.

**Moderator's comments:** It is time to do things. The figures are alarming. The membership is in a downward trend and this impacts on income. It is a time to grab the opportunities.

As interim Moderator and reviewing the year he expressed his thanks to everyone who was involved in the life of St Andrews Church. The future held a lot of unknowns with transitions being worked on and being declared vacant. The Perth Presbytery plan was not agreed, Angus was agreed, details were being looked at but the vacancy can't be filled until the Union takes place. There will be one congregation, one Kirk Session and one set of accounts. There will be 3 ministers and 9 places of worship and one youth and family worker. The team is us. Taking the best from each congregation and using it. Sunday by Sunday there will not be a lot of change. There will be ministers every week but there may be a rotation of the minister in the future, this will need to be worked through. A letter will go into the April Quest, the same letter that is going to all congregations. Presbytery will rubber stamp the vote and OSCR will be notified. We would be kept informed of progress. We need to get creative, and everyone needs to get involved. No-one is sure of what is going to happen with the Unions. There are interesting but difficult times ahead and we need to do our part with God's help.

The Moderator closed with Ephesians ch 3 v20: Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.

Editors note - this may be the last edition of Quest. I can now 'hang my boots up' after editing for the best part of 20 years, and I would like to thank all contributors who have made the magazine what it is - a highly valued part of our congregational life. We now look forward to a new era of information which will embrace the larger life of the newly formed Arbroath and District Church of Scotland congregation.

# More In Photos

## At the Café - Our golfing fanatics and making 'highland coo' magnets



'Guess who' at the Guild!



Mosquito nets for Malawi





# Arbroath and District Church of Scotland

SC 006482



## March 2024

**WELCOME** to the first news sheet of Arbroath & District Church of Scotland and to your current Ministry Team supported by Rev Jonathan Humphrey and Keith Scott providing locum cover and Rev Norman Nicol providing pulpit supply. Following the Service of Union on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024, we now move forward together with one Kirk Session. Much more information will be available in our first full correspondence as the Kirk Session determines the best way to operate to enable us to share God's love with one another and our local community but for now a little more about the team, planned Easter services and the banking changes that are taking place.

### Peter

Thirty years ago I was single at college preparing to complete my degree before moving to Aberdeen for further study. That's where I met Rona. Twenty years ago we were married and preparing to move to Friockheim with a five year old and a bump.

Nothing stays the same. We are constantly surrounded by change. Who would have thought back then that the internet, mobile phones, and social media, would become tools to bring the whole world to our doorstep? Certainly since Covid many now connect and worship online. We know that the church has also seen huge changes, and we now are embarking on a significant institutional change as we form a new union covering Arbroath and District.



We can find ourselves looking to the past with a sense of longing for what, and for whom we have lost. There is nothing wrong with that. We remember what was good in the past with a desire to recapture what was good and right and true because we value what is good and right and true. We can also look forward to the new thing that God is doing; to what we shall receive from his gracious hand.

I am looking forward to discovering the joys of working as part of a team with Chris and Carla and whomever is to join us in the months to come. I am also looking forward to sharing in the mission of Jesus Christ as, together with sisters and brothers across six worshipping locations, we proclaim Christian unity to a community and world so often fractured and divided one from another.

The adjustments we have all been facing are daunting and I share that sense, but I firmly believe that the prayer of Jesus in John 17, that the church may be one so that the world will believe, is the great hope and promise by which the Kingdom may grow. For too long the world has looked at the church and dismissed the message we proclaim because they see division. We have an opportunity to shine as Christ's light to the world, to be that community on a hill, to be the enduring salt of the Covenant preserving and flavouring the land. We can also be certain that change will continue, and none of us know what the church will be preparing for in twenty or thirty years. What we do know is that Jesus will still love his church, and that deathly ways shall not prevail against her.

It won't be easy, and we won't get everything right, but with commitment to God in Christ Jesus expressed in commitment to each other then we shall take the best of what was promised in the past into the Kingdom's future and the name of Jesus will be proclaimed forever.

We are the people of Jesus, and his Kingdom is ever near to the one of faith.

Let us rejoice and be glad. Many blessings.

Peter

## Carla

Hi everyone, my name is Carla. I studied Social Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University and completed a Masters in English Language Teaching at University of St Andrews. After university, I became the youth work coordinator at St Andrew's Church in 2018. I then became Ministries Development Staff as Children & Family worker for Arbroath and District in February 2023. In my time off, I love crafting, baking and building Lego!



I believe that going forward, we need to look outside the walls of our churches to see how what we are doing connects children, young people and families with what is happening within our congregations. We have strong ties with our local primary schools with schools visiting churches, events to learn about Christmas and Easter, and the Bible Alive programme for P6s that runs through the whole story of the bible. I am so looking forward to strengthening these relationships and connecting with as many children as possible.

In a lot of my work, we have already begun working together as a collective of churches for example, through our large school events – Bubblegum 'n' Fluff for P5, Easter Code for P6 and previously Popcorn & Cake for P7. For many years now, these programmes have brought together groups of volunteers from many of the churches in the area to lead the children in their activities. I am so excited to start out new family ministry where families will be learning about God through activities, crafts and Lego, hearing His Word and singing songs worshipping Him.

I am filled with so much hope in God's plan for our union in this community and throughout our whole country. One of my strongest goals is to give children and young people a positive opinion and outlook of church. I would be thrilled if we can create lasting, happy, positive memories for people in our community. Showing that God loves every one of them.

## Chris

When Mike and I arrived in Arbroath at the end of October 2020 – fresh from a 15-month probationary period significantly impacted by the pandemic to begin to serve God amongst the good folks of the West Kirk and the community on the western side of Arbroath, I really wasn't expecting what began 6 months later following the 2021 General Assembly.



Our three girls, students for the first time, had been joined by their mother, a student second time around as I responded to God's call and the 5+ years of training were a joy and a challenge, a time of testing and of many blessings – much of what I suspect they should be as we are asked to explore and question what we believe in to deepen and strengthen our faith.

We moved from Glenrothes – our family base for 25+ years and soon found ourselves loving the town and surrounding area – the sea, the sand and the cliffs, the surrounding countryside and the town itself, our dog Sally (sadly no longer with us) providing lots of opportunities to get to know the area.

Whilst I know that the discussions, questions, head scratching and soul searching that have taken place over the last couple of years have been difficult, as a newcomer I have been immensely grateful for the opportunity it's given me to get to know folks in other churches across the district, to begin to learn more of the traditions and histories that are a part of the area and the wonderful array of talents and experience that are around.

We unite as one congregation in what will be six places of worship and a Mission Centre on 29th February – a day that only occurs once every four years in the Gregorian calendar. A day when traditionally things are turned upside down and since the days of St Patrick, women can propose to men! I like the explanation of Alexander Boxer who said that the need for a leap year to resolve the number of days in a calendar year is a great reminder that "the universe is really good at defying our attempts to find nice, pretty, aesthetically pleasing systems to fit it in." I suspect that our God is the same and hope and pray that as we discover together where and how God is calling us to serve in our area that we will trust what might at the moment seem a little bit upside down to be the very thing that unites and inspires us.

Chris xx

## Easter Services – Arbroath & District

### Palm Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March:

United Communion service with Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton at West Kirk at 11.00am

### Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March:

Holy Communion          Old & Abbey at 6.00pm  
    Friockheim at 7.00pm

### Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Coffee Stop Reflection at West Kirk at 11.00am

Ecumenical Walk of Witness to Arbroath Town Mission for a short service of readings, music and prayer at 12.30pm. (Walking times and locations to be arranged)

Evening services          Old & Abbey at 6.00pm  
    Inverkeilor at 7.00pm

### Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Early Morning Services    Victoria Park at 7.30am  
    Hercules Den at 8.00am  
    (followed by breakfast at St Vigeans Church Hall)

Easter Services:          Carmyllie at 9.30am  
    Colliston at 10.00am  
    (Easter Celebration and Closing Service, Communion)  
    Friockheim at 10.00am  
    Old & Abbey, St Andrew's, St Vigean's and West Kirk at 11.00am  
    Inverkeilor at 11.30am

There will be a Holy Week Prayer Trail throughout Holy Week at the West Kirk. Once school visiting times are confirmed, building opening times will be shared.

## Finance and Standing Orders

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you who have given your continued support to our churches down the years. Without you and your freewill offerings and standing orders, with or without Gift Aid, we wouldn't be able to do all that we do in our church families and community.

Following the union of our eight churches there are a number of financial administrative changes, one of which is the consolidation of our bank accounts.

We value your continued support and would kindly ask if you could please contact your bank and update the details on your standing order, faster payment etc to the following new bank account for the united congregation. (Please turn over for details).

Sort Code : 80-12-35

Account Number : 00121411

Account Name : Arbroath and District Church

Bank: Bank of Scotland

**To all of you ..... THANKYOU**

**Contact Details;**

Peter Phillips – [PPhillips@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:PPhillips@churchofscotland.org.uk) Manse Tel: 01241 830464

Chris Hay – [Christine.Hay@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Christine.Hay@churchofscotland.org.uk) Manse Tel: 01241 554189

Carla Ingram – [CIngram@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:CIngram@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Old & Abbey Centre – Tel: 01241 877068 email, [church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk](mailto:church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk)

St Andrew's Centre – Tel: 01241 431135 email, [office@arbroathstandrews.org.uk](mailto:office@arbroathstandrews.org.uk)

St Vigeans Centre – Tel: 01241 230300 email, [office.stvigeans@gmail.com](mailto:office.stvigeans@gmail.com)

West Kirk Centre – Tel: 01241 434721, email, [arbroathwestkirk2019@gmail.com](mailto:arbroathwestkirk2019@gmail.com)