



Where The River Flows

Dear friends,

There have been a number of programmes now on TV about rivers, searching for where they begin, tracing walks alongside them and looking at the power they have to change and forge the landscape. Rivers are fascinating and we have certainly seen in Angus over the last year or so, the impact and power rivers have when water is so plentiful.

Kate and I were reading recently, Ezekiel 47:1, 7-12 and thinking about all the places in God's word where we see encouragement and new life. This passage talks about the water flowing from the temple down through rivers out bringing life to each area it touches before going out to sea.

Water is often used to describe the work of Holy Spirit. The Spirit refreshes and brings life where He flows. Thinking about the gifts of God, and the work of Holy Spirit, as we have over my last few weeks with you, I hope that we are all encouraged that God can and does bring new life. It comes from being in His presence and earnestly seeking His gifts. As I ready myself to leave all the wonderful people of Arbroath and St Andrews, it is not easy, it makes us sad to leave you all. I have enjoyed my 2 days/ week and Sundays with you all so much. But our hope is in God and His call. This passage reminds us that existing channels and waterways – our church congregations and communities - can and

will be refreshed when we seek Him and invite Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to bring life.

I love facts and figures about rivers; the longest; the fastest flowing; the greatest volume of water, but if I focus on those kind of things, I can miss the beauty and joy and life in the water itself. This is the beauty and joy of a living relationship with Jesus who promised us that living water would well up within us to eternal life (John 7: 38). So, let's move forward keeping the main thing, the main thing; the Spirit of Jesus present amongst us in our church and in our community drawing people to God so that....

"where the river flows everything will live"

(Ezekiel 47: 9)

Kate and I would like to thank you all for making us so welcome and for your wonderful support and encouragement over this past year. And we hope to see as many of you in person before we go. You are invited to Tayport and Leuchars any time!

Love and Blessings

Jonathan

Arbroath and District Church Update

On Sunday 14th April a vote took place and we're delighted that by a good majority the church family of Arbirlot have agreed to become a part of the united church family in this area. The date for formal union is to be 1st May and there will be a special service to welcome them in the near future. On Sunday 21st April, Rev Annette Gordon led a powerful closing service of worship in the church with Graham McNicol highlighting some of the work and witness of the ministers and people in the church down the centuries. Prior to this there have been equally moving and uplifting services in Colliston Church and in Old & Abbey Sanctuary as the implementation of the Presbytery Mission Plan moves forward. Please pray for one another in this time of transition as we seek to settle into new worshipping patterns in new places.

Jonathan who has been our locum at St Andrew's for just over a year has accepted the call to be the minister for Tayport, Leuchars St Athernase and Balmullo in the north east

of Fife. Jonathan's last Sunday will be on Pentecost Sunday, 19th May and we wish him and Kate every blessing in their new adventure with God in the Kingdom of Fife.

It has been decided that following Jonathan's departure there will be a series of guest preachers until the end of June and then over the summer there will be united services – one in each of our worshipping centres. Once our plans are fully worked out, you will have all the details.

On Wednesday 8th May the Kirk Session meets with the Vacancy Advisory Committee from Presbytery. This means that in the coming weeks we will be creating an electoral register and then selecting a nominating committee to prepare a parish profile - all steps in the process of calling a new minister to the team. Again, please watch out for further information on our website, social media and noticeboards.

As you can see there's a lot happening at the moment - it's an exciting and a challenging time in equal measure!

Rev Chris Hay

Arbroath and District Church

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 Linda Hunter: 431135
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FREEWILL ENVELOPES
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MAGAZINE EDITOR
 Ken Miller: 01241 875235

ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH
Member Records - April 2024

Baptisms - None **Weddings** - None
Funerals/Deaths - Andrew Ogg

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 JUNE EDITION

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

Thursday 23rd May

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

Guild News

I think this may be my "swan song" in respect of Quest entries so hopefully you will find the news encouraging for the future of our guild.

Firstly YAAY!! During the summer recess we hope to have a social event so remain alert to all information via the guild "what's app" and from Linda on the church web site. Regardless of all the changes one thing remains the same we can still have our own guild albeit with a different name...ARBROATH AND DISTRICT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD AT ST.ANDREWS. Quite a mouthful I know.

In moving forward we have revamped our structure in that we now have volunteers in a planning group (would really love more) who will put forward and implement interesting ideas for our meetings. They will be ably supported by all of us choosing and sharing the Prayers; Readings; choice of hymns; votes of thanks for guests and last

but not least the very welcome tea coffee and cake trolley. In all of these endeavours there will be plenty of support if anyone is unsure. This means our guild will become a truly inclusive and democratic organisation where all welcomed and we hope uplifted.

We will be holding a few joint events with the other guilds in our group and as all the guilds syllabuses will be available, the opportunity is there to attend any guild meeting or event which may be of particular interest. In particular our joint guild is hoping to create a LIVE STREAM SHOWING of the gathering in Edinburgh on the 7th September so as they say WATCH THIS SPACE.

It would be wonderful to begin our new session in September with a few new members and a warm invitation is extended to anyone wishing to come along, gentlemen this includes you. Have a wonderful summer everyone. Looking forward to meeting again at the start of guild week 7th September.

"Whose we are and Whom we serve."

Dalitso Project

Our next fundraiser is coming up in a few weeks. After the church service on a **new date of 12th May**, we will have our Soup lunch. Do come and support us as well as enjoy our soups, crusty bread and a cuppie. Great time of fellowship too.

As I mentioned last month the situation in Malawi is grim. We have a special appeal to buy a bag of maize for £18 either by donating cash to a committee member or through the usual bank account using MAIZE as the reference. A bag of maize can feed a family of 5 for a month!!! Could this be a nice gift for an up-and-coming birthday present for the person you know has everything? Sure if

this was something you'd like we could make a gift card to put in with a birthday card? Please support this if you can.

Please also remember the deadline for Autumn gifts is June 30/06/2024. As a reminder can you buy your sponsor child dress/blouse/shirt now (shops are full of summer items right now), the small packet of sweets (16g) and a sheet of stickers, (You'll find them ranging from 45p-99p in Home Bargains).

Details for Christmas are not yet finalised but look out for details soon.

If you have any query about your parcel, get in touch with me or Charis on 07877 256236 or any committee member, or if there is anything you want to ask about Dalitso. **Doris**

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2024

Arbroath and District Church in conjunction with other churches in the town are hosting the Christian Aid Coffee Morning in the Mission Centre (Old and Abbey Halls) on Saturday 18th May at 10am to 12 Noon.

Stalls and stall holders are as follows:

CAKE AND CANDY (St Andrews)
 FRUIT AND VEG (Inverkeillor/Carmyllie/
 Friockheim)
 TOMBOLA (West Kirk)

PRETTY THINGS (St Vigeans) (Suggested items of jewellery, scarfs/handbags, candles, little dishes etc)

KITCHEN - Coffee/Tea etc (Old & Abbey).

Donations for our Cake and Candy Stall will be required but you are also welcome to make donations to any of the stalls. We will be asking for volunteers to assist in setting up, and this will take place on Friday evening 17th May 6pm – 8pm; to help on the stall and assist in clearing up at the end of the Coffee Morning

Tickets - £3 (children are free) will be available from the Church Office shortly.