



Farewell Quest!

Dear Readers,

We now have our usual summer break in editions of Quest - but this will be the last one! It is hoped that by Autumn we will see the new Arbroath and District Church magazine. However, should any need arise to impart information, then it will be issued as a simple bulletin meantime.

We would like to thank all those who have made valuable contributions throughout the many years of Quest. Please do continue to contribute but, this time, to the new magazine when it starts.

In particular, our thanks go to Martin Fair, our former minister, who wrote so brilliantly well. Martin was also an

absolute blessing to an editor, because he was so able to quickly produce an article just to 'fill an empty space'!

One of our main contributors has been David Searle who continued to write erudite articles for us even after retiring from being our Assistant Minister. Despite suffering from a very serious throat problem at the moment, David decided to re-write a final summing up article for us on his series of Scottish Heroes of the Faith. Thank you David.

Have a good summer everyone, and may God's blessing be on the new Arbroath and District Congregation.

Ken Miller
Editor

Scottish Heroes of the Faith: Robert Bruce of Kinnaird A Final Summing Up

We have seen the extraordinary rise in influence of Robert Bruce since at age of 33 years he had become minister of Great St Giles in the heart of Scotland's capital. Also, we have seen how, at first, the young king James VI was delighted with his young minister (who of course was of royal blood, for he was a direct decedent of King Robert the Bruce).

But as the king became closer to some of the more powerful of the Scottish nobility, Bruce gradually became alienated from the court. Whenever the General Assembly had a plea to put before James, invariably it had been Master Bruce who was among the small delegation chosen to seek an audience at the court. But Bruce's firm stand for what was upright, just and godly, would frequently clash with the king's wishes, and so the minister of St Giles became an increasing irritate to the king.

We can easily trace the main causes of James coming ultimately to hate his godly minister. There was the issue of Bruce all but naming from the pulpit corrupt judges who had passed sentences in court for the king's financial gain, but for the plaintiff's wrongful loss.

Bruce, serving on a judicial commission investigating the torture of so-called witches' trials, had declared in the pulpit

the kirk as nothing more than 'a company of penitent sinners', and had gone on to say, 'If we come across a religion that practises cruelty, you will know that it comes from hell and flows out of human corruption, for it is a godless world that delights in such viciousness.' Of course, everyone knew the king had inaugurated the Berwick witches trial and had even published in 1597 his book on Demonology, advocating the torture of witches.

The final straw had been the astonishing murder of the Earl of Gowrie in 1600. The king maintained that Gowrie had tried to murder him. But Bruce knew how the godly young earl, recently returned from studying in Geneva, was a gracious, quiet and scholarly young man; there could hardly be an aristocrat in the land less likely to commit such treason. Further, the Earl was owed 10,000 golden crowns loaned to the king.

However, James came up with the most unlikely tail of an attack by Gowrie upon him and ordered every minister in the land to declare from the pulpit his innocence the next Sunday. Bruce in all conscience could not do this. The rest of Europe, according to a contemporary historian, couldn't believe it either. Consequently, King James banished him to France. Although he was permitted to return to Scotland four years later, never again was he allowed to come within 10 miles of his former congregation. Paradoxically, his influence throughout Scotland increased and he became a force for good and the gospel for the next 25 years of his life.

David Searle

Well Done!

Do you remember back in January when we asked you for your empty sweet tubs to help raise money for Macmillan? Joan and Malcolm Finlayson collected them in from our various centres and delivered them to The Bell Tree. Along with our contribution Greene King as a company collected 150,000 tubs and raised an incredible £12,600! 21 tonnes of plastic saved from landfill and 380 hours of Macmillan nursing paid for. They have already begun collecting them in for this year so don't forget to bring your empty tubs in when you have any available.



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ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH**Member Records - June 2024****Baptisms** - Danny Lawson**Weddings** - None**Funerals/Deaths** - Christopher Ferguson

Dalitso Project

Hi everyone,

We had an amazing turn out on the 12th May for our soup lunch. Even though the weather was warmer we raised £350.00 towards our continuing work in Malawi. Sheila, Kay and I are so glad you enjoy our soups and it's a great atmosphere in the hall with our management members serving and chatting to all. Such a great chance for our church family to enjoy fellowship together.

Also, our maize appeal has touched the hearts of many and the total bags we are able to purchase is growing. Hopefully I can give an update on this in the next Quest. If you

still wish to buy a bag of maize it is not too late. Please see any committee member and support this if you can.

Please also remember the deadline for Autumn gifts is June 30/06/2024, so only 1 more month to go. We really need these gifts in, so checking is not left to the last minute. Knowing what baggage allowance, we have left will allow us to buy extra treats for the children.

If you have any query about your parcel, just 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

**Pentecost floral displays****Danny Lawson being baptised in the sea****A Munroist At Last!**

From 1995 to 2014, Ken and Jane Miller climbed 270 of the 282 Munros (mountains over 3,000 feet) until they had to stop because of remoteness and difficulty. Ken climbed one more but, after Jane died bravely in 2018 from a brain tumour, he had given up on climbing. However, Ken was encouraged by others to complete them all and, in honour of Jane, on Sunday 19th May 2024 Ken climbed Sgurr Nan Ceathreamhnan to finally realise his dream!