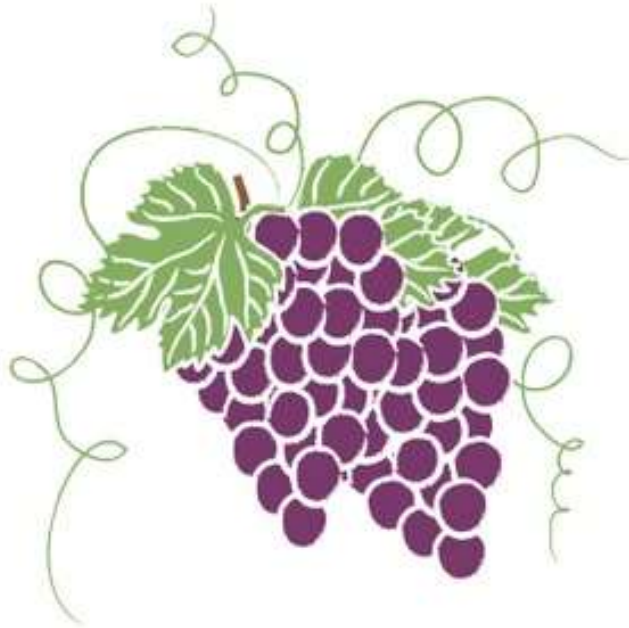


NO.154

SUMMER 2016

GRAPEVINE



DUNDEE WEST CHURCH

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PASTORAL LETTER

I often speak of what is spiritual or spirituality. I don't define this, but the following, taken from Richard Rhor's reflection on the AA twelve step programme is worth reading.

I believe the Twelve-Step programs are a movement of the Spirit in our time. In creating Alcoholics Anonymous in 1935, Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith, with typical American pragmatism, designed a truly practical program that really worked to change lives. That's why I call it the American contribution to the history of spirituality. Twelve-Step spirituality rediscovered the real transformative power that is the core of the Gospel. It is the spirituality of imperfection that Jesus taught and Paul clarified. Transformation has little to do with intelligence, willpower, or perfection. It has everything to do with honest humility, willingness, and surrender.

Nine of Jesus' healing stories are actually exorcisms. Although we may think we are too sophisticated for such stories, the fact that there are so many speaks to their importance. I understand "possession by devils" as a primitive but absolutely truthful way of referring to what we now call addiction. In each case, the person is in some sense trapped by a larger force, and is powerless to do anything about it. The only cure for possession is "repossession." You have to be repossessed by Something Greater than the disease. This is why Bill Wilson says a "vital spiritual experience" is absolutely foundational for full recovery.

What might this “vital spiritual experience” be? The twelve steps are about acceptance, trust, making right wrongs that can be made right and continuing in this way. Spiritual seems like a way of being human to which Jesus calls everyone. So, the simple phrase “let go and let God” comes to mind.

GORDON

A LETTER FROM ANDREW & VICKY

A very big thank you to the people of Dundee West for a wonderful evening on Saturday 14 May. Vicky and I were deeply touched and it goes down on our memory bank for ever. The garden bench is perfect and the cheque is generous. We have already invested in two trees for our cottage. The thought of sitting on the bench and watching the blossom in the Spring comes to mind.

As you can see from the above we are translating quite easily into the time of the Summer Wine. To be perfectly honest our time with Dundee West continues to endorse the unrelenting truth that the Christian faith always was and always will be about the love of God in the hearts of people. When a church reflects that then it is doing its job. I get the sense about Dundee West even if it is not always obvious to those who sit outside. We have had a very happy time with "THE" Church on the Perth Road. Thanks you to one and all ... and as it says ... until we meet again may God hold us all in the palm of his hand.

Andrew, Vicky &



We would like to thank everyone who contributed to Andrew & Vicky's presentation. Everyone was so generous allowing us to purchase the bench and also the cheque, giving them the opportunity to use the money as they wish.

EVENTS OF THE PAST MONTH AT DUNDEE WEST

A Communion Service was held at the beginning of the month conducted by our Interim Moderator , Patricia Ramsay. In the afternoon a further service was held for friends and members and Communion was dispensed to the pleasing number who attended. Refreshments were enjoyed following the service.

The ever popular **Quiz Evening**, organised by the Badminton Club brought together a splendid number of friends, both old and new. Question Master, Bill, and badminton members made this event rather special. The questions were advertised as being of an easy nature, but final scores were of a modest standard! As ever the Editor's table excelled, the members thereof received their obligatory prize, amassing the lowest score of the evening! An excellent Buffet was enjoyed by the gathering. A sum of £ 250 was realised for church funds.

The Retiral Dinner for Andrew was an unqualified success.

Although a number of the congregation were unable to attend for good reasons, a company of some 85 souls sat down to a wonderful meal of three courses, prepared by Anne Wilson and Alison Cruickshank, supported by a cohort of youngsters from the cafe and beyond. It was great to see Andrew again, looking as young as ever, and Vicki, to whom Norman Drummond paid tribute, particularly as Andrew exchanged a promising business life for the ministry of the Church of Scotland, enabled so to do over four years of study, with Vicki's support and help. This was an evening among friends with an appropriate leaven of the formal and the informal. Thanks are due to Ross who introduced the Top Table; to Bill Garland, who made the presentation of a cheque and wallet to Andrew and also showed his excellent graphics at the end of the evening as the choir rendered the song, "Of Mice and Men." Bill also gave a graphic presentation of the garden seat, soon to be set up at Wards of Keithock to remind them of us all; to Flora Will who presented a bouquet to Vicki; to Alison Almond for her recitation concerning a poor and hungry church mouse, who, in its search for

food and drink upset the assembled congregation by partaking of the bread and wine at the communion service and staggered up the aisle. The poor creature was later unjustly censured by the Church Session for such inappropriate behaviour on the Sabbath Day; to Donald Orrock for his outstanding “Biblical” account of the background story of Andrew’s arrival at Dundee West; to Mike Revey for his musical contributions at appropriate occasions during the evening and to any person I (editor) have omitted to mention, my apologies.

FIND THE BIBLE BOOKS

If you like puzzles you’ll enjoy this one?!!!

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing the banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving the puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That’s a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Hummana humbly puts it, “the books are all right there in plain view hidden from sight”. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

The Book Of Chronicles Of Dundee West

1. **Now** there were in ancient times in the great city by the river which is called Tay, two temples.
2. **And** the priests of the two temples that had ministered unto their people had departed and the peoples were much vexed.
3. **As** is the manner of their custom at such times they held a gathering which is called Mee-Ting.
4. **At** Mee-Ting they said one to another. Behold it is fitting that we should become one people and search for one who hath great wisdom and learning that we may receive guidance in all things which we purpose to do.
5. **So** they went throughout the land searching for one possessed of great wisdom and learning who could guide them in ways as yet unknown.
6. **They** heard divers learned priests and at length they came to a place where they heard one whose name was Andrew who dwelt in a far place without the city.
7. **When** they heard the words of Andrew, they marvelled and said - verily here is the one for whom we have sought.
8. **They** beseeched Andrew that he might come and dwell amongst them and minister unto them. And Andrew consented saying - yea, I will do as ye ask.
9. **Great** was the rejoicing amongst the people, for they desired to be a great temple which would bring blessing to all who came therein.
10. **So** it came to pass that Andrew came and dwelt amongst them. On the first day of the week they did assemble themselves together and Andrew did speak words of wisdom unto them.
11. **He** said unto them: It is vain to rise up early and perform only the actions of those who have gone before us.
12. **To** glory only in the past, to speak only in the words of our forefathers, this also is vanity, such words alone cannot bring forth much fruit.

13. **Behold** in the days that are to come if thou desirest that the glory of the latter temple be greater than of the former, if thou long to show forth ancient truth ye must speak often times in a new tongue.

14. **Ye** must look beyond the walls of the temple to those that dwell without, for verily it is for them that thou wast called hither.

15. **Andrew** spake also many other wise words and all the people that heard him rejoiced and were glad.

16. **In** the years that were to come Andrew also wrought many mighty acts.

17. **He** caused the Temple to be refashioned that it might better serve that purpose for which it was ordained, and there came into the outer courts of the Temple many persons to accomplish a multitude of diverse things.

18. **He** spake unto many that held power in the city and showed them how the temple and the city might share with one another.

19. **At** certain times some would say unto Andrew- behold thou indeed takest away our breath - how can we do such great things, for we are not many ?

20. **But** he would say unto them - Fear not, be of good courage- it shall come to pass even as I have spoken, and it was so.

21. **At** all times and in all things Andrew did continue to minister faithfully unto the people in time of sorrow and in time of gladness and at all times he bade them follow the example of the man from Nazareth.

22. **Now** it came to pass in the sixteenth year of his reign Andrew stood in the midst of the Temple and said unto the people. Behold the day shortly cometh that I must depart from amongst you.

23. **And** great was the lamentation thereat, also much wailing and weeping and gnashing of teeth for all desired that he would stay longer with them. Nevertheless it came to pass.

24. **Therefore**, on the fourteenth day of the fifth month the people held a great feast that they might pay tribute unto Andrew and all that he had done in the days he abode amongst them.

25. **There** was in the same country a great and a wise man whose fame had spread throughout the land, for he had accomplished many marvellous works. He also knew Andrew in the times which were before. The people besought this great man that he might come unto them and speak to them of the acts of Andrew in former times.

26. **And** all the people marvelled and were glad because of what Andrew had done and they gave thanks and offered unto him gifts.

27. *At about the eleventh hour when all things were accomplished, the people returned in chariots of many colours, once more again unto their homes. **

(* The authenticity of this verse is uncertain. It does not appear in the oldest known manuscript and seems to have been added at a later date. It is, nonetheless, considered by scholars likely to be true.)



THE GIRLS' BRIGADE – END OF SESSION REPORT

Overall our company numbers remain fairly healthy, however as I always we would welcome more girls.

The Explorers subject has been Sharing. The first topic looked at was Sharing God's World. They looked at different countries and the fight to save the environment. They read the story of the Good Samaritan and made a poster. Next they looked at Sharing Your Life. They made their own family tree, and learned about modern missionaries. They looked at bible stories about sharing reading the story of the Loaves and Fishes and the Widows Offering and also made a purse. Next topic was Sharing your Space. They learned about Noah's Ark, spoke about charities and had a 'playdate. They then learned about Sharing your Talents. Girls shared their talents with some singing songs. They looked at the talents in the church and made stained glass windows having been inspired by those in the church. Finally they looked at Not for Sharing. They listened to the story of Adam and Eve. They spoke about not sharing bad attitudes and made a prayer to say sorry. The girls have played lots of games throughout all relating to the topic of Sharing.

The Juniors have been looking at Stories Jesus Told, Endangered Animals, community and 'Wee' Sports. This has been found to be interesting and entertaining whilst learning some new skills and information over the session. The girls especially enjoyed growing cress seeds as they talked about the Parable of the Sower and making polar bear masks.

Our 2 brigaders have worked away with the following- Get Experimental, Investigating Forensics (Educational), Get Dancing (Big Dance Pledge) (Physical), Citizenship (Service) and ~Our Spiritual Selves (Spiritual). They have had some good discussion and fun with these subjects.

Abigail Samson, was chosen to attend the Brigader Scotland event at Braehead arena in Glasgow. Abigail had a great day, full of new experiences, trying out the range of activities and meeting other Brigaders.

We had parties and Halloween and Christmas for the Explorer and Junior section. The Brigaders helped with the catering, setting up and clearing up.

Our enrolment service on the first Sunday of Advent. The weather was not good with the snow falling as we were all heading to church and unfortunately the number of girls and congregation was small. We did a short sketch about M&M's and the Christmas message and handed out M&M's to the congregation. We also sang a new song.

The Brigaders and Officers delayed their Christmas outing until early February. We had a fantastic day in Aberdeen doing some shopping before going to Hairspray the Musical. One of the group was particularly excited as it was her first train journey.

Stephanie McGregor and Sinead McGregor, 6th year Brigaders have been helping out in the explorer section as part of their officer training. Both young ladies have completed their warrant officer training but their commissioning will be delayed until next session as they are not 18 years old until the end of May. I hope this will be done at our enrolment service next session.

I am very grateful to the 'younger officers' who have taken the lead in all sections this year. They have all done very well keeping the programme interesting each week for the girls and working through the badge work. Thank you to each one of them.

It was our turn to host the Dundee/Perth Division AGM this year. Andrew had agreed to be the divisional Chaplin at the last AGM but due to his retirement was unable to complete this role. We were very grateful to Gordon Sharp who took over this role at the AGM handing the baton over to the next divisional Chaplin. We welcomed around 70 GB members and friends into the church on Wednesday 4th May for the

AGM. This event was very successful, thankfully the organising of the event was not down to us but the hospitality after was. Many thanks to all who helped out with this in particular to Frances, Isobel and Lesley for their help in the kitchen.

The following night we had our end of session evening for parents. We had a 'Uniform Drive' (beetle drive) raising £88.00 for the World Mission council Kits for Kenya. The girls all received badges and prizes for work this session. All brigaders and officers received Girls' Brigade crested Gideon Bibles.

We had our end of session outing to Five Sisters Zoo, West Calder on 7th May 2016. This was a great success, well worth a visit if you are in West Calder.

The session is now over and we will restart at the end of August. I have one final official GB event which is on Sat 2nd July. I am delighted to be one of 100 from GB Scotland taking part in The Riding down the Royal Mile at the State Opening of Parliament in Edinburgh. I will be accompanied by 2 of our Brigaders and 2 Juniors from Fintry to this. Let's hope for a dry day!

PERTH ROAD

Throughout the summer months there will be disruption in the Perth Road. From 8 July the Perth Road will become a one-way road from Nethergate to Sinderins. Traffic from the west, buses and cars, will have to use the Hawkhill. Cars can also use Riverside and up Roseangle, turning left only. Traffic from the east, buses and cars can only travel westwards up the Perth Road, returning via the Hawkhill.

QUOTES

- ✚ Don't Wait For People To Be Friendly – Show Them How
(Henry James)
- ✚ The most important trip you may take in life is to meet people halfway.
(Henry Boyle)
- ✚ When I was your I admired clever people ; now that I am old I admire kind people
(Abraham Heschel)
- ✚ Be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, tolerant with the weak because some day in your life you will be all of these.
(George Washington Carver)
- ✚ You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)
- ✚ By swallowing evil words unsaid, no-one has ever harmed his stomach
(Winston Churchill)
- ✚ Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out
(Frank Clark)
- ✚ We have two ears and one mouth so that we can listen twice as much as we speak
(Epictetus)
- ✚ Be a rainbow in someone else's cloud
(Maya Angelou)

OFFICE BEARERS ON DUTY

Sunday 12 June

Mrs I Anderson
Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 19 June

D Orrock
W Lakie
Mrs C Cross

Sunday 26 June

J Wilson
Mrs J Goodall
Mrs D McGill

Sunday 3 July

Miss C Maclachlan
Mrs L Sharp
Mrs M Milne

Sunday 10 July

Mrs E Blair
Mrs A Almond
Mrs P Turner

Sunday 17 July

Mrs S Maclachlan
Mrs P Black
Miss F Will

Sunday 24 July

Mrs L Ross
J Tough
Mrs C Sim

Sunday 31 July

Miss F Maclachlan
Miss E Will
R Robertson

Sunday 7 August

Mrs I Anderson
Mrs C Beattie

Sunday 14 August

D Orrock
W Lakie
Mrs C Cross

Sunday 21 August

J Wilson
Mrs J Goodall
Mrs D McGill

Sunday 28 August

Miss C Maclachlan
Mrs L Sharp
Mrs M Milne

Sunday 4 September

Mrs E Blair
Mrs A Almond
Mrs P Turner

GRAPEVINE

Material for the September issue of the Grapevine should be with the Editor immediately after the service on Sunday 28 August for publication and uplift by the congregational visitors from Sunday 4 September.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Sunday 12 June	Misses A & M Forbes, 6 Riverside Place
Sunday 19 June	Church Flowers
Sunday 26 June	Church Flowers
Sunday 3 July	Mrs J Hutton, 15 Fort Street
Sunday 10 July	Mrs E Blair & Miss J Dorward, 4 Uist Terr
Sunday 17 July	Mrs A Coleman, 4 Burnside Road Invergowrie
Sunday 24 July	Mrs M Aitken, 578 Perth Road
Sunday 31 July	Mrs C Webb, 16 Invergowrie Drive
Sunday 7 August	Mrs H Preece, 11 Marchfield Road
Sunday 14 August	Mr R Paton, 26a Albany Road Broughty Ferry
Sunday 21 August	Mrs M Milne, 132 Glamis Road
Sunday 28 August	Mrs J Goodall, 16 Hazel Avenue
Sunday 4 Sept	Coffee Fund

FLOWER DELIVERY

Sunday 12 June	Miss W Patterson	562048
Sunday 19 June	Mrs D Taylor	581162
Sunday 26 June	Mrs E Blair	506658
Sunday 3 July	Mr M Revey	667433
Sunday 10 July		
Sunday 17 July	Mrs A Almond	644993
Sunday 24 July	Mrs J Hutton	801330
Sunday 31 July	Mrs J Goodall	665247
Sunday 7 August	Miss W Patterson	562048
Sunday 14 August	Mrs D Taylor	581162
Sunday 21 August	Mrs E Blair	506658
Sunday 28 August	Mr M Revey	667433
Sunday 4 Sept		

CALENDAR – (Weekday events)

Saturday 25 June	: 10am-12noon :	The Guild Strawberry Fayre
Tuesday 5 July	: 7.30pm :	Kirk Session

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2016

The Christian Aid Team would like to thank everyone who generously supported the work of Christian Aid by their donations. We also want to thank those who undertook the work of raising this sum. A group of **8** walkers from Dundee West, recruited by Alison Almond, participated along with many others in the annual Tay Bridge Walk at the end of April and raised £ 941. We are also grateful to the 10 members who participated in the house collection within the parish and once again collected in excess of £1000, to which was added over £180 from envelopes placed in the pews. This was further increased by nearly £160 through Gift Aid declarations received from the House collection and pew envelopes.

We are also extremely grateful to the Guild who undertook the organisation of a most enjoyable Christian Aid Lunch on 8th May. Also to those who staff the coffee rota on Sunday mornings throughout the year and finally to Bill Young for coordinating the sale of books.

Tay Bridge Walk:	£	941.00
House Collection		1015.27
Envelopes in pews		182.12
Christian Aid Lunch		137.80
Quiz sheets		35.00
Sunday Coffee & Bookstall		200.00
Total	£	2511.19
Added value from Gift Aid contributions of £636.97		159.24
	£	2670.43

THOMAS IN THE AFTER DAY

We do not know for sure what happened to Thomas in the after days; but there is an apocryphal book called the Acts of Thomas. It is, of course, only legend, but within the legend there may be some grains of truth. Here is part of the story it tells.

After the death of Jesus, the disciples divided up the world among them, so that each might go to some country to preach the gospel. India fell to the lot of Thomas. This became known as the Thomist Church in south India which does trace its origin to him.

Despite several refusals on Thomas's part, he finally decided to obey God's command in this way:

It so happened that a certain merchant from India had been sent to Jerusalem by his master to seek a skilled carpenter and to bring him back to India. Jesus approached the merchant, indicating He possessed a slave, Thomas, who fitted the bill perfectly.

The deal was done and Thomas found himself in India, but being Thomas, he still was uncertain if this was to be his preaching station, and only after serious prayer to His Master, he finally agreed to serve the merchant's royal master.

The story continues that the Indian King ordered Thomas to build a sumptuous palace for which task Thomas was given a sum of money to cover material and workmen. Instead of beginning the task, Thomas gave the total sum to the poor. Always he told the king that the palace was coming along splendidly, until the king demanded to view the building. Much was his annoyance at seeing a building site with no building!

Thomas announced to the king that although he could see nothing tangible at the moment, great reward would be his in the afterlife, commemorating the king's generous gift to the poor of his land. As all such legends end, the king realised Thomas's wisdom and he and his people were won for Christ.

A VISIT TO FINTRY PARISH CHURCH

Last year I was privileged to be one of the assessors for the Sheila Tennant awards. Together with Kevin Veal and David McIntosh I interviewed two people from Fintry Parish Church and they were awarded £1000 to buy equipment for their community café. In May this year I met one of the applicants, David McDougall, at a Dundee Civic Trust event and he invited me to visit Fintry. I enjoyed an excellent soup and toastie lunch in the café and I was shown the chill cabinet and freezer which were paid for by the award from Dundee West.

At present the café is staffed entirely by volunteers and is normally only open once a month (10 till 2pm) and after the Sunday service for coffee. However it is open every day during the week of the Holiday Club which provides activities for primary children in the mornings, secondary pupils in the afternoon and adults in the evenings. The week culminates with the Fintry Gala Day which is held on the grassy area surrounding the church.

Fintry Parish has recently acquired “Area of Deprivation” status. This has allowed the Session to advertise for a Development Worker to strengthen the congregation’s efforts to provide much needed Christian outreach and community focus for the local people.

EGO

How do we define “EGO”? We toss around the word referring to how important a person believes he or she is. Lets be really honest – some people apparently overestimate how much the rest of us need them on the planet.

Think about it for a moment. What do the following actions say about a person’s attitude toward himself or herself?

- Using the emergency lane to bypass traffic congestion.
- Taking a week’s grocery through the 10 items or less express check-out.
- Parking on top of the ‘bus lane’ – no parking markings for a quick trip to the ATM.
- Using one’s position and influence for personal gain.

There never has been anyone who deserved to think more highly of himself than Jesus. Yet scriptures shows a humility and servant attitude that was uncommon in his day and remains uncommon today. Jesus could have demanded respect, honour, and social accolades, but he refused to lead by fear and intimidation.

“Is Jesus in this church”?

DUNDEE FOOD BANK

A letter from Ken Linton came into my hands, thanking the congregation for its continuing support which helps provide clients with a nutritionally based three days emergency food parcel. The charity is currently feeding 150 persons per week.

Our key worker, Nina Allan has been transporting donations on a monthly basis for over a year, and we extend our thanks to her for undertaking such a worthy task.

Nina's association with the important social field of caring involves a variable working time table. As a result, her busy working life restricts her attendance at church to a monthly visit. As usual, non-perishable food in the form of tins and packages are welcome and can be left in the Friendship hall.

Towards all in the congregation who support this charity, Nina extends her thanks.

A SPECIAL OCCASION

The Church Flower Team would welcome additional help from members who might wish to mark a special occasion or a loving memory by gifting flowers for a particular Sunday. More information from the Flower Team.....Christine Webb, Doris Taylor, Jan Goodall and Joan Hutton.

SMILING

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the 'flu,
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realised I'd passed it on to him.
I thought about that single smile and realised its worth.
A little smile, just like mine could pass around the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected!

RELIGIOUS SQUIRRELS

Not so many years ago, in a small, yet busy town in the Bible Belt of the U.S.A there were no fewer than five churches: a Presbyterian church, a Baptist church, a Methodist church, a Catholic church and a Synagogue, all of which were suffering from a plague of squirrels, making the atmosphere somewhat disturbing during morning worship as they scurried hither and thither in their search for winter sustenance!

Each church called a meeting to ponder the solution to the problem. After much prayer and consideration, the Presbyterian brothers concluded that the wee creatures were predestined to be there and that it would not be appropriate to interfere with the Will of the Almighty.

At the Baptist church, the Deacons suggested a water slide might be placed on the baptistery to tempt the intruders to use the slide, which might end in the drowning of the unwelcome visitors! Alas, this failed. The animals returned again and again, proving to be expert swimmers.

The Methodist flock, holding closely to their practices, refused to harm a solitary hair of their guests, by humanely trapping them in tempting nut- filled traps, setting them free, relatively close to their Baptist neighbours.

The Catholic church successfully caught their intruders by some secret strategy, consecrated them as members of the Church. In this venture they were marginally successful, but only seeing the converts at Christmas and Easter!

Not much was heard from the Jewish Congregation, but I'm told on good authority, one squirrel was seized and circumcised and the band of intruders abandoned their former home!

THE PARABLE OF THE PENCIL

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside, before putting him in the box for dispatch into the wider world with the following advice:

“There are five things you need to know.

You will always be able to do great things if you allow yourself to be held in someone’s hand.

Although you will experience some pain from sharpening, you will, as a result, become a better pencil.

You will, in addition be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

You must remember the most important part of you will always be what’s inside.

On every surface on which you are used you must leave your mark. No matter what condition, you must continue to write.”

No explanation is necessary for us to transfer the meaning into our everyday living.

The origin of the parable can be found by referring to the Old Testament, in particular to Hebrews 5: 14, where we read, Let’s take time to “sharpen” our Discernment so we can clearly see what we are about in this present world.



ANTI-STRESS KIT

An eraser to make those mistakes disappear
A penny, so that you will never be completely broke.
A marble for those days when you seem to have lost yours.
An elastic band to help you stretch beyond your limits.
A string to hold it all together when everything seems to be falling
apart.
And, finally, a chocolate treat to remind you that someone cares for
you.

Advice.

“What you love for yourself, love for the other person.”

A Hymn from the past.

I wonder if you are able to cast your thoughts back to Sunday
School
Or to Day School Assembly?

“The morning bright with rosy light
Has waked me up from sleep.
Father I own Thy love alone,
Thy little one doth keep.

All through the day, I humbly pray
Be Thou my guard and guide,
My sins forgive and let me live
Live blessed Jesus by Thy side.”

Story from the Urban Orchard and partners.
From Sunday 29th May and drawing on the parable of the
persistent neighbour. From David Dyson – working in
partnership with the Urban Orchard, based in Dundee West.

We've heard about a way of being community. A way not built on money, not built on hierarchy and not built on charity. It is a way built on sharing what we have in common and I want to share my story that connects with the Urban Orchard project downstairs.

I do gardening and decorating to earn a living - a pretty meagre living I have to say. But, I've also helped create two giving gardens. This is where volunteers plant and grow fruit and vegetables, which are then used in the Food banks and drop ins across the city. The gardening is also an opportunity for schools to participate and others who need a helping hand to move forward in their lives.

Along with Jonathan and Sarah we have planted fruit trees at these gardens at Menzieshill church and at the Friary. These trees will be maintained over the years and the fruit shared along with the skills and knowledge of looking after fruit trees.

Clearly, this means that fruit doesn't have far to travel to market, it's organic and the urban environment is more a liveable space.

This is also a way of sharing skills, knowledge and the goodness of the land. Some of those helping out at the Friary are part of the SUN group, made up of folks recovering from mental ill-health. Some of those helping out at Menzieshill will have had addictions.

My own aim is to build on this work so that there can be proper programmes of activity as part of a person's recovery from illness of whatever kind.

The land is given free, labour and much else is donated and what is produced can be shared with those in need.

We have knocked, we seek, we ask and continue to do so in the faith that we will find the kingdom of God together. Without a doubt, a parable is coming alive and Dundee West plays its part by supporting the Urban Orchard. Thank you for this.



Story from the Roseangle Cafe - (Craigowl, part of the Hillcrest Group)

From Sunday 29th May and making a comparison to the parable of the day labourers working in the vineyard.

From Lynn Cunningham – MD of Craigowl Communities

If we become more aware of injustice then we are more likely to seek justice. This is a story from the cafe, a very recent story that shows the positive side of what Craigowl is doing with Dundee West church here in this building.

The story is about someone who hadn't worked for more than 10 years. Prior to unemployment, work was on a month by month contract. This was with a big employer, but still no job security as this month by month contract had lasted for three years.

After this it was incapacity benefit as there was difficulty in filling out forms. This changed in November 2015 following the recent welfare changes when it was not longer incapacity, but fit for work and onto jobseeker allowance. This was actually seen as positive, because people have been left on incapacity benefit when they have the potential to contribute to society.

When people are on jobseekers they have a work coach at the job centre and this work coach suggested either Craigowl, College or Triage - the big agency, which doesn't have a good reputation among those unemployed. Thankfully it was Craigowl that was chosen and a visit to the premises in the Hilltown led to a six week cooking course. After this it was suggested that the cafe might be good as a work placement. This placement increased by choice to two days and then three days per week. It is important for folk who have been out of work for a long time to get the chance to update their employment record and have up to date references. So, work placements are really, really important stepping stones to something better.

Interestingly the work coach was unhappy as this work placement was not leading anywhere quick enough. But, they didn't have anything else to suggest or strategies to suggest. There was one offer of another placement from another source, but that had taken 4 months to arrive!

Thankfully, with changes in the cafe an opportunity arose and after interview this was awarded. A living wage is now paid for a permanent 24 hour pw job and the whole family, including the three children are all better off. The partner is also hoping to go to college when the children can all start school.

- In the parable there are day by day labourers - complete insecurity, in this story there is a permanent contract;
- In the parable there was no living wage - only exploitation, in this story there is now a living wage;
- In this parable there was blame for standing up for what is fair - in this story there is encouragement, training and new skills.

This is not charity, this is sharing skills and opportunities by building a different sort of a business. Not one driven by profit, but driven by the commitment to justice. But, we must still balance the books.

Money will come to serve our purpose, but not us serve money!

This isn't the only positive story of hope, improved confidence and opportunity. There are quite a few others and there will be more.

Thank you Dundee West and hope to see many of you in the cafe helping us all create a place of justice and hope for all.

CALENDAR

WORSHIP

Sunday 12 June	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 19 June	: 11.00am :	Rev Patricia Ramsay Communion Coffee after service
Sunday 26 June	: 11.00am :	Rev Jack Laidlaw Coffee after service
Sunday 3 July	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 10 July	: 11.00am :	TBA Coffee after service
Sunday 17 July	: 11.00am :	TBA Coffee after service
Sunday 24 July	: 11.00am :	TBA Coffee after service
Sunday 31 July	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 7 Aug	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 14 Aug	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 21 Aug	: 11.00am :	Gordon Sharp Coffee after service
Sunday 28 Aug	: 11.00am :	TBA Coffee after service
Sunday 4 Sept	: 11.00am :	TBA Coffee after service

Charity No. SC017136

Website: www.dundewestchurch.org