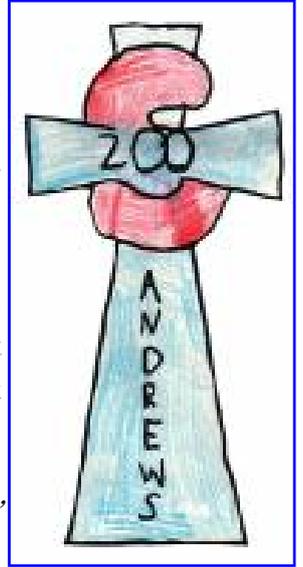


# Saint Andrew's, Dumfries, 200th Anniversary Review

*Dear Friends,*

It is hard to believe that our Jubilee Year, celebrating 200 years since the opening of the first Saint Andrew's Church here on the corner of Brooke Street and Shakespeare Street, has come to an end. It seems no time at all since we celebrated the opening Mass on St. Andrew's Day 2012. It is over, but I think I speak for most people when I say it is most certainly not forgotten!



I wanted to publish this *'Anniversary Review'* because so much took place in those twelve months of celebrations that it would be easy to forget all the things we achieved or did together during the year. I also wanted to acknowledge the amount of work that a number of people did, mostly unseen, but without whose efforts much of what happened in the year would not have taken place.

I was blessed to work with a great team of volunteers (well, I called them 'volunteers') throughout the year. In no particular order, we as a parish family must thank: Rebecca Copland; John Donnelly; Sean McKay; Mary Cameron; Ronald and Yvonne Copland; Charlotte Soutar, and Anne Murdy. We must also thank Mary Buckley who, while not officially part of the 'Team', was often left to try and make sense of our 'wonderful ideas' in the parish office! Similarly, we need to thank Edwina Cummings who never let us down in the Church, and Carol McQueen and her squad who triumphed at every opportunity in the Church Hall. Then there is Christopher Watt, an honorary member of our parish family, who really did volunteer to be the Musical Director of 'Faith is the Key' but who then remained involved for the rest of the year. Of course the Parish Pastoral Council and the Liturgy Group were their usual selves - offering their shared wisdom and practical help at just the right times. There were many others, too numerous to mention by name, who so generously gave of their gifts and talents at various times throughout the year who also deserve to be thanked, and of course all of you who came along, who took part, who supported - without you our Jubilee Year would not have been the memorable year that it was. Thank YOU!

I hope you enjoy reading this short *'Anniversary Review'* and I also hope that it brings back many happy memories for you. I ended my homily at the 200th Anniversary Mass in June with the words: *"Every single one of us must be a bearer of Jesus Christ into the world and, if we do that with a surety of faith, then I am certain that our future as a parish family will be just as glorious as our past."* Let us

keep moving forward into that glorious future!



Our year of celebration began with the Opening Mass which took place on November 29th 2012, the vigil of the feast of Saint Andrew, the Patron of both our Parish and our Primary School. During this Mass we prayed for a successful and joyful year, and a year in which each of us grew in faith.

December 5th 2012 saw the first social event of the year when the Dumfries Male Voice Choir came to the Church and performed a wonderful Concert filled with marvellous



choral and seasonal music. Many people came along to this thoroughly enjoyable evening.

In the winter months of January through to March we focused on the season of Lent and tried to use that time to deepen our relationship with the Lord. We also watched the series 'Catholicism' which was made available twice each month for those who wanted to come to the Church Hall and learn that little bit more about their faith. A large number of parishioners came along to all of these sessions which ran for the whole of our Jubilee year.

With the arrival of Spring we were off on our travels. Our Pilgrimage to Iona took place over the last weekend



in April and it was a marvellous experience for the 50 people who took part. Our day on the island was blessed with glorious sunshine, but the days either side were not so good!

The month of May saw our most ambitious, some might say foolhardy, project: 'Faith is the Key - the Musical.' The Show was directed by Mary Buckley and with musical direction from



Christopher Watt, two performances were staged by twenty five singers and five musicians from the parish. Over 300 people came along to the Show over the two nights - some even enjoyed it so much that they came back the second night for more!



As part of our celebrations we entered a float in the annual Guid Nychburris Parade on Saturday June 15th 2013. A lot of hard work was put in by a small group of people to design and

make the float, and their hard work and great ideas were rewarded with a 3rd place in the competition. Our next float is going to be on the theme of 'Noah's Ark', a theme inspired by this year's weather!



At the heart of our year of celebrations was the Mass, and this was never more evident than on June 20th when our Bishop, John Cunningham, came to be with us to be the principle celebrant at our 200th Anniversary Mass. The Church was packed for this celebration with invited guests, concelebrating clergy, representatives from other churches,

and VIP's - parishioners past and present. A beautiful night was had by everyone who was at the Mass, and a wonderful celebration took place in the Church Hall afterwards - when the grand draw was made for the Jubilee Raffle.



In July we had a Parish Picnic in the grounds of Saint Peter's Primary School in Dalbeattie. Amazingly, what had been a horrible wet morning became a lovely sunny afternoon - the only dampness around was from the water pistols! A great afternoon of fun was had by those who took part.

The annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Ninian's Cave in Whithorn took place on the 25th August and almost 50 people from the parish travelled down to the Cave for Mass. It was another gloriously sunny day and this 'Year of Faith' pilgrimage was the largest it has been for many years - over 800 pilgrims travelled from every corner of the country to take part.

September saw us back in Church for another concert, this time with the Border Strathspey and Reel Society, and guests. The orchestra played a wonderful range of Scottish tunes and entertained everyone with their great music.



During the week of September 23rd-28th 10 parishioners walked the St. Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to the Island of Lindisfarne (Holy Island). It was a marvellous week of walking and getting to know one another and a

great bond of friendship developed among the walkers over the week. The team were sponsored to do the walk and a fantastic £2,560 was raised - £1,300 of which went into the Parish Outreach Programme. The week was made even more special when the 10 were joined by more than 40 parishioners for the final three miles of the walk across the causeway and onto Lindisfarne itself. Mass to end the pilgrimage was celebrated together in the grounds of the Priory and all came home tired but very happy.



In October music once again played a prominent part in our celebrations when we joined together with our friends from the other churches in town for an 'Ecumenical Big Sing of Praise.' This was a really joyful occasion and, as always, ended with a reception in the Church Hall.



Every year in November we have a Mass of Remembrance for those who have died in the previous twelve months, but this year a special emphasis was placed on praying for all our dead sisters and brothers who have been part of this parish family during our 200 year history. A special candle was brought forward in their memory as the whole congregation stood in their honour.

Two marvellous events took place on the last weekend in November to bring our year of celebrations to an end - an Exhibition of 200 years of our history in Photographs and Memorabilia, and the Closing Mass of our Jubilee Year. The exhibition was wonderfully put together by John



Donnelly using photographs and other items donated by parishioners and copied from their originals. Everything on display told 'our story' and happy memories were awakened within everyone who viewed the exhibition.

The Closing Mass was a fitting end to our year of celebrations - prayerful, joyful and emotional. Again the Church was very busy as many people came along to the Church to thank God for the many blessings he had given to us during this anniversary year. Amen!

## The Parish Outreach Programme

One of our guiding principles when planning our Jubilee Year was that it must not only be inward looking; we had to reach out to others less fortunate than ourselves, we wanted to make a real difference in the lives of others, and WOW! how generously you responded.

Our plan was to support three projects: the Abernethy Christian Trust Drop-in Centre for homeless people here in Dumfries; a St. Vincent de Paul post-cyclone rebuilding programme in Andra Pradesh, India; and the purchase of SCIAF 'Real Gifts' providing there were enough funds each month after satisfying our first two projects. YOU HAVE made a real difference in the lives of others. This is what YOU have provided:

### *The Abernethy Trust Drop-in Centre for Homeless People here in Dumfries*

12 donations of £100 = £1,200

### *The SSVP Post-Cyclone rebuilding programme in Andra Pradesh, India*

12 donations of £70 = £840

### *The purchase of the following 'SCIAF Real Gifts':*

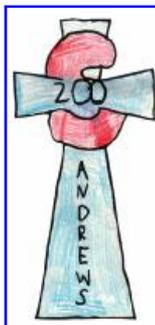
- 5 each of Chickens, Pigs, Goats - £395
  - The training of 5 HIV/Aids Carers - £375
  - 10 Care kits for mothers with new babies - £500
  - 'Safe Water' kits for 5 families - £200
  - Emergency Shelters for 10 families - £250
  - The means to produce an income for 10 families - £320
  - A fresh water supply for 2 villages - £1,114
  - Crop training for 50 farmers - £550
  - 10 'Essential Medical Kits' for medics - £500
  - The purchase of 2 football-pitch size pieces of land for villagers to grow food on - £1,500
  - 30 children to school for a year - £780
  - 20 sets of school books - £200
  - A fully equipped classroom - £1,125
- Total of SCIAF 'Real Gifts' = £7,809**

The sum of £407 was surplus at the end of the year and the Parish Pastoral Council decided that this should be donated to the Drop-in Centre, Dumfries.

Thank you to everyone who fulfilled their 'pledge', and to the following who also supported this Project: The Dumfries Male Voice Choir; St. Andrew's Primary School; St. Joseph's College; The "Cuthberters", and all who organised and/or supported "Faith is the Key."

**GRAND TOTAL: £10,256.00**

## 'Jubilee Logo' Competition



We began the preparations for our Jubilee year by running a 'Logo Competition' among the children of our schools. Many great entries were received and the winner of the competition was Shannon Brown of primary 2. Shannon's winning design appeared on all the Souvenirs, the banner above the Church doors, the Guid Nychburris Float in June, and on all parish stationery during the Jubilee Year.

## Jubilee Souvenirs



A range of 'Jubilee Souvenirs' were produced to mark the 200th anniversary. Particularly popular were the pens and red wine, and the novelty bookmarks which were given to all the primary school children. Charlotte Soutar compiled a lovely book of recipes and memories and this was so well received that a second print run was required. At the end of our year some souvenirs remained unsold (mugs and 12 bottles of white wine) and these are now on sale at the shop in the Church porch.



## Jubilee Christmas Card Competition

A Jubilee Christmas Card competition was launched in August and the whole parish was invited to participate - and many did. The standard of entries was very good and six winning designs were chosen to be printed and made into packs which were then sold in time for Christmas. The overall winner was Aidan Hairstains, a primary five pupil at St. Andrew's Primary School.

## A Legacy for 2014

The Outreach Programme 'touched our hearts', and as a result of this we have decided to continue to support the Drop-in Centre in Dumfries with £100 per month for as long as we can, and we have also undertaken to help the First Base Agency with dry goods for their food bank which is under immense pressure at this time. Our Jubilee Year may have ended, but the generosity of St. Andrews' parishioners continues.

*God bless you all.*