

Focus on Fetteresso

Ian Gillis, in his role as chairman of the Nominating Committee, brought the congregation the very welcome news that out of 15 applications received, a sole nominee had now been selected! Due to official Church of Scotland procedures, it would be into December before the name of the successful candidate could be made public, followed by his/her preaching to the congregation in January.

Sheena Stewart alerted the congregation to the Guild's upcoming programme, and later read the lesson from Luke chapter 10 about the good Samaritan. Meg Duncan gave advance notice about Fetteresso's Christmas lunch on Saturday 13th December.

Reverend David Stewart officiated at the morning service, a highlight of which was the welcoming into the membership of the church Gavin and Julie Irvine, and the baptism of their daughters Brooke and Skye.

Robin Hay enthralled the children with a talk in which he told of how many children in the world had lost their mums and dads to disease and wars. He pointed out that God knows every one of us by name, and we are never forgotten. God is particularly concerned with the world's many orphans, like those in the Watoto orphanage in Uganda, whose choir had visited Stonehaven earlier this year.

Robin was then joined by Andy Robertson, and they gave a graphically illustrated account of their visit to Watoto in the summer, when they had assisted in the building of a classroom at the Watoto school, along with encountering Uganda's superb wildlife in the wild, contrasting with the squalor and deprivation of the many slum areas. Uganda has one of the highest percentages of widows and orphans in the world – and the Bible tells us specifically in James chapter 1 that we must look after them. There are an estimated total of 60 million orphans across Africa, and Watoto is caring for 2,000 of them. God has a solution for Africa, but he needs those who have a heart for Africa to help him.

Keith Stewart led the 6-strong worship group at evening service, and read the lesson from John 20, 19-31.

Robert Milne preached about the doubts among the first disciples about whether Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, highlighted by Thomas needing to place his hands in Jesus' wounds before exclaiming "my Lord and my God." As we see the state of the world today we can often ask where God is in all of this, but we must focus on three basic principles:

- The work of Christ is sufficient
- The word of God is true
- The witness of the spirit is the evidence.