

## **FOCUS ON FETTERESSO – SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2009**

Beginning with a children's fancy dress party on Friday afternoon, and ending with a Thanksgiving Service on Sunday evening, the congregation at Fetteresso enjoyed an action-packed church weekend. With a quiz night, a show, and activities ranging from ballroom dancing, through ladies pampering and jewellery making, to a family walk, a bicycle ride and a treasure hunt, there was something for everyone, and there can be no doubt that a wonderful time was had by all! Jeremy McQuoid, Pastor of Deeside Christian Fellowship, spoke to the early risers on Saturday morning about what we might expect of Heaven, and how we should prepare ourselves for it, whether we are Christians at this moment or not. George Swapp once again imparted his expert knowledge of the history of Stonehaven on a guided walk around the town, while God's Mob, our youth group, enjoyed creating some 'street art'. The considerable talent of our church family was also on display, either as part of the extensive display of crafts and talents, or as part of Saturday night's show – both held some surprises, including a formerly secret passion for Bruce Springsteen, and the emergence of our very own Abba tribute band!

All this, in church? Well, yes, and far too much more to describe in this short column, but the real value of the whole weekend was the opportunity it provided for us to get to know each other just a little bit better than we did before.

And alongside all of this were two really important services.

On Sunday morning we celebrated the baptism of Ethan James Arthur, a little boy well known to many of us, but with many more friends and family there to witness this special event in his life. Fyfe Blair welcomed these visitors by offering them each a glass of water, to symbolise the message preached by Jesus in Matthew 10. In this passage He warns his disciples that following Him will not be an easy path, and that they will face opposition and rejection in many places – but that they will know when they are welcome, and a cup of cold water is all it will take to demonstrate this. The important message, though, is that when we, as Christians, are welcomed, in effect it is Jesus Himself who is welcomed, because our special relationship with Jesus means that we are Him. In this way, we should remember whenever we go anywhere and are welcome OR unwelcome, we are Christ on that doorstep and should behave accordingly.

This theme was developed further in the evening service, which was a Thanksgiving for all that we had enjoyed over the weekend, and also a time for reflection, when Fyfe challenged each of us to think about how we show our faith, bearing in mind that wherever we go we are like Christ to the people we meet. We need to think about Christian love and how we demonstrate it – especially when it needs to be 'tough love'. Ultimately we need to be conscious about how Christ-like we are, and to identify the characteristics we need to work on if we are to truly love others in a Christian relationship.