

## St Luke's Wedding Event

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February St Luke's hosted its first Wedding Event for couples planning to be married in church in 2014. The hope for the day was to invite prospective couples, along with two couples who were married in 2013, to discuss both the wedding day and the expectations of marriage beyond that. In addition to discussing the practical considerations such as music for the ceremony an invitation was extended to the couples to join with St Luke's in regular worship so that they could feel part of the extended community and feel more comfortable within the church building.

We were delighted to find that 13 people attended, the including 2 grooms who came without their prospective brides who were engaged in dress fittings and a Hen weekend! One prospective groom came with his mother and mother-in-law! Emily and Chris, and Rachel and Michael, two couples who were married last year, shared about their own experiences on their wedding days and particularly how much it helped for them to attend church in the lead up to their weddings, something which they then wanted to continue doing after their wedding too as by then they felt like part of the 'family'

There was a real buzz in the room as people shared their dreams and experiences, and the two hours were over almost too quickly. Everybody enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together and felt that the event had been very worthwhile. It is hoped that next year we will host a similar event for those to be married in 2015, and that these events will help to establish links and build friendships.

Sally Nicol

*On Saturday the 8th of February Michael and I attended the St Luke's Church wedding workshop. We were able to meet with other newly weds and couples soon to be married. It covered subjects such as; the meaning of marriage, life after your wedding and planning your big day. The workshop was informative, fun and light hearted.*

*It helped people to understand that marriage is not always going to be rainbows and flowers, and that you will need to work on it. We talked about how couples put all their energy into planning their big day and not putting enough thought into their married life.*

*The workshop also allowed couples to see what St Luke's has to offer; it's picturesque surroundings and beautiful building provide many opportunities for that perfect wedding picture.*

*Michael and I enjoyed attending the wedding workshop and meeting prospective members of the congregation. Our only regret is that the workshop wasn't up and running when we were planning our wedding day.*

Rachel McGibbon.