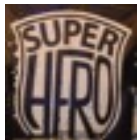


STEEPLE NEWS



www.oldandstandrews.com



Superhero Christian Rock Band in Concert.

On 1st November we were privileged to be a venue for the "Battle For Your Soul" tour. This is a tour with the Christian rock band SUPERHERO who hail from Glasgow and have toured Eastern Europe earlier this year. They were supported by the Californian band "Safe Haven" who feature in the newly released film "Gods not Dead". This was Safe Haven's first trip to Scotland and they had stopped off at Stirling Castle before arriving in Montrose where they took a huge amount of photos and couldn't believe they were playing in a town with so much history.



Youngsters enjoying the music.

The band arrived about 2.30pm with two vans full of equipment. Once they had set up and had some food (kindly donated by members of the various congregations) it was time for a sound check. I would be very surprised if many of you didn't hear this around the town, it was loud!!!

The concert began at 7.30 with a number of people of varying ages in the audience.



Superhero play to a delighted audience.

The bands played an amazing concert which involved many members of the audience taking part and the atmosphere was great.



Enthusiastic delivery of their message.

Both bands commented on how encouraged they were by the people who had attended and especially the young people.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everybody who played a part in the concert and made it such a good, fun night. Looking forward to the next event.

Emma MacDonald

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The Deadline for the February Steeple News is 16th January 2015

News can be emailed to steeplenews@oldandstandrews.com
or given to the editors
There will be **NO** January Steeple News

You will receive a Christmas Card with the December issue of the Steeple News. This comes with the Best Wishes of everyone at Old and St Andrew's. The photo shows the magnificent Three Wise Men which have been displayed in the Church every Christmas for many years.

Walking Group

November's walk was round the Leuchland section of the Brechin Town Walks. The footway was very wet and muddy at times and the views over Brechin a little spoiled by the dull day. However, this made the coffee in Rosie's all the more welcome.

There will be no walk in December, but the first of the New Year will be on January 10th, when we will plan to have our usual late seasonal lunch. Those interested please phone Jean on 830250. New walkers welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer 2015 will take place on Friday 6th March. The service is entitled "Do you know what I have done to you" based on the Gospel of John 13:1-17 and has been prepared by the Christian women of the Bahamas.

More details and dates will be given in the February issue of Steeple News.

MAKE ME AN ANGEL



God,
Please make me an angel.
I don't want one with wings and a halo
looking like a refugee from
a fancy dress party;
nor do I want one aged four
dressed in her mother's nightie.

I want one my size and with my accent;
one who doesn't sprinkle stardust
but who whispers surprising news
into unexpected ears;
and who tells people not to be afraid;
and who makes Earth the place
where Heaven appears.

God - please make me **that** angel...

From: Setting the Message Free
www.alternativity.org/angels-hard-words

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Each year the
Montrose Churches
share in a short
service on the
weekdays of the Week
of Prayer for Christian
Unity (18th -25th
January) at the
Steeple door of our
Church.

Why not come along
for 15 minutes at
12.45pm? Mon 19th –
Sat 24th January. The
services are led by the
different
congregations.

Christmas is coming!

You probably don't need me to tell you that as I suspect that many of you will already be quite advanced with your preparations – at least with those that can be done in advance. I remember being quite discouraged one year (not this one) when I saw a display of Christmas goods for sale in August! Although it pays me to get ahead with my service preparations I don't start thinking Christmas until after Remembrance Sunday.



It is easy to bemoan the commercialisation of Christmas but the fact is that our society places a great deal more store on the commercial and entertainment aspects of the season than its religious significance. The amount of money that is spent on presents, shows, parties and food is high – and can represent quite a proportion of some businesses turnover and indeed a family's budget. It is all too easy for Christians to be seen as anti-fun, as spoilsports set on doing down or criticising those who wish to celebrate the season. It is important that we don't fall into that trap – after all we too most certainly wish to celebrate the season! Many of us will be involved in all these “normal” Christmas activities – and frankly, I believe that it is important that we are seen to be part of the school/work/community celebrations – sharing

along with our friends, neighbours, colleagues and community. But somehow we have to let people know that there is more.

Christmas – is really about Christ – God's gift of a Saviour – yes, the baby in the manger in Bethlehem long ago but also the risen Lord.

He is Immanuel, God with us, here and now and forever. God in our church, in our school, workplace, family, street, town this year, now. Can we take care to be positive about our Christmas message? – not undermining other people's celebrations (where appropriate being part of them) but doing our best to add to that by being

willing to say that our Christmas will involve Christ. No Bible thumping required – perhaps just a readiness to say that we are going to Church or singing carols or mentioning Jesus' name when folk are speaking about how they are spending Christmas.

Christmas is coming – but so is Christ – and he has promised to be with us always to the end of the age.

Let's welcome him into our Christmas celebrations and ensure that we are ready to share the fact that he is very much in our CHRISTmas!

Ian A McLean

Congregational Bible Passage (provisional)	Prayer Walk
Dec 7 Mark 1:1-8	Dec 7 Dorward Road, Dorward House
Dec 14 Luke 1:26-38	Dec 14 Dorward Place, Warrack Terrace
Dec 21 Luke 2:1-7	Dec 21 White's Place, Reform Street
Dec 28 Matthew 2:1-12	Dec 28 Mount Road
Jan 4 John 1:10-18 (& 1-9 if desired)	Jan 4 John Street
Jan 11 Mark 1:4-11	Jan 11 Carnegie Street, Carnegie Court
Jan 18 John 1:43-51	Jan 18 Mill Street, Mill Square, Fordmill
Jan 25 Mark 1:14-20	Jan 25 New Wynd
Feb 1 Luke 4:16-22	Feb 1 Market Street, Upper Hall Street



Messy Christmas is on Sunday 7th December from 4 – 5.30p in the Church Halls.

This is a very special Messy Church – for some of the children attending this will be the first time they have heard the Christmas Story – why not come along and share this with them.

Everybody is welcome however all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Pre-registration is helpful for catering and craft purposes but not strictly necessary.

MONTROSE CHURCHES TOGETHER CAROL SINGING

round Sheltered Housing Complexes.

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

Meet at 7pm at St Mary's & St Peter's Church

Meet up with other people who enjoy singing merry Christmas Carols to those who love to hear them and will join in with you. Come along and enjoy some early carol singing with refreshments afterwards.



Superhero had an effect on all ages. While the youngsters danced to their music two of our mature ladies - Jean and Agnes - are seen here trying out some nifty footwork. Everyone enjoyed the evening and the Christian message from Superhero!



Some Gentle Reminders...



CHRISTMAS SALE

Saturday 6th December

Church Hall 10-12

Coffee/Tea + Christmas Pie
£2.00

Stalls:- Gifts, Toys, Books,
Cake & Candy

The Church Hall will be open on
Friday 5th December

2-4 and 6-8pm

when contributions to the stalls
will be gratefully received.

CHRISTMAS POST

The Church Christmas Card deliveries
for Montrose, Hillside and Ferryden

only will run from

1st - 13th December

25p per card

Collection boxes will be placed in
Church Vestibule

Henry Hoggs- High Street

Scotmid - Borrowfield

All proceeds will go to
Church Funds.

STAMPS

Place the stamps from your

Christmas mail into the
tartan box in the church
vestibule. Ken Eason will
make sure they get
donated to Hearing Dogs
for the Deaf.

This is a positive way to
recycle the many stamps
we receive at this time of
year



I can hardly believe that it's now almost 17 years since I became involved as a volunteer with the charity Children in Distress. CID was founded by Dr John Walmsley, an Anglican priest from Yorkshire, and on this particular evening he was giving a slide presentation on the work they were carrying out in Romania. John was in Montrose to collect a large donation our Church had raised.

On my way home all that was in my mind was the heart breaking things I had seen and heard. However for some time I felt distinctly drawn to the whole Romanian situation and the plight of so many children who had been abandoned to die in filthy orphanages and often in far worse places than that. After a lengthy discussion with my family we agreed that if it was at all possible I would leave Glaxo and, if they would take me, I would become a volunteer with CID.

My colleagues at Glaxo were brilliant and prior to my leaving a fun day was organised whereby over £6500 was raised for the charity.

Also at this time our Kirk Session unanimously agreed to adopt CID as our chosen charity.

Late on a Monday night I arrived at the hospice in Cernavoda, a small town in eastern Romania. However unbeknown to me I was about to meet reality face to face. Although late at night I was taken into the hospice to meet some of the nursing volunteers and, of course some of the children.

As the circumstances of each child was relayed to me the horror they, and many more, had suffered hit me harder than anything either before or since. Finally I met Florin who was so very, very ill and what had happened to him was so shocking my despair was now complete. Florin died two days later.

As I walked to the shared hut where I was to live I realised that these children would soon die and there was nothing I could do. This situation needed medically trained people, drugs, experienced paediatricians and here was I, worse than useless. I had truly believed I had a calling to be here and I had something to offer. I felt betrayed and I was holding on to my faith by my finger tips.

However when some of the nurses came back after their shift it became apparent to me they were completely physically and mentally exhausted. These young people had left family, friends, colleges and partners to be here and help, all at their own expense. As I listened to what they had to say it was quite obvious they needed someone to listen. Someone to hear their fears, their aspirations and about their families and friends at home. We talked for many hours that night and although I was exhausted I began to appreciate that if I indeed had a calling it was to give pastoral care to the young people and help them through such a brave ordeal.

I was able to visit some of the infamous orphanages where children spent their entire lives tied up in cots. In these places medical and mental help was in very short supply. I, and others in CID, have witnessed some of the most horrendous acts of cruelty and I for one will never document them.

Providing love, care, comfort and dignity to so many children before they died was the huge task CID had set itself and although working on a shoestring this is constantly achieved.

Instead of the original dilapidated building which was boiling in the summer and almost intolerably cold in the winter CID is providing care and support all over eastern Europe. This has been achieved by the dedication and hard work of so many good people and I salute them.

Over the years I have been contacted by so many people who are interested in the charity, particularly in the north east of Scotland. Our church has played a large part in fund raising and the sums of money given to Children in Distress has been substantial and for that I salute you to!

Before I conclude this update I must remind you, dear reader, of what the people of Romania went through themselves.

Until quite recently this was a country with nothing. Children were encouraged to report their own parents for any subversive talk let alone actions. People simply disappeared and fear was the major weapon of the state. Of course there is no excuse for the horrors that people had to endure but we cannot keep blaming and we must learn to forgive.

All of the children I met in Romania have sadly passed away but I take such solace in the belief I have that they are now in a better place. Children in Distress has played a major part in all of this and God grant them the strength to carry on.

Doug Blacklaws.

Diary

December 2014

- 1 -13 Dec Christmas Post
- Sat 6 Dec Church Sale and Gift Day 10-12am
- Sun 7 Dec Carnegie Court Service 3pm
Messy Christmas 4pm – 5.30pm
Carol Concert with Montrose Town Band, Song Shop and Choir with introduction to Christingle. 6.30pm (Donations)
- Mon 8 Dec MCT Carol Singing around Sheltered complexes. Meet at St Mary's & St Peter's for 7pm start.
- Sat 13 Dec Montrose Highland Games Coffee Morning 10-12am
- Wed 17 Dec Service at Fordmill 2.30pm (time tbc)
- Sun 21 Dec All Age Christmas Service with Nativity 11am
Service at Carnegie Court (note date change) 3pm
- Mon 22 Dec Schools Cluster Orchestra Concert 7pm in the Church
- Tue 23 Dec Montrose Academy Service (time tbc)
Montrose Academy Baroque Ensemble Concert 7pm in the Church
- Wed 24 Dec Watchnight Service 11.30pm Gathering Carols from 11.15pm
- Thu 25 Dec Short All Age Service for Christmas Day 1030am
- Sun 28 Dec Christmas Message through Carols 11am
Informal Communion after service.

January 2015

- Sat 10 Jan Montrose Stroke Assoc Coffee Morning 10-12am
- Tue 13 Jan Fabric Task Group Swanson Rooms 7pm
- Fri 16 Jan Deadline for February Steeple news copy
- Sat 17 Jan Dorward House Coffee Morning 10-12am
- Sun 18 Jan Service at Caledonia Court led by Guild 3pm
- Mon 19 Jan Pastoral Task Group Swanson Rooms 2pm
Admin Task Group Swanson Rooms 7pm
- Sat 24 Jan Youth Group Coffee Morning 10-12am
- Sun 25 Jan Communion 11am All welcome.
Messy Church – Messy Creation 4pm – 5.30pm in Halls
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult
February Steeple News issued
- Mon 26 Jan Kirk Session Keir Room 7.15pm (tbc)
- Tue 27 Jan Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls
- Sat 31 Jan Choral Society Coffee Morning 10-12am

February 2015

- Sun 1 Feb Souper Sunday – Service followed by congregational lunch
Service at Murray Court led by the Guild 3pm
- Sat 7 Feb Montrose Youth Football Club Coffee Morning 10-12am