

STEEPLE NEWS



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Chrisimon Tree

The Mission Task Group are taking the lead in a congregational activity to help decorate the church at Christmas by way of a Chrisimon Tree.

A Chrisimon Tree is taking the tradition of decorating a Christmas Tree to show the true meaning of Christmas and as such there are stipulations in the decorations.

- The tree must be evergreen (a real tree) as a symbol of **eternal life**
- The decorations (monograms) are required to be in gold and white to represent **majesty and purity**
- The lights are white to remind us that Christ is the **light of the world**

After Christmas, the trunk is stripped and a crude cross is made which will be displayed in the church during the period of Lent and then it will be decorated with spring flowers for Easter Sunday showing New Life in Christ and enforcing that the "Jesus story" does not end at Christmas.

There will be various opportunities to "make" a decoration throughout the period of advent at forthcoming events such as the Christmas Sale. We hope that you will embrace this activity and that our tree will not be too dissimilar to the one in the photograph above!



KNIT YOUR OWN BIBLE

Calling all knitters...

The Youth Team would like your help to "knit the Bible" for use in storytelling and children's play.

If you have some spare time in the dark nights, please pick up a pattern sheet from the church vestibule and watch the Bible come to life before your very eyes!

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Youth and Children's

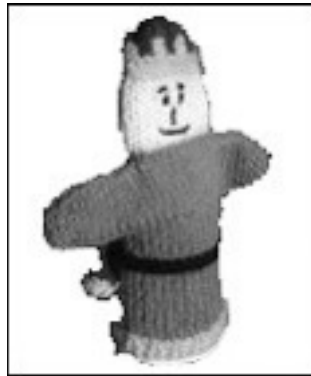
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The Deadline for the February Steeple News is 22nd January 2016

News can be emailed to steeplenews@oldandstandrews.com
or given to the editors

Continued from page 1
Would you like to be part of a project to knit hand-puppet Bible figures? These will not only help teachers tell Bible stories, but also let children explore the stories in play.



We need a wide variety of figures – rich and poor, heroes and villains, men and women, Old Testament and New Testament – so that we can tell the whole gamut of wonderful stories the Bible contains.

The basic pattern is the same for all characters, but you can adapt it in many different ways. The puppet should end up as slightly too small for an adult hand so that children can comfortably use it.

Use smaller needles if you think your puppets are too large or decrease the total number of stitches/rows to suit.



If you want to turn the glove puppet temporarily into a free-standing figure, just put it over a plastic cup so it stands up by itself.



SUNDAY SCHOOL HUMOUR

A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year old daughter and said "Would you like to say the Grace?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say," the wife answered.

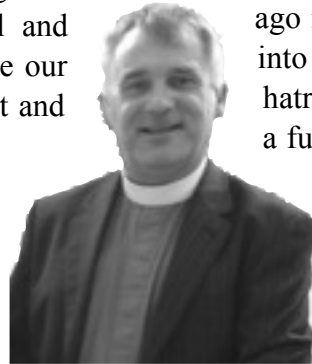
The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Peace on earth

The angels' message to the shepherds was that the baby to be born in Bethlehem was Christ the Lord. "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth." There was ample evidence then that conflict did not suddenly evaporate when Jesus was born. There was ethnic cleansing in Ramah long before the term had been coined. Roman occupation was far from being benevolent. Peace was not and is not simply the absence of fighting. Peace, as the Bible says, is a peace that passes human understanding - that goes to meet our deepest needs - emotional and spiritual as well as the freedom to live our lives with the benefit of God's support and presence.

Throughout 2015 we have seen a huge exodus of people from parts of Africa, the Middle East and beyond fleeing from oppressive regimes and organisations such as IS. We have witnessed atrocities that would be regarded as inhuman and beyond contempt perpetrated not just by foreign radicals but by people born and brought up in this country. The prophet's comments about "peace, peace where there is no peace" are still a challenge.

The Christmas message was not about a superficial veneer of goodwill but of God's Son



coming to share our lives (including the trauma, heartaches and suffering) and dying for us so that we can share in the deep seated peace of knowing his love, forgiveness and acceptance. And that is still the message for today. Sadly, the world is still full of hatred, violence and suffering. Human beings have a remarkable propensity to inflict harm on one another. If anything, there would appear to be evidence of increasing inhumanity and degradation. It would be tempting to turn a blind eye to all this and to turn in on ourselves. However, that would be the opposite of God's strategy - implemented long ago in Bethlehem - for he sent his only Son into our dark and broken world, with its hatreds and violence to prepare the way for a fundamental peace between ourselves and God, a peace that overcomes violence, hatred - a peace that surpasses our understanding but works in our hearts and is nonetheless real.

The news of the world around us will sometimes get us down. But the message of Christmas is still pertinent and needed just as much as ever. "Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on earth." I pray that you (and the whole world) would know the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ this Christmas and right through 2016.

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk

Dec 6 Kennedy Avenue
Dec 13 Mearns Drive
Dec 20 Angus Drive
Dec 27 Morven Ave, Lunan Ave
Jan 3 Tolmount Crescent
Jan 10 Coronation Way
Jan 17 Bailie Wilson Way, Paterson Pl
Jan 24 Whitson Way, Silver Way
Jan 31 Adams Way, Lamb Way
Feb 7 Baird Way, Fettes Way

Congregational Bible Passage (provisional)

Dec 6 Luke 3:1-6
Dec 13 Luke 2:8-16
Dec 20 Luke 2:1-7
Dec 27 Matthew 2:1-12
Jan 3 John 1:1-9
Jan 10 Luke 3:15-17,21,22
Jan 17 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Jan 24 Luke 4:14-21
Jan 31 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Feb 7 Luke 9:28-43a

Messy Christmas at Old & St Andrew's

is going to be a very exciting time with **TWO** Messy Church Activities.

The **FIRST** is a Messy Nativity Sheep Trail which is running throughout the period of Advent. Messy Nativity Sheep Trail Leaflets are being distributed to all primary and nursery schools in Montrose, Hillside and Ferryden with an invitation being extended to all children to take part in the Nativity Sheep Trail. Local shops in the High Street/Murray Street have been approached and have very kindly agreed to enter into the spirit of the sheep trail by having a "Messy Sheep" displayed in their shop window. The sheep all have a name (biblical) and the children are being asked to help the shepherd find his missing sheep that he has lost while doing his Christmas Shopping. Once all the sheep have been found (and named) the children are invited to colour in the nativity picture on the form prior to returning it to the Messy Church Post Box in their school or the one in the Montrose Library. There will be a small prize for the winner drawn from correct leaflets returned and this will take place during the Church Family Service on Sunday 20th December.



While this activity is being done with children in mind, we hope that members of the congregation will also enjoy sheep spotting while doing their Christmas Shopping and extra leaflets will be available in the church and in the library.

The **SECOND** activity is

Messy Christmas which takes place on Sunday 13th December when the children who



attend Messy Church will do a Nativity. Last year this was a wonderful experience, for some of the children attending this is the first time they will have heard the Christmas Story, it is an experience not to be missed.

At Messy Church we try to encourage the sense of belonging to the church family and as such we are repeating the very successful "Christmas Dinner" we had last year as sitting down for a meal together is an important part of fellowship. An invitation is extended to the congregation to come along and be a part of this however, for catering purposes we would ask that you let us know you are coming. We really do hope you can come along and join us.

MORE SUNDAY SCHOOL HUMOUR

A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. 'All you have to do is add it up, like the Minister said:- 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer.'

Diary

December

- 1 -14 Christmas Post
1 – 19 Sheep Trail around shops leading up to service on 20th (See page 4)
Sat 5 Church Sale and Gift Day, Church Hall 10-12
Sun 6 Rowan Court Service 3pm
Carol Concert with Montrose Town Band, Song Shop & Choir 6.30pm (Donations)
Mon 7 Carol Singing around Sheltered complexes. Meet at St Mary's & St Peter's for 7pm start.
Sat 12 Highland Games Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 13 Messy Christmas 4pm – 5.30pm in Halls. All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult
Fri 18 Montrose Academy Baroque Ensemble Concert 7pm in the Church
Sat 19 Coffee Morning for New Day Care Centre called Adam Centre 10-12
Sun 20 All Age Christmas Service with Nativity 11am
Service at Caledonia Court led by Guild 3pm
Mon 21 Schools Cluster Concert in Church. 7pm
Tue 22 Lochside School Service in Church 10.15am
Montrose Academy Service in Church 12 noon
Wed 23 Carol Service in Montrose Care Home 3pm
Thu 24 Watchnight Service 11.30pm Gathering Carols from 11.15pm
Fri 25 Short All Age Service for Christmas Day 10.30am
Sun 27 Christmas Message through Carols 11am

January 2016

- Sat 9 Dorward House Coffee Morning 10-12
Wed 13 Service at Montrose Care Home 3pm (tbc)
18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Steeple 12.45pm – 1pm Weekdays
Sat 16 Montrose Stroke Association Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 17 Service at Blackfriars Court 3pm
Sat 23 Youth Group Coffee Morning 10-12
Mon 25 Kirk Session Keir Room 7.15pm
Tue 26 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls
Sat 30 Choral Society Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 31 Communion 11am All welcome.
Messy Church – Messy Promise (Simeon) 4pm – 5.30pm in Halls. All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult
Date tbc Souper Sunday – Service followed by congregational lunch

2016 World Day of Prayer

Country - Cuba

Theme -

“Receive Children Receive me”

3 Bible Studies + 1 Preparation

Fridays, February 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th

Meetings will take place in Old & St Andrew's Church Hall (Keir Room) at 2.15pm

Bible Study Leader - Jean Cameron

Main Services

Friday March 4th at Melville South Church (venue to be confirmed)

Morning - Led by Old & St Andrew's Church at 10.30am for 11am

Evening - Led by Melville South Church at 7.30pm

Refreshments will be served at both services

Stop Press:- The congregation have chosen the Montrose Day Care Centre as the charity to support over the coming year. Thank you to all who took part in the ballot.

*Thelma Robb,
Joint Session Clerk*