



Steeple News

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Welcome!

On Sunday 11th January Ian McLean introduced the congregation to **Margaret Benton** who will be on placement for three months. He invited her to come forward and say a few words. She told us that she had wanted to come into the Clergy for some time and now that her two children are at Secondary School she felt the time was right for her to go ahead with God's plans for her.



We look forward to meeting her, working with her and wishing her well in her exciting new venture.

Flowers in the Church

An Opportunity to Volunteer?

Many thanks to all who donated, arranged and distributed flowers during the past year. The flower ministry has been a great blessing to the many people who have received flowers each week, assuring them that they are in our thoughts and prayers.

However to ensure that this important part of God's work continues we are in need of more helpers.

You may ask but how can I help? There are several ways that you can get involved in this important Ministry

- Agree to donate flowers for Sunday worship
- Join the team of flower arrangers
- Help to deliver flowers after the service
- Be willing to suggest a name of someone in the Congregation whom you think would appreciate a flower.

If you would like to find out more information please contact either **Helen Campbell 673667** or **Willie Sinclair 675671**



Nativity Play

Christmas may seem so long ago now but on Sunday 21st December the congregation were delighted by the Christmas story. It was told from the point of view of a donkey who witnessed the whole scene as it developed. The children from the Sunday School acted out the story helped by some adults.



Here the shepherds visit the stable with some angels and worship baby Jesus.



The Wise Men entered on their camels and delivered their gifts to baby Jesus. Christmas carols were sung by all making an uplifting experience for everyone.

Thanks should go to all those who made this play possible - writing the script, rehearsing and dressing the cast.

We are very fortunate in having such a dedicated team who tirelessly work with the children.

Contacts

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The Deadline for the March Steeple News is 13th February 2015

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

New members

At the time of writing we are about to welcome into membership of the Church by profession of faith. Do look for opportunities to welcome and encourage them.

Souper Sunday

The congregation got a Christmas Card from the HIV Project thanking us for the support we had given to the Project over a number of years via Souper Sunday. Well it's back! The service on 1st February is being organised by the Worship Group and thereafter everyone is invited to the hall for a lunch - do come and support this venture. Donations to HIV Project.

World Day of Prayer

Bible Studies Friday 6th, 13th and 20th February

Preparation Day Friday 27th February

All above held in Old and St Andrew's Church Hall at 2.15pm

World Day of Prayer Services

Friday 6th March

Old and St Andrew's Church will lead an afternoon Service in
Montrose Day Care Centre – Time to be arranged

Two main services will be held in

Montrose Baptist Church

Morning – 11am

Led by Montrose Melville South Church
(refreshments will be served at 10.30 am)

Evening – 7.30 pm

Led by Montrose Baptist Church

(refreshments will be served)

Churches represented for World Day of Prayer – Old and St Andrew's, Melville South, Dun and Hillside, St Margaret's, Baptist, Knox's United Free, St Mary's & St Peter's, Mrs J Richardson & Friends (Methodists)

Jean Cameron

Love one another

Few Christians would deny that loving one another is a key facet of Christian living. Sometimes we forget two aspects to it – that the call to love is not restricted to those who are close to us or who are “our kind of people” and secondly, that the ability to deliver love ultimately stems from the love that God has shown to us. While we are not to be doormats we should recognise that we have an obligation to be generous and open in sharing the full and undeserved love that God gives to us in Christ. We certainly shouldn't take a view that others have to “earn” the right to our love or care. “Freely, freely you have received – freely, freely give”.



or the Church's) love and care stop and remind yourself that we have nothing to commend ourselves to God apart from Jesus' love. We are accepted solely on his goodness and grace – not on our own merits – and we must learn to accept others on the same basis.

We need everyone to “get on board” with our attempts to welcome and reach out to those who up until now may have had little or no contact with the Church nothing of a faith background. It is a privilege to be able to reach out, freely, with the love of God – but it has to be backed by every one of us. It only needs one of us to unwittingly question someone's “right” or “deserving” for the whole outreach effort of the congregation to be undermined. A few years ago some Christian youngsters wore wristbands with the letters WWJD – What Would Jesus Do? With or without a band could we not all apply that sentiment to our dealings, particularly with enquirers and those new to the Church (but really with everyone) and try to avoid “putting our foot in it” and unpicking the open welcome that Jesus has given all of us and which he wants us to extend to others.

Perhaps it is simply human nature but Christians are not immune from the tendency to want to limit our generosity, our love, our care to those who deserve it. Natural, perhaps, but it doesn't square with the nature of God's love to us – which comes freely, and without our deserving – it is grounded in the grace of God in Christ Jesus. And that needs to be source of our love and care – indeed of all our attitudes towards others.

Next time you find yourself tempted to question someone else's right to your (or God's

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk

Feb 1 Market Street, Upper Hall Street
Feb 8 Chapel Street
Feb 15 Kincardine Street
Feb 22 Queen Street, King Street
Mar 1 North Street

Congregational Bible Passage (provisional)

Feb 1 Luke 4:16-22
Feb 8 1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Feb 15 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Feb 22 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Mar 1 Mark 8:31-38

Good News!

On Sunday 11th January, Jean Cameron was unfortunate to be hit on the head by the light cover when it suddenly fell down during the service. The congregation was alarmed by the accident. She was taken to the Minor Injuries Unit where she was checked over and then allowed home. Apart from the shock and a sore head for a couple of days Jean has now made a full recovery. She would like to thank all those who helped her in any way; for the kind phone calls and messages of support and the lovely flowers she received from the church. She is looking forward to the World Day of Prayer.



World Day of Prayer

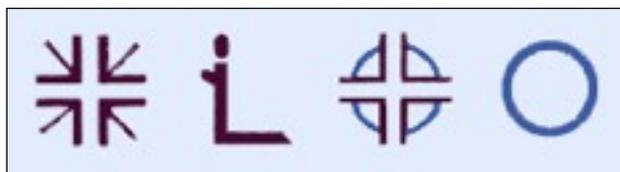
Motto – “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action”



The 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.

The World Day of Prayer (WDP) was started in 1887 in the United States of America by a Mrs Mary Ellen Darwin James, President of the Woman's Board of Home Missions in the Presbyterian Church of America. Today, WDP is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March.

Through the WDP, women are encouraged to become aware of other countries and cultures and no longer live in isolation. They are also encouraged to take up the burdens of other people, to sympathize with the problems of other countries and cultures and pray with and for them. Women are also encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of society. The WDP aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world



The symbol for WDP (shown at the top of this article) was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. It's design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic Cross and the circle, as representing

the world and our unity through all our diversity.

Every year Worship services focus on a different country and a specific theme. This coming year (March 2015) the focus is The Bahamas. A country made up of many scattered islands known as “The Family of Islands” covering 100,000 square miles of the Atlantic Ocean.

The WDP national/regional committees of the Bahamas have prepared The Order of Worship of the theme “Do you know what I have done to you” and this will be used in services all over the world, making that country the focus of prayer and understanding.



Jean Cameron and Nancy Scott inspect preparation materials for World Day of Prayer.

I hope that this has given you a little bit of an insight into the WDP. Preparations for 6 March 2015 begin here in Montrose in November with the ordering and distribution of materials to the various groups in the town and Bible Study Sessions take place in February. I will be able to give you the Bible Study Session dates nearer the time.

In the meantime, as they say, ‘Save the Date’ - Friday 6 March 2015 – World Day of Prayer

Jean Cameron

Diary

February 2015

- Sun 1 Souper Sunday – Service followed by Congregational Lunch
Service at Murray Court led by the Guild 3pm
- Mon 2 Mission TG - 7.00pm in Swanson Rooms
- Tue 3 Admin TG - 2.00pm in Swanson Rooms
- Fri 6 World Day of Prayer Bible Study - 2.15pm
- Sat 7 Montrose Youth Football Club Coffee Morning - 10-12am
- Wed 11 Montrose Churches Together 7.30pm
- Thu 12 Guild: International Rescue by Willie McMartin - 2pm
- Fri 13 World Day of Prayer Bible Study - 2.15pm
- Sat 14 Guild Coffee Morning 10-12am
Afternoon Tea for Rhys Allan 2 - 4pm in Church Hall
- Sun 15 Service at Provost Johnston Road 3pm
- Thu 19 Church volunteers meeting 7pm
- Fri 20 World Day of Prayer Bible Study - 2.15pm
- Sat 21 Montrose Sailing Club Coffee Morning - 10-12am
- Sun 22 Informal Communion after service
Messy Church – Jacob & Esau 4 – 5.30pm in Church Halls
- Tue 24 Guild: Citizens Advice by Elizabeth Anderson - 7.30pm
- Thu 26 Friendship Group - Talk on Street Pastors followed by AGM
- Fri 27 World Day of Prayer - Preparation - 2.15pm
- Sat 28 Coffee Morning organised by Iris/Ann

March

- Sun 1 Parish Grouping Exchange tbc
Service at Rowan Court 3pm
- Fri 6 Advance notice World Day of Prayer
- Sat 7 Church Spring Coffee Morning - 10-12am

Messy Church on 22 February is "Messy Brothers" which will focus on the brothers "Jacob and Esau".

A warm welcome is extended to all of the church family - however children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is helpful for craft and catering purposes but not strictly necessary.



Margaret Benton

Hi, my name is Margaret Benton, and I'm going to be spending the next 3 months working with your minister, Ian, on a placement with Montrose Old and St Andrew's. I trained to be a minister of the Church of Scotland many years ago, and in the intervening years have been serving God in all sorts of ways in my local church in

Inverbervie, and also in local schools. Recently, I re-applied to work as a minister, and due to the passage of time since I was first accepted by the church, I need to do some placements with churches in order to bring myself 'up to speed' on ministry in the Church of Scotland today.

I've lived in Bervie for over 17 years now, with my husband Peter. We have 2 children, Andrew and Sarah, who both attend Mearns Academy. We also have a very energetic and affectionate cocker spaniel called Annie, who demands to be walked on regular basis, and who keeps us all entertained!

I'm really looking forward to the next 3 months, and getting to know you all (Ever optimistic ... I'll do my best to get to know you all!) So, please introduce yourself when you see me around. I look forward to meeting you if we haven't met already.

Church Spring Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th March 2015 from 10 - 12 noon in the Main Hall.

Stalls include - home baking and preserves, books, some craft items, unwanted Christmas gifts etc.

Items should be handed in on day of sale.

Come and celebrate the beginning of better weather!

Afternoon Tea Elaine Allan has booked an afternoon tea for Saturday 14th February 2015 2 - 4pm to fund raise for her nephew Rhys Allan.