

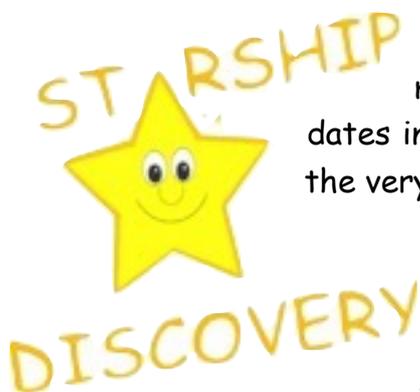
Steeple News



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We Have Lift Off !



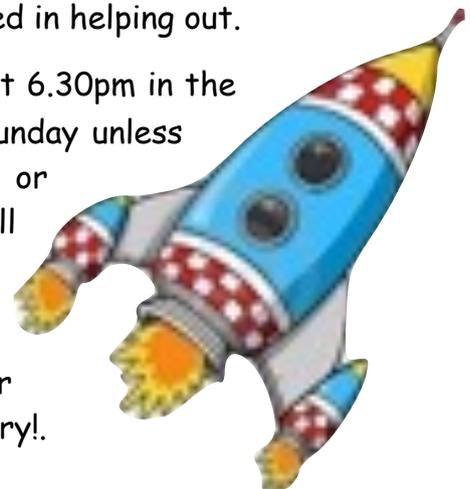
Summer Mission 2016 was launched in the church on 13th March when it was revealed that this year the name of the holiday club is "Starship Discovery". The Nursery Aged Holiday Club is "Space Cadets ". Summer Mission begins on Saturday 2nd July with a coffee morning and continues through to Sunday 10 July - book the dates in your diary now. There will be something for everyone from the very young to the very old.

The congregation are again being asked to support this project and Volunteer Forms are available in the vestibule with a list of ways in which you can help to make the Mission a success whether it be by donating some money or volunteering to take recycling items to the skip. Everybody can help and everybody is needed, please give consideration to how you could help our ever popular Summer Mission be even more successful than in the past.

Several planning meetings have already taken place however, it is not too late to join in, more volunteers are always needed. Last year we catered for over 130 children plus their parents and this is not possible without a willing band of helpers both in the halls with the children or behind the scenes where there is a long list of things that require to be done. The next planning meeting is on Sunday 10th April at 6.30pm in the Swanson Rooms and a warm welcome is extended to anyone interested in helping out.

Painting of props and scenery begins on Sunday 8th May at 6.30pm in the church halls (Tom Long Gallery) and will continue every Sunday unless intimated otherwise. You don't have to be able to draw or paint just a willingness to come along and be involved is all you need - even if you would just like to come along to make the tea/coffee you would be most welcome.

The Summer Mission Team thank you in advance for your support and look forward to seeing you at Starship Discovery!.



Contacts

Minister

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Session Clerks

Mrs Thelma Robb
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Mr Ron Campbell
Tel. 673667

Treasurer

Susan Henderson
Tel. 676383

Beadle

Mrs Linda Watt
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Mrs Aileen Smith
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Roll Keeper

Hazel Ritchie
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Organists/Accompanists

Beth Wyllie
Ann Stewart
Marjory Sutton
Evan Cruickshank
Fraser McGlynn
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Flower Convener

Willie Sinclair
Tel. 675671

Tea Convener

Jennifer Nicoll
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Hall Bookings

Hilary Murdoch
Tel. 830301

Task Groups

Administration - Thelma Robb
Fabric - Elaine McLean
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Pastoral - Jean Cameron
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The Deadline for the May Steeple News is 15th April 2016

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

Diary

April

- Sat 2 Embroiderers Guild Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 3 Easter Songs of Praise 11am
Tue 5 Fabric TG 7pm in Session Room
Sat 9 Coffee Morning 10-12
Walking Group - Baltic St. car park. Meet at 1pm
Mon 11 Kirk Session 7.15pm Keir Room
Fri 15 Steeple News copy deadline
Sat 16 Hope Paton Coffee Morning 10-12
Montrose & District Choral Concert 7.30pm
Wed 20 Safeguarding Panel
Sat 23 Montrose Academy Baroque Ensemble Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 24 Stated Annual Meeting after shortened 11am morning service.
Messy Church (Messy Told You So) in Hall 4pm - 5.30pm
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult
May Steeple News issued
Mon 25 Pastoral TG 2pm in Session Room
Tue 26 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am in Hall
Sat 30 Scottish Wildlife Trust Coffee Morning 10-12

May

- Sun 1 Communion Sunday – 11am with Moderator of Presbytery
Sea Sunday Service 6pm in St Mary's & St Peter's

In addition we have still to confirm a date for a service in Fordmill in April.

The meetings with the Local Church Review team from Presbytery will now be in May.

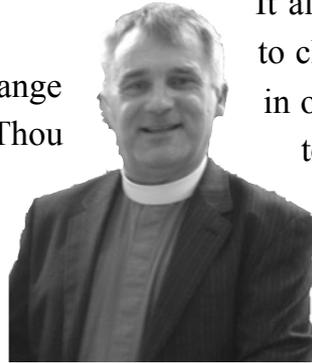
Marriage

We wouldn't normally mention forthcoming weddings but I have been told that the congregation would want to be told that a daughter of the manse is getting married in Old & St. Andrew's at the end of April. Laura is marrying Ciaran Marshall. Feel welcome to come and share in the service. Details will be given in church nearer the time.

Changes

The hymn writer declares “Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me.” There is no doubt that we don't have to look for long to see signs of decay in the world at large – norms of acceptable behaviour being breeched sometimes in horrific ways. But while we can be certain that God is utterly faithful and true to his promises, constant in love and ever ready to forgive and to accept in Christ it would be a big mistake to conclude that God is against change and forever thirled to things as they are or have always been. Far from it. “Behold, I will make things new”. “There will be a new heaven and a new earth.” “If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

If we accept the premise that we are in need of forgiveness then surely we need to accept that God requires to make changes in us – our attitudes, outlook, and actions – indeed in every aspect of our lives. We need to change – or more accurately we need to allow God to make changes in us. And he is ready to do that by his Spirit.



It also means that we have to be open to changing patterns of church life too in order to better fulfil our obligations to reach out to a community that is desperately in need of God's love and new life in Christ. We cannot expect that things will remain forever as they are. Of course, that leaves open room for a variety of approaches. Some steps will seem radical to some people, while being tame, too hesitant for others. I am not here to preserve the status quo, nor to be an out and out radical – but neither am I just a middle of road guy (as someone once said to me: if you stay in the middle of the road too long you are apt to get knocked down!). Like the disciples after Jesus' Easter appearances perhaps we need to be shaken a bit and stirred from any complacency or inertia. There will be change ahead - but the risen Saviour walks beside us every step of the way. Let's not be afraid of change or of the future – we (and the future) are safe in God's hands. Let's go forward in faith!

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk

Apr 3 Dun & Hillside and west
Apr 10 South & Ferryden and to the South
Apr 17 “Parish to the East” - offshore
Apr 24 The Church of Scotland
May 1 Councillors, MSP's and MP's

Congregational Bible Passage (provisional)

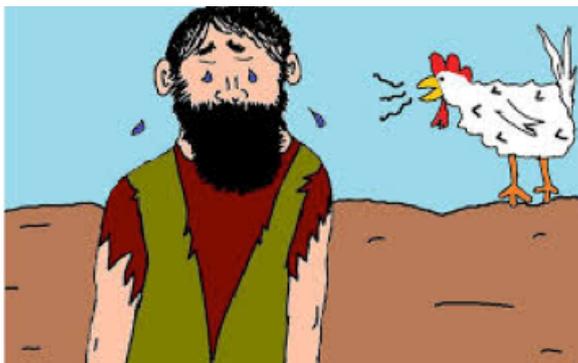
Apr 3 John 20:19-31
Apr 10 John 21:1-19
Apr 17 Revelation 21:1-6
Apr 24 John 13:31-35
May 1 John 14:23-29



The next **Messy Church** is on Sunday 24th April from 4 – 5.30pm in the church hall and is “Messy Told You So” (the story of Peter denying Jesus).

All are welcome but all children must be accompanied by an adult.

Registration is helpful for craft and catering purposes but don't let that put you off – please come along and enjoy the fun and fellowship.



MONTROSE CHURCHES TOGETHER (MCT)

MCT needs your help – Volunteers needed for the

Seafafers Centre (rota drawn up)

Christian Aid Committee - (Meets about 3 times per year)

Oasis – (rota drawn up)

Also please continue to support

- Book Aid – Bibles, Christian Books, Ladybird books
- Children's clothes 0-5 years. These are taken by one of our members to Nigeria to help disabled children
- Knitted Blankets - Knitted squares always needed – Double knitting wool, size 8 needles, Garter stitch, 8inch square (48 stitches) or 6 inch square (36 stitches) in pastel colours. Pastel colours used to make blankets for children.

If you can help with any of the above or would like more information just get in touch with me, the Minister or any Elder.

Helen Boyd - Old and St Andrew's MCT Rep

Walking Group The group meet next on Saturday 9th April at 1.p.m at the Baltic Street Car park. As always, the walk will not be too long, and anyone is welcome to join us: participants do not need to be church members. We share transport and those not able to drive, give a contribution towards petrol. Please let me know if you are coming.
Jean Stevenson tel. 01674 830250

Trainee Minister

Norman Trewren has thrown himself into the life and worship of Old & St. Andrew's over the past six months. He has warmed himself to many and has very quickly made friends and become at ease with us. However, his placement comes to an end at Easter and he moves on. We would express our thanks for all that he has done and trust that he will take something of what he has learned into his future ministry and with it our prayers and best wishes.