

Steeple News

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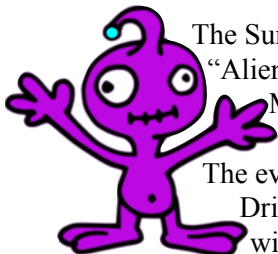
Happy 90th Birthday Ma'am!

As everyone knows, the Queen is 90 and to mark this occasion local community groups/churches have been asked to hold a celebratory lunch to celebrate on Sunday 12th June.

Old & St Andrew's are delighted to hold an "indoor picnic lunch" on **Sunday 12th June** in the church halls immediately following the church service. Details later.



Alien Drive/Pudding Night



The Summer Mission Team are planning an "Alien Drive and Pudding Night" on Friday 20 May at 7pm in the church halls to raise funds for this year's Summer Mission.

The evening will follow the format of a Beetle Drive but rather than drawing a beetle, aliens will be drawn! Following the Alien Drive there will be lots of time to eat a variety of puddings (tea and coffee will also be served).



Easter Breakfast

Our first Café Church was held on Easter Sunday at 9.30am in the church halls. Approximately 40 people attended the service which was welcoming, relaxing and informal.

The service opened with the song "Welcome everybody we are glad that you are here" and the theme was Jesus cooking the disciples' breakfast. There was an opportunity to have informal discussion to share your own families Easter traditions and then what might have happened if the disciples had not done as Jesus instructed and put their nets on the other side of the boat. During the discussion time, the children busied themselves making paper plate fish.

Following the service breakfast was served and the fellowship continued.

More Café Churches will undoubtedly be held however, they will not always be of the same format and could be held on weekdays or in an evening.



Contacts

Minister

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Elaine Allan & Willie Sinclair

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Mrs Linda Watt
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Mrs Aileen Smith
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Organists/Accompanists

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Ann Stewart
Marjory Sutton
Evan Cruickshank
Fraser McGlynn
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Willie Sinclair
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Tea Convener

Jennifer Nicoll
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Hall bookings

Hilary Murdoch
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Task Groups

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The Deadline for the June Steeple News is 20th May 2016

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

Local Church Review

We have our official visit from the Presbytery of Angus on Monday 16th May. It is intended to help us take stock of our congregational life and to assist and encourage us to further our plans for the next few years. As well as meeting with the Minister and Kirk Session they hope to meet with members of the Task Groups and other members of the congregation. Should you wish to be involved you are most welcome to come along at 7.30pm.

Session Clerks

Ron Campbell has stepped down as Joint Session Clerk after several years in that role. Thelma Robb continues as Session Clerk and will be assisted by two new Assistant Session Clerks – Elaine Allan and Willie Sinclair each of whom will be able to deputise for the Clerk while developing areas of work on their own. We offer our thanks to Ron and wish Thelma, Elaine and Willie every blessing as they work together to help the congregation move forward.

Diary

April

Tue 26 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am in Halls

May

- Sun 1 Communion Sunday 11am Moderator of Presbytery
RNLI Sea Sunday Service St Mary's & St Peter's 6pm
- Wed 4 Gordon Town Mission AGM Swanson Rooms 7pm
- Sat 7 Enable Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 8 Summer Mission painting begins Tom Long Gallery 6.30pm
- Mon 9 Mission TG 7pm in Session Room
- Thu 12 Admin TG 2pm in Session Room
- Sat 14 Sunday School coffee Morning 10-12
- Mon 16 Local Church Review team Kirk Session 7pm Keir Room
Open to congregation 7.30pm
- Wed 18 Service at Fordmill 2.30pm. Church members welcome.
- Fri 20 Pudding Night/Beetle Drive with difference 7pm
- Sat 21 Montrose & District Athletics Coffee Morning 10-12
Messy Picnic – Seafront (hall if inclement) 10am
General Assembly begins – Dr McLean is a commissioner
- Sun 22 Heart & Soul from Princes St Gardens – online
- 27 – 29 Montrose Music Festival weekend. Street Chaplains, Church open
- Sat 28 St. Mary's & St. Peter's coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 29 Morning service will have a music theme to it. 11am
- Tue 31 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am in Hall

Patterns of Church Life

Many organisations plan their work on a sessional year with a good break in the summer – schools being among the more obvious. Sometimes churches partially adopt that model though, of course, there is worship all year round and there are often different activities in the summer when some of the regular events are on hold – in our case Summer Mission and the Summer Openings loom large so it is far from being a summer shut-down. There is biblical warrant for periods of rest and refreshment and we ought to take proper account for the well-being of our fellow church members, especially those who are apt to be overworked. Even volunteers need a good work/life balance and times when the pressures are less and there is more time to spend with family or friends and to take stock of things – even in a spiritual way.

I have been more conscious this year that the months



come round quickly and that even Church life is busy, sometimes pressured for folks. As well as the regular events we have extras and special events pretty well at least on a monthly basis. Among upcoming events we have the Local Church Review, Pudding Night, Chaplains at the Music Festival, Queen's Birthday Lunch, Summer Mission, Summer Opening, an event at the end of August to highlight all the work of the Church and that is before "next session"! It is good to get a break from some of the routine but let's not imagine that things are going to close down over the summer. God doesn't go on holiday (though if we are away he will be there!) and we can continue to worship

throughout the summer and know his presence in whatever we are up to. Please make use of what might be a different and more relaxed pace over the summer (well after Summer Mission) to recharge your batteries and to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit. But perhaps also consider whether there are areas where you might be able to help out with – say with some of the "one off" events that are coming up if not in the ongoing regular activities. Everybody can't be at everything but if we are to offer as wide a range of opportunities we could really do with broadening the base of support where that is possible.

And perhaps we could drive things forward a bit after the Local Church Review and all take time to ask ourselves where we might develop as a congregation and what our individual part in the whole scheme of things might be?

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk	Congregational Bible Passage (provisional)
May 1 Councillors, MSP's and MP's	May 1 John 14:23-29
May 8 The World Church	May 8 John 17:20-27
May 15 High Street and closes	May 15 Acts 2:1-21
May 22 George Street	May 22 Psalm 8
May 29 Ferry Street	May 29 Psalm 149
Jun 5 Baltic Street	Jun 5 Luke 7:11-17

Easter Sunday

saw the final phase of the Chrisimon Tree and nobody was disappointed.

We watched and waited for the story of the Chrisimon Tree to unfold – first the Christmas Tree was decorated by members of the congregation – all in white and gold

with Christian symbols which represented majesty and purity. After Christmas, the decorations were stored away, the tree was stripped of its branches and made into a crude cross that was displayed in the church during Lent. This emphasised that Christ died on a crude and simple cross.

Easter Morning arrived and the Cross had been moved to the front of the Chancel. The flower committee made an excellent job of decorating the church for Easter and there was an air of expectation in the church with the Town Band adding to the atmosphere. A simple flower arrangement had been placed at the centre of the cross and there were pots of spring flowers placed round the base. During the service those present in the congregation were invited to come forward and decorate the cross with daffodils, this proved to be very moving and the tree once more came alive in front of our eyes. It was no longer dead and we experienced a tinge of how the Disciples must have felt that first Easter day – Jesus was alive, he had risen from the dead!

The daffodils were carefully removed following the service and distributed to some of our members who were not able to be with us but are very much in our thoughts.



Hall Windows.

The windows of the Keir and Kennedy Rooms are being replaced because the old ones were rotten. The new windows which match the old ones to satisfy planning regulations should be finished by Friday 22nd April. Thanks to all hall users who have helped accommodate the joiners while the works has been in progress.



Passover Meal Thanks to members of the congregation for supporting the Passover meal in the Columba Hall this year. After all expenses we were able to pass on £180.58 to MCT funds



Walking Group

In April, the group enjoyed a walk along the cliffs from Dunnottar Castle to Stonehaven and back up through the Dunnottar woods, a good circular walk of around 4 miles. Next month we meet on Saturday 14 May at 1 p.m. at the Baltic Street Car park. Interested parties, please phone Jean on 01674 830250.