

Steeple News



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Can you help change the world with a spoon?



Church of Scotland HIV Aids Programme

“Souper Sundae” – 5th February

HIV is a disease which is caused by poverty and lack of development and continues to be a cause of ill-health and death of many around the world. Five people are infected with HIV and three die of AIDS every minute of every day.

People living with HIV throughout the world require practical support and the Church of Scotland's HIV Programme aims to provide that support through its partnership with church related organisations. Currently the Church of Scotland's HIV Programme supports 27 projects in a number of different countries of the world which include China, India, Egypt, Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Israel, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Thailand, South Africa and **Scotland**. The aims of the programme are to:-

- Break the silence on HIV and AIDS
- Encourage churches to stand together with partner churches and raise awareness
- Offer practical support
- Speak up for the voiceless
- Involve ever member of the church

Over the past few years our congregation has supported this very worthwhile project and a service led by members of the congregation has been held which highlights the work being undertaken and the issues surrounding HIV followed by a fund-raising lunch of soup and sandwiches in support of the project.

This year is no exception however we are having a slight change to the format of the lunch and will be offering “Soup and Sundae” (soup and pudding!) Put the date in your diary – Sunday 5th February and come along to the church service where you will find out more about the work being undertaken at home and abroad and then join your church family in the hall for “Soup and Sundae” where your donation to the project will be gratefully received – this is indeed an event that everybody can be involved in - come and help change the world..... one spoonful at a time.



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The Deadline for the March Steeple News is 17th February 2017

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

HIV Quiz - True? Or False?

- There are over 35 million people around the world living with HIV.
- Asia is the continent which is most affected by HIV.
- HIV slowly destroys a person's immune system.
- A person can catch HIV by holding hands or hugging someone who is HIV positive.
- You can tell someone is HIV positive just by looking at them.
- The total number of children born with HIV has decreased by a quarter over the past five years.
- Most people who are HIV positive are aware of their condition or status.
- There is still no cure for HIV and AIDS.

Answers on back page source: C of S Souper Sunday web page

Diary

February

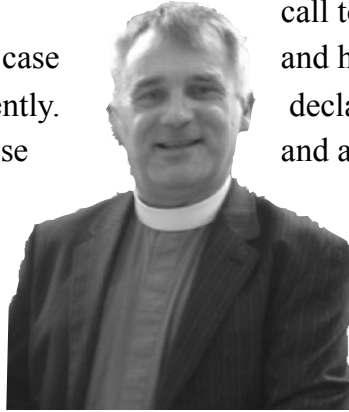
- Fri 3 World Day of Prayer Preparatory meeting 2.15 Keir Room
Sat 4 Montrose Youth Football Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 5 Souper Sundae – Service followed by soup & pudding lunch
Fri 10 World Day of Prayer Preparatory meeting 2.15 Keir Room
Sat 11 Church Spring Sale Coffee Morning 10-12
Service in Rowan Court led by the Guild at 2pm
Thu 16 Reading Group 2pm Session Room
Fri 17 World Day of Prayer Preparatory meeting 2.15 Keir Room
Sat 18 Montrose Sailing Club Coffee Morning 10-12
Thu 23 Friendship Group AGM 2pm Keir Room - Speaker Mr Denis Rice
Fri 24 World Day of Prayer Preparatory meeting 2.15 Keir Room
Sat 25 Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 26 Messy Church – Messy Beasties 4pm – 5.30pm
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.
Tue 28 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls

March

- Fri 3 World Day of Prayer Services in Old & St Andrew's 10.30 for 11am
and 7.30pm – led by members of Old & St Andrew's
Sat 4 Guild Event - No Coffee Morning
Wed 8 Joint Kirk Session meeting details tbc

Storms of Life

I have been aware that quite a few members of the congregation have been going through some tough times of late. Actually, that is almost always the case but it seems more pronounced recently. No doubt, there will be others whose situations are not known. I realise that some people prefer to keep matters to themselves but whether you feel able to share your situations or not I'd like you to know that we remembering you in a general way in our prayers even when the specifics are unknown. To the congregation at large I'd like to encourage you to pray for one another and particularly for those who are having a tough time – even when you do not know the details – God is more than able to take our prayers, our thoughts, our recollections and turn them into something really positive. There is sometimes a fine line between finding out information so that support can be offered and being intrusive (hopefully not nosey) and we need to be sensitive to the fact that others may not share the same outlook as us. But we are supposed to pray for one another, care, and be supportive – a sensible and sensitive balance of shared information



and respect for privacy is surely not impossible.

Recently, we were thinking about Jesus' call to his first disciples, the fishermen and his teaching at the lakeside. I must declare a particular affinity for the sea and am delighted to be living in close proximity to it and there are times when I have done some deep thinking and reflection while looking out to sea. But its conditions change, sometimes rapidly. It won't always be calm, looking spectacular as the sun rises (East coast) or sets (West coast) – it can be quite rough and frankly dangerous. Life has its variety too as does our walk with God. Things can be tough at times – it is tempting to hanker after a trouble free life or to blame God when things go wrong. The former is an illusion and God can cope with the latter. Look to him, keep close to him and even in the storms of life he won't be far away – and if you feel able to ask others in the congregation for prayer when the storms rise then please don't hold back.

“Be still and know that I am God” – he addresses that to us and he promises that he will be there for us.

Ian A McLean

| Prayer Walk | Congregational Bible Passage (prov) |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Feb 5 Mount Road | Feb 5 Matthew 5:13-20 |
| Feb 12 Bents Road and Teviot Place | Feb 12 Matthew 5:21-37 |
| Feb 19 Union Street, Place and Row | Feb 19 Matthew 5:38-48 |
| Feb 26 The Maltings, Links Avenue | Feb 26 Matthew 17:1-9 |
| Mar 5 Wellington Street and Place | Mar 5 Genesis 2:15-17;3:1-7 |

Final figures for the Christmas Fair are as follows:- Sale £1154 Gift envelopes £4165



The next Messy Church is on Sunday 26th February from 4 – 5.30pm in the church halls. The theme is Messy Beasties. All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Register online at Oldandstandrews.com



Summer Mission 2017

The first of the planning meetings for Summer Mission 2017 has recently taken place. We are very excited at the theme of this year's holiday club – all will be revealed at the launch in March !

For the first time we are writing our own material from scratch and although the people doing this are extremely talented and have vast experience of amending material used to suit our own needs, we would ask for your prayerful support as they undertake this task.

Summer Mission has grown considerably over the years and is it has undoubtedly made a mark in the town's calendar and community. We are extremely grateful for the support of individuals, local shopkeepers and the congregation over the years and this year we are delighted to advise that a generous cheque has been awarded to us from Glaxosmithkline in recognition of the work being undertaken and for the encouragement provided to our teenage helpers which in turn, enables them with to grow and develop their leadership and other skills.

Summer Mission begins on Saturday 1st July and continues through to 9th July. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

HIV Quiz - Answers:

- (a) **True:** in 2012, there were an estimated 35.4 million people living with HIV; this is the greatest number ever, but is partly due to the fact that treatment is now available, so people are living longer with HIV
- (b) **False:** 2/3rds of those living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa; in some countries, the epidemic has stabilised, but there are still prevalence rates of anything from 8 – 25%. The epidemic is spreading most quickly, however, in Asia and Eastern Europe
- (c) **True:** if no treatment is given, the person eventually cannot fight other infections and becomes ill – then we say they have Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
- (d) **False:** HIV is only passed through bodily fluids – through unprotected sex, contaminated blood transfusion, sharing dirty needles, or before, during or after birth
- (e) **False:** a person can be living with the virus for up to nine years before any symptoms manifest themselves
- (f) **True:** one of the success stories around HIV – there have been great strides made in the prevention of mother to child transmission (PMCT). At present it is estimated there are 2 million children living with HIV
- (g) **True:** but a significant number still don't know – some estimate this at over 30%; and if a person does not know their status, they can be passing the virus on unwittingly.
- (h) **True:** there is no cure, and no sign of a vaccine in the near future. Antiretroviral treatment (ART) is available, but as yet only about 50% of those who need it can access it. Recently it has been shown that those who are on ART are 95% less infectious, so less likely to pass on the virus to their partners.