

Steeple News



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Café Church



Easter Sunday sees the next Café Church. This will take place in the Church Halls at 9.30am when we will gather together to celebrate the risen Christ by having an informal service followed by a fellowship breakfast of cereal, bacon rolls, croissants and fruit juice.

Last year around 40 people attended and enjoyed the relaxed, bright and happy atmosphere which also included an activity for children.

Jesus invited his disciples to “come and eat breakfast” – this is your invitation to “come and eat breakfast” with your church family but there are no restrictions - why don't you invite a friend to “come and have breakfast?”

The next Messy Church is on Sunday 23rd April from 4 – 5.30pm in the church hall and is “Messy Easter”. All who come along will learn about

Holy Week and experience the Last Supper which over the last two years has proved to be extremely moving. 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.



Easter Services

There are a number of special services around Easter. It is, after all, the key season in the Christian year. We would like to offer people the opportunity to reflect on the real meaning of Easter. Christians like Easter eggs as much as anyone but that isn't really at the heart of Easter.

So we offer a range of opportunities for worship, reflection and celebration. On **Maundy Thursday**, the night Jesus was betrayed, we have a short reflective service including communion – it can be deeply moving. On the afternoon of Good Friday, the **Last Hour** service (marking the last hour before Jesus' death) is also reflective, often involving readings or thoughts from various characters in Jesus' life, intermingled with music and responses. (it doesn't actually last an hour). MCT organise a **Good Friday evening** service – this year it will be in South & Ferryden Church, Castle Street.

Please be assured that you will be welcome at any or all of these. We look forward to seeing you. And, if you are coming, perhaps you could make a special effort to invite someone to join you.

Guild News

Thursday 9th March saw the AGM where Margaret Aikenhead was re-elected as Convenor, Thelma Robb as Secretary, and Peggy Henderson as Treasurer.

Members had been busy knitting baby blankets to present to the Speaker from Project Linus for distribution to hospitals.

New members are always welcome.

There will be no April meeting, but a Soup & Pudding lunch has been organised for Friday 21st April, 11.30 until 1.30 priced at £3.50
Thank you, Margaret

Contacts

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Task Groups

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**The Deadline for the May Steeple News is
21st April 2017**

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

March

- Tue 28 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls
Chaplains Assemblies Week Montrose Academy
Thu 30 Parish Grouping Steering Group Hillside Manse 7.30pm
Montrose Academy Baroque Concert – Church 7pm
Lochside end of term Assembly details tbc

April

- Sat 1 Embroiderer's Guild Coffee Morning 10-12
Wed 5 Safeguarding Meeting 7.30pm
Sat 8 Coffee Morning to raise money for Corran Duthie
Gray's year long trip to Senegal with Project Trust
Thu 13 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion 7pm
Fri 14 Last Hour Service 2pm in the Church
MCT Good Friday Service South & Ferryden, Castle
Street 7.30pm
Sat 15 Hope Paton Coffee Morning
Sun 16 Easter Sunday
Café Church Easter Breakfast in Hall 9.30am
All Age Easter Service with Montrose Town Band 11am
Fri 21 Guild Soup & Sandwich Lunch 11.30-1.30
Sat 22 First Responders Coffee Morning
Sun 23 Messy Church – Messy Easter 4pm – 5.30pm
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an
adult.
Tue 25 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am in Halls
Thu 27 Friendship Group - Mr David Oswald
Sat 29 Scottish Wildlife Coffee Morning
Sun 30 Stated Annual Meeting after shortened morning service.

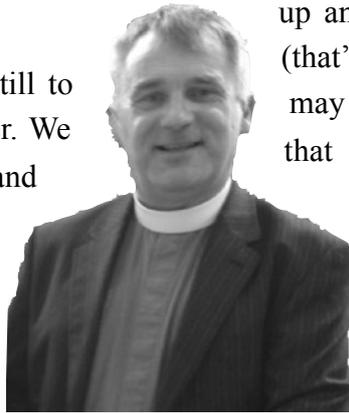
Stewardship

We are at the very early stages of planning a Stewardship Programme which is anticipated to take place in September. A steering group has been formed and is being assisted by Mrs Fiona Penny, the Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant for the North East of Scotland.

Good News

Easter is later this year so we have still to look forward to Holy Week and Easter. We shouldn't rush past Good Friday and Jesus' sufferings on the cross (and our part in them) and focus solely on Jesus' resurrection and the hope and new life that it brings. But, let's face it, there would be something wrong if we didn't latch on to that good news. I know that without the cross there would be no resurrection, but without Easter Day there would be no good news, no church, no forgiveness, no hope, no heaven – and in the words of Paul – we would be more to be pitied than anyone. We should make no apologies – Easter is good news and it is right that we get excited about it – and, like any other piece of brilliant news – speak about it, shout about it, certainly get excited, talk, share, enthuse!

I'm not a jumpy up and down, exuberant, excitable person though I can enjoy myself in my own way. Perhaps I am the archetype of "reserved". And I am sure I am not alone in that in the Church. But sometimes we overdo our "reserve" and shy away too much from displaying the joy of knowing the risen Jesus as our friend and Saviour. Easter is news that is well worth celebrating and sharing. I will never be a jumpy



up and down, in your face, pushy Christian (that's not my profile, not by a long way – it may not be yours either) and I don't believe that God wants us or needs us to be something that we are not but some folks whose nature is much more extrovert than me (and maybe you) have a point – some of us can be too restrained and insular when it comes to celebrating our faith. Don't worry, (or don't be too disappointed!), I am not suddenly going to have a personality change or drastic change of ministry style and you needn't either but can we realise that there is a place to celebrate Easter, to get excited that Jesus isn't dead and in the past, but is alive and with us today and every day? We know it but many people "out there" don't. What signals are we sending? What message are they receiving? Joy, hope, new life - or gloom? God uses the gifts and traits of every single one of us – we are a big mix – but as Christians we have a clear and vital message at Easter – it is GOOD news, joy, hope, peace, forgiveness, new life. Jesus is risen – and we are really delighted.

Happy Easter

Ian A McLean

Shrove Tuesday

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.

Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake - I can wait.'"

Kevin immediately turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan - you be Jesus!"

Prayer Walk

Apr 2 Queen Street, King Street

Apr 9 North Street

Apr 16 Murray Court, Mount Avenue

Apr 23 The Mall

Apr 30 Mall Park Road

May 7 Graham Street

Congregational Bible Passage (prov)

Apr 2 Ezekiel 37:1-14

Apr 9 Matthew 21:1-11

Apr 16 John 20:1-18

Apr 23 John 20:19-31

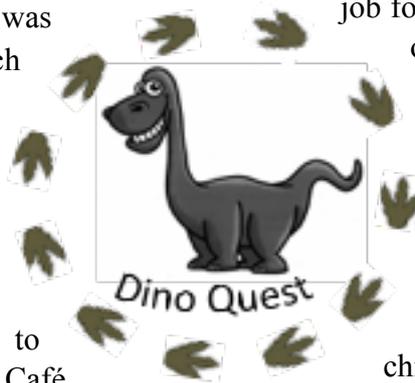
Apr 30 Luke 24:13-35

May 7 John 10:1-10

Summer Mission 2017 was launched in the church on 19th March when it was revealed that this year the name of the holiday club is "Dino Quest". The Nursery Aged Holiday Club is "Dinki Dino's". Summer Mission begins on Saturday 1st July with a coffee morning and continues through to Sunday 9th July with a closing Café Church Service in the church halls – book the dates in your diary now. There will be something for everyone from the very young to the very old.

The congregation have been wonderful supporters of Summer Mission in the past and are again being asked to support this project. 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.

The first planning meeting has taken place however it is not too late to join in, more volunteers are always needed and there really is a



job for everyone. 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 9th April at 6.30pm (a chippie tea at 6pm for those who want to come along early) in the Swanson Rooms and a warm welcome is extended to anyone interested in finding out more.

Painting of props and scenery will begin in May in the church halls (Tom Long Gallery) and will continue every Sunday at 6.30pm 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 Dino Quest.

Scottish Bible Society Fundraiser

This year Montrose Churches Together is supporting the Bread and Bread Project in Jordan, which works amongst Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi families, helping them with food, rent, bedding, tuition fees and scriptures.

To raise funds for this project each Church is organising a sponsored swim. Greig Matthew from our Youth Group, has kindly volunteered to swim for us and raise funds for this appeal.

More information to follow and it is hoped the swim and monies raised will be completed before Easter.



Some of our youngsters meet Dino