

Steeple News



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Christian Aid Week – 14th – 21 May, 2017.

We switch on the news and inevitably there is yet another report from Syria, Yemen or South Sudan, showing horrendous pictures of suffering. If you are like me, you find an off button in your brain, because you feel you cannot take on board any more. Yet these people cannot find such an off button, and not only are faced with horrendous conditions, but also see little hope of changing their lives. In Christian aid week, we all have an opportunity to put our Christian teaching and love into action, by supporting Christian Aid Week. This organisation is now 70 years old and continues to raise millions of pounds for work in areas of conflict and suffering. But one of the problems they are facing, is that whilst they get good response to appeals for specific tragedies, they still are looking for money for their basic work. The charity is active in many countries, aiming to help people to support themselves: this may be by providing equipment to get clean water, capital to start small industries or to replace livestock after drought.



14th - 20th
MAY

Sponsored Ramble

Set off from The Baptist Church
to Hillside and back
on

Sunday 14th May
at 2.30 pm



An evening of Music & Song with Southesk Strings & Friends

The Park Hotel
on

Thursday 18th May
at 7.30 pm

Tickets £5 available from
any committee members
or Henry Hoggs, Newsagent



Everyone Welcome

On your pew, you will find an envelope in which you can make a donation. If you are a taxpayer, please complete the gift aid section and increase your giving. The annual Christian Aid Walk is on Sunday 14th – I know, it is not easy to ask for sponsorship, but many people put in a donation themselves and the walk is shortened - Baptist Church round by Borrowfield - out to Dubton - along to Hillside and back into town, with an option to go up into Hillside and through Rosemount Woods. Then on Thursday 18th, there is to be a concert by Southesk Strings and friends in the Park Hotel, who have generously given free use of their function suite: tickets price £5 from Helen Campbell or Jean Stevenson. Please support these events – why not ask friends from out with the church to come to the concert.

Christian Aid is the opportunity for us to say to those who must think they are forgotten – we are still here and we do care – it is what Jesus taught us!



Our Guild held a soup and pudding lunch on Friday 21st April and we wish to thank all those who attended to make it such a success. Funds raised will go towards our projects.

Contacts

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Ann Stewart
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**The Deadline for the June Steeple News is
19th May 2017**

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

Cup - half full or half empty?

A 92-year old lady was moving into a Care Home. She smiled when she was told her room was ready and, as she manoeuvred her walker to the lift, the care assistant described the room she would be going into. "I love it!" declared the lady with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

The care assistant was surprised at the enthusiasm and joy the lady showed before she had even seen the room. The lady saw her surprise and continued, "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged, it's how I arrange my mind. I have already decided I love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice - I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or I can get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life."

She went on to explain, "Old age is like a bank account, you withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. Thank you your part in filling my memory bank. I am still depositing."

Psalm 112 tells us: "Happy is the person who honours the Lord, who takes pleasure in obeying his commands." Happiness is a means of travel, not a destination and we can choose which way to live and what attitude to take. Let's hope that we may have many happy memories for us to deposit in our memory banks.

Diary

May

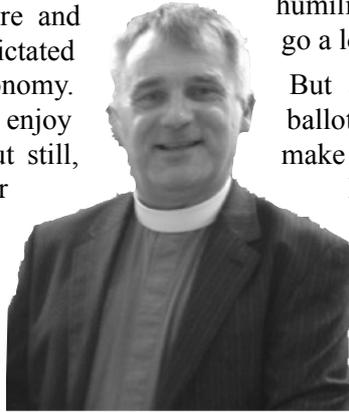
- Sat 6 Big Day Out in Forfar – Presbytery organised event for all churches in Angus
Rotary/Inner Wheel Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 7 Communion 11am
Summer Mission Painting begins Tom Long Gallery 6.30pm
- Mon 8 Pastoral Task Group – Session Room 2pm
Mission Task Group – Swanson Rooms 7pm
- Sat 13 Sunday School Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 14-Sat 20 Christian Aid week
- Tue 16 Gordon Town Mission – Swanson Rooms 7pm
- Thu 18 Reading Group - Session Room 2pm
- Sat 20 Messy Picnic 10am
General Assembly begins
Congregational Church coffee morning 10-12
- Sat 27 – Sun 28 Church open during afternoons for MoFest
St. Mary's & St. Peter's Church Coffee Morning 10-12
- Tue 30 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 1130am in Halls

June

- Fri 2 Dino Drive (Beetle drive with a difference)
Fundraiser for Summer Mission 7pm
- Sat 3 Enable Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 4 Montrose Churches Together Pentecost Service 6.30pm
St Mary's & St Peter's

Choosing Priorities

I sense that many people feel that more and more important things in life are being dictated to us, that we have less control, less autonomy. Being realistic, we are never going to enjoy complete control over our own lives but still, deep down, we favour a bit more say over important matters that affect us. We go to the polls for Council elections in May and a General Election in June. Yet, I get the impression that while most of us will want to do our bit for democracy many feel that they are a very small cog in a very large machine.



Real decisions appear to be taken by those who have their own furrow to plough with little regard to the views of the population. Am I the only one who feels that my views are being recast time and again to suit politicians' campaigning? I resent being told why I voted! There was a time when Councillors and MP's genuinely served their constituents – there are some notable exceptions who still do – but for the most part the notion of public service is a fast disappearing concept. Whatever happens in the upcoming elections I do trust that you will vote and that we may find ways to remind those with political aspirations that the people matter – not just on voting days but every

day. With the greatest of respect a little bit more humility and concern for ordinary people would go a long way.

But as well as exercising our choice at the ballot box we have an even greater choice to make – to give priority to the values of the kingdom. Power is NOT uppermost in Jesus' priorities – love is. We live in the world and we need to engage with the processes that order our society but the Bible says we have other priorities too – our overarching priority ought to be seeking to serve and follow Jesus, and with his help, to strive to establish

kingdom values among the people we live – so that we are known as those who love, care, commit, serve others for the sake of Jesus. We are not “in it” for what we get out of it. We are “in it” to love others because Jesus first loved us.

In the words of that old and very straightforward sermon I was told to put Jesus first, others next, and yourself last – J.O.Y. – Joy. Pray for those who seek office, make your choice on the ballot paper but above all seek to prioritise Jesus' values of love above all selfish ambition.

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk	Congregational Bible Passage (prov)
May 7 Graham Street	May 7 John 10:1-10
May 14 Rosehill Road & Court	May 14 John 14:1-14
May 21 Rosehill	May 21 John 3:1-14
May 28 Gindera Rd, Wishart Ave & Gardens	May 28 John 17:1-11
Jun 4 Broomfield Rd, Gdns & Cres; Rosehill Gdn	Jun 4 1 Corinthians 12:3-12

Remember...

It's now 10:40am and as I sit here I feel good for being able to get to church this morning. Last night was horrible; no matter where I sat, or stood, or lay I simply couldn't get release from the pain. I felt totally disgusted with myself for wakening my family after all the kindness and concern they had shown throughout the day.

As the intimations appeared on the wall I was conscious that even though our numbers may be smaller than we would like, there is a lot going on in our Church and my mind drifted back to Easter – just a few weeks ago. I find Holy Week an indescribably profound occasion.

I am a father and the lengths I would go to in protecting my children are limitless. Our Heavenly

Father offered His only Son to forgive our sins. At this time Jesus was mortal with all the feelings that we have now - yet he lived with the knowledge of what was to happen with grace and dignity.

Every day I remember my Lord but, to my shame, every day I also forget him. I have had spectacularly high events in my life and I have also had times of sorrow. It seems to me I only approach Jesus in times of need.

As I sat and wrestled with this truth I became aware that my pain has gone. I don't for one second suggest there was any divine intervention; it's just that my mind had been distracted from what had now become insignificant.

There are many things I pray for during my personal devotions but above all else I pray that I will never forget the sacrifice my Lord made for me...

Café Church

Our church halls are very popular on Saturday mornings as it plays host to a variety of charities and church organisations that hold Coffee Mornings for very deserving causes and anyone looking into the halls early in the morning on Easter Sunday would have been forgiven for thinking that there was an extra Coffee Morning taking place.



What was actually happening was Café Church – a short, informal relaxed service for the whole family. The theme of the service was “treasure”. During the service, the adults were given the opportunity to have a short discussion as to what treasure means to them and hearing that Jesus is the true treasure and while they were busy discussing this, the children had great fun decorating their own treasure chests to take home.

Following the service which lasted 30 mins, breakfast of cereal, bacon rolls, croissants, orange juice and tea

and coffee was served and judging by the chatter that followed, all those attending enjoyed the fellowship and sharing breakfast on the most special of days – Easter Sunday.

We hope to continue to grow Café Church and details of future Café Church dates and themes will be intimated in church and in the Steeple News.

Nyumbani Team 2017

I seem to be repeating myself year on year but yes, once again, we had a very successful and productive trip to Nyumbani in Kenya. Full of good humour and team spirit all 13 of my volunteers got out of their undoubted comfort zones and rose to the challenge of working with and for Nyumbani's HIV+ orphans.

I am very proud to say that we managed to take a very large sum of money this year, £31,200.00 to be exact and this is to be used for tertiary education, a large water project and six heifers for the village dairy. This was alongside the £3500 from my sales of African crafts which was used for the projects we did ourselves.

Because it was the largest number of volunteers I have had the pleasure of working with I split the team into two with one half going off to do maintenance (repair of broken windows) in Nyumbani Village and the other staying behind in the Home to repair and repaint the second teenage boys two storey hostel. For our second week I swapped them around and a second hostel was given the uplift alongside new guttering around reception and the nursing area whilst in the village yet more windows were re-glazed (by the

girls I might add) and the washing stations repaired where necessary. A large carport was rebuilt and the clothing store had new shelving and mountains of clothes were sorted by gender and size. Not bad for a two week stay don't you think?

Working in Nairobi was infinitely more pleasurable because for the second year running the weather has been very very hot especially in Nyumbani Village which is in a very arid part of Kenya.

A two night safari to the Masai Mara was an option for the middle weekend and six persons decided to take advantage of that and had a fine time. For those remaining I took them to a tea farm for lunch, visited David Sheldrick's elephant sanctuary, the Giraffe Park and a few other touristy sites.

These days I find it takes me a long time to recover from this endeavour which makes me certain that the time to take a step back from working trips has arrived and I have made the right decision to down tools, take off my boots and reflect happily on 14 years of service at Nyumbani. Our money has worked wonders and every penny has benefited our medically challenged orphans in one way or another. That can't be bad, I just wish I were twenty years younger!



Messy Picnic

**Saturday 20 May 2016
- 10am - 12 noon
Seafront Splash Park,
Montrose
(Children must be
accompanied by an
adult)**

Please bring your own picnic

