

STEEPLE NEWS



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“A Picture and A Prayer”

Advent is the season leading up to Christmas – a time of expectant waiting and preparation of the “coming” of Jesus. The real meaning is often lost in the business of all that requires to be done for “The Big Day” and often the chance to reflect and think about God and the promise of Jesus being with us is missed.

Retailers sell Advent Calendars to count down to Christmas and these come in a variety of forms. They all have doors to open on each day in Advent, some have a more traditional picture, some have chocolate and more recently there are even ones with candles and alcohol!

This year we are launching “A Picture and a Prayer Advent Calendar”.

Like the ones in the shops there will be a door to open each day and behind each door will be a picture **and** a prayer focussing on local community and church events. This will encourage us to stop for a moment, take time to think about our church and community and ultimately God's promise of his son Jesus. “A Picture and A Prayer” will be online at www.oldandstandrews.com and facebook at Montrose Old and St Andrew's Church. For those not able to access the internet, the pictures and prayers will be placed on the Prayer Tree in the Church.

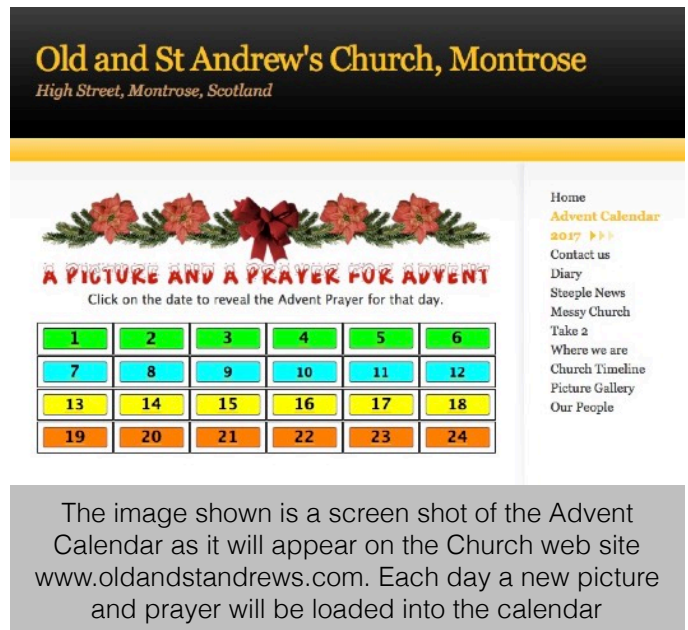


Vine Trust

Szesan Ngu, a dentist at the Links Lodge Dental Practice along with one of the dental nurses are embarking on a trip to Tanzania with the Vine Trust (an interdenominational charity supported by the Church of Scotland). They are seeking support to raise the amount of £4,000 required for their trip and intend holding various events in the community. We are to hold an Afternoon Tea on Saturday 13 January 2018 to support them. Volunteers to help in the kitchen, serve and bake will be required to assist this worthwhile cause.

Walking Group

Four of us enjoyed a run in the autumn sunshine to Newtyle, where we then walked along the old railway line. The people of Newtyle have created some good walks around the village, with booklets and maps available to explain the routes. One of the group managed to do some Christmas shopping in the village shop, then we had coffee and cake in the Old Joiners Shop in Meigle. The next walk will be on 9th December and anyone intending going should telephone me on 01674 830250. Jean Stevenson



Contacts

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The Deadline for the February Steeple News is 19th January 2018

News can be emailed to steepnews@oldandstandrews.com

Diary December

- 1 -15 Dec Christmas Post
1 – 16 Dec Crown Trail around shops leading up to service on 17th
Sat 2 Church Fayre and Gift Day 10-12
Sun 3 Rowan Court Service led by Guild 2pm
Messy Christmas 4pm – 5.30pm.
All welcome but children need to be accompanied by an adult.
Sat 9 Highland Games Coffee Morning 10-12
9 -10 Church open pm during Christmas Extravaganza
Sun 10 Carol Concert with Montrose Town Band, Song Shop & Choir
6.30pm (Donations)
Mon 11 Carol Singing around Sheltered complexes.
Meet at St Mary's & St Peter's for 7pm start.
Fri 15 The Two Pauls' Concert in support of Nyumbani – Tickets from
Hoggs or Church via Alison Stedman
Sat 16 Air Ambulance Coffee Morning 10-12 by Iris/Ann
Sat 16 Montrose Choral Concert in Hall. 7.30pm Vivaldi's Gloria
Sun 17 All Age Christmas Service with Nativity 11am
Wed 20 Schools Cluster Concert in Church. 7pm tbc
Fri 22 Lochside School Service in Church 10.15am
Montrose Academy Service in Church 12.15pm
Montrose Academy Baroque Ensemble Concert 7pm in the
Church (tbc)
Sun 24 Informal Service with Christingle Theme 11am
Watchnight Service 11.30pm Gathering Carols from 11.15pm
Mon 25 Short All Age Service for Christmas Day 10.30am
Sun 31 Christmas Message through Carols 11am Informal Communion

January 2018

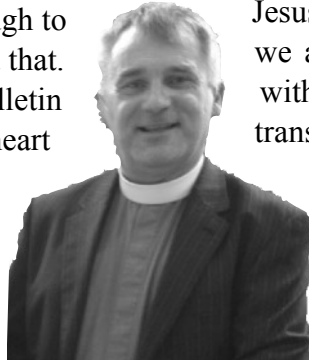
- Sat 6 Dorward House Coffee Morning 10-12
Sat 13 Afternoon Tea 2pm - Church support for Dentist/Nurse going to
Tanzania with Vine Trust.
Sat 13 Montrose Stroke Association Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 14 Messy Church – Messy Storm 4pm – 5.30pm in Halls
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult
18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Steeple 12.45pm – 1pm
Weekdays
Sat 20 Youth Group Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 21 Service at Carnegie Court 2pm
Mon 22 Kirk Session Keir Room 7.15pm
Sat 12 Montrose Choral Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 28 Communion 11am All welcome.
Mon 29 Mission Task Group 7pm
Tue 30 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls
Sun 4 Feb We are at early stages in making arrangements for Souper
Sunday(ae) – Service followed lunch

Light to all the world

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a glorious light.”

There is certainly a lot of darkness around. Days are getting shorter and some nights have been particularly dark. That in itself is enough to dampen our spirits, but it goes beyond that. Trouble looms with every news bulletin and we're well aware that many a heart locally is heavy with sorrow or worry. Somehow, we need to find ways of bringing the light of the good news of Jesus' coming (and his ongoing presence with us) into the dark world of 2017 and beyond. It's not that we can wave a magic wand and all our troubles fly away to be replaced by joy and gladness. Nevertheless, we have a very positive message to proclaim – one that people could do with hearing, one that would make a significant difference to people's lives and our community.

All was not sweetness and light when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Indeed, God's people were a very low ebb – socially, economically and spiritually. God sent his Son into the world – not because things were good, but because they weren't. We have to be realistic – things are far



from how God would want them to be – we may sometimes feel as though standing up for Jesus is a tough ask – but God has never rescinded his commitment to love us nor has Jesus reneged on his promise to be with us always.

You and I know something of the love of Jesus – that is a tremendous privilege – but we also have a responsibility to share that with others. A tiny flickering candle can transform a room that is in pitch darkness. I suspect we underestimate the impact our faith and love might make to other people and collectively to our community. Weak and fragile though we may consider our faith to be, together and empowered by the King of kings, the Light of the World we can make a real difference.

Whatever else you have planned for Christmas this year let's be open to receive the light of God's love and with his equipping do our utmost to share it with others – may our neighbours experience the gift of God, Jesus, the Light to lighten all the world.

A very Happy Christmas and every blessing for 2018.

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk

Dec 3 Newhame Rd, Borrowfield School
Dec 10 Langley Ave, Gannochy Crescent
Dec 17 Dalhousie Terr, Westwood Walk
Dec 24 Newmanswalls Ave, Aulton Way
Dec 31 Baillie Norrie Crescent
Jan 7 Provost Mitchell Road
Jan 14 Kennedy Avenue
Jan 21 Mearns Drive
Jan 28 Angus Drive
Feb 4 Morven Ave, Lunan Ave

Congregational Bible Passage (prov)

Dec 3 Isaiah 60:1-5
Dec 10 Mark 1:1-8
Dec 17 John 1:6-9,14
Dec 24 Luke 1:26-38
Dec 31 Luke 2:22-40
Jan 7 Mark 1:4-11
Jan 14 John 1:43-51
Jan 21 Mark 1:14-20
Jan 28 Mark 1:21-28
Feb 4 Matthew 25:35-40

Thank you

A very big thank you to everyone who has worked so hard for Old & St Andrew's over the year and who will during Advent. Much is done unseen but we are grateful and remember – Jesus said “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.”

Flower Calendar 2018

The flower calendar for 2018 has been finalised and there is a copy now available on the notice board.

It's Messy Christmas!



Throughout the period of Advent there will be a Messy Crown Trail. Messy Crown Trail Leaflets are being distributed to all primary and nursery schools in Montrose, Hillside and Ferryden with an invitation being extended to all children to take part. Local shops in the High Street/Murray Street have been approached and have very kindly agreed to enter into the spirit of the trail by having a crown displayed in their shop window. The crowns all have a letter on them and the children are being asked not only to find the crown but to find the letter on the crown. When all the crowns have been spotted the letters spell out a secret message! The children are invited to colour in the nativity picture on the form prior to returning it to the Messy Church Post Box in their school or post it in the letterbox in the door of the church. There will be a small prize for the winner drawn from the leaflets returned and this will take place during the

Church Service on Christmas Eve.

While this activity is being done with children in mind, we hope that members of the congregation will also enjoy crown spotting while doing their Christmas Shopping and extra leaflets will be available at the Church Fayre and in the church.



Messy Christmas takes place on Sunday 3rd December. For some of the children attending this is the first time they will have heard the Christmas Story, it is an experience not to be missed.

At Messy Church we try to encourage the sense of belonging to the church family and as such we are extending an invitation to the congregation to come along to "Messy Christmas" for a wonderful family afternoon of fellowship, the Nativity Story and Christmas Crafts. We really do hope you can come along and join us however for catering purposes, we would ask that you let us know you are coming.



The Two Pauls

(Paul Sullivan and Paul Hastie-Gray)

sing
Christmas

Montrose Old and
St Andrew's Church

Friday 15th December
7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Tickets £12.00
including refreshments
available from Henry Hogg Newsagent

Proceeds in aid of NYUMBANI HIV+ orphans

Diamond Wedding

Netta and Harry Watson celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 5 October. They were married in Rosebank Church in Nairn by Rev Thomas Morrison.

