

# Steeple News



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## Rev Ian Gray

As indicated in the last Steeple News Ian Gray will be working with us as our Ordained Local Minister on a part time basis. The Presbytery will meet for a Service of Introduction on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7pm. A goodly turnout of the congregation is requested to show our support and welcome. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.



Future Focus is not “just for Elders”. It is for everyone connected with the Church. I hope we may get a lot of support from elders, task group members, and others in the congregation who have a real feel to

shape the Church to meet the challenges of mission, worship, pastoral care and “support services” in the future. For those with access to the internet there are some very good short video clips available (link below) which give us some really warm and complimentary comments from congregations which have benefitted from the short programme.

Please do come along to the Future Focus meetings. They are for anyone connected with Old & St Andrew's who has an interest in shaping the congregation's vision for the future. There are three meetings –

- 1) 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.15pm where we will draw a timeline and look at where we've come from.
- 2) 13<sup>th</sup> Mar at 7.15pm where we will consider where we are and how things are now (health check) and
- 3) 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 10am – mid afternoon where we attempt to do a “Vision in a day” and set out the first steps we might take to begin to implement it. (Lunch will be served). We will have the benefit of two facilitators from the Mission & Discipleship Council of the Church.

Please do come even if you can't manage all the meetings. There are leaflets available and some video clips online of congregations who've done Future Focus before.

See website <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/mission/future-focus/future-focus-video-faq>

**Contacts**

**Minister**

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Tel. 672447

**Session Clerk**

Mrs Thelma Robb  
Tel. 672263

**Assistant Session Clerks**

Elaine Allan & Willie Sinclair

**Treasurer**

Susan Henderson  
Tel. 676383

**Beadle**

Mrs Linda Watt  
Tel. 672143

**Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

Elaine Allan  
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**Church Secretary**

Mrs Aileen Smith  
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Thursdays 10-12am  
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**Roll Keeper**

Hazel Ritchie  
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**Organists/Accompanists**

Beth Wyllie  
Ann Stewart  
Marjory Sutton  
Evan Cruickshank  
Fraser McGlynn  
Shona Macfarlane

**Flower Convener**

Willie Sinclair  
Tel. 675671

**Tea Convener**

Jennifer Nicoll  
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**Hall Bookings**

Valerie Morris  
Tel. 671343

**Task Groups**

Administration - Thelma Robb  
Fabric - Elaine McLean  
Finance - Forbes Inglis  
Mission - Elaine Allan  
Pastoral -  
Worship - Elaine McLean  
Youth - Aileen Scott

**Messy Church**

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**The Deadline for the April Steeple News is  
16th March 2018**

News can be emailed to [steeplenews@oldandstandrews.com](mailto:steeplenews@oldandstandrews.com)  
or given to the editors.

**Diary - February**

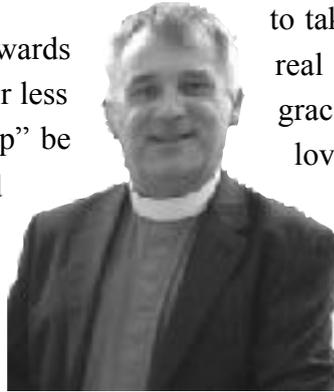
- Tue 27 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls  
Future Focus – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting 7.15pm in the Halls

**March**

- Fri 2 World Day of Prayer Services  
10.30 for 11am and 7.30pm at Hillside Church
- Sat 3 Guild Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 4 Service at Murray Court led by Minister 2pm
- Sat 10 Scottish Bible Society - Soup & Sandwich Lunch,  
Columba Hall 12-2pm
- Sat 10 National Trust Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 11 Summer Mission Launch  
Pulpit Swap Sunday Montrose Parish Grouping tbc
- Tue 13 Future Focus – 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting 7.15pm in the Halls
- Thu 15 Reading Group 2pm Session Room
- Sat 17 Hillside WRI Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 18 Messy Church – Messy Easter 4pm – 5.30pm  
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Thu 22 Service of Introduction for Rev Ian Gray – in the Church – 7pm
- Sat 24 Future Focus – 3<sup>rd</sup> Session 10am Keir Rm,  
Lunch & planning forward in hall in afternoon (finish  
mid afternoon)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Montrose Scouts Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 25 Clocks go forward  
Palm Sunday - Informal Communion after the service  
Pilgrimage walk Hillside – Ferryden via Old & St Andrew's 2pm
- Mon 26 Kirk Session (main business approve accounts) Keir  
Room 7.15pm
- Tue 27 Church Coffee Morning 10am – 1130am in the hall
- Thu 29 Maundy Thursday service 7pm with Communion
- Fri 30 Lochside School service tbc  
Last Hour Service in Church 2pm  
MCT Good Friday Service in Baptist Church 7.30pm
- Sat 31 Montrose Magic Group Coffee Morning 10-12
- Sun 1 Easter Sunday  
Café Church Easter Breakfast in Hall 9.30am  
All Age Easter Service with Montrose Town Band 11am

**The Road to the Cross**

As we journey through Lent towards Easter could I ask you to think rather less about what you might be “giving up” be it chocolate or some other treat and more about preparation for Easter? Lent is really about the road to the cross, the setting aside of time and thought so that in a spiritual sense we might accompany our Lord on his road to Calvary.



attempts we can make in the lead up to Easter to take in the whole package is likely to pay real dividends in our appreciation of the grace of God and our response to Jesus' love.

And there is a lesson for us too. As we seek to live out lives that reflect well on our Lord and Saviour we will almost certainly experience setbacks, let downs and rejection. It is

hard to accept sometimes, especially when you feel that you are doing your level best to be faithful, but walking the road with Jesus in this day and age isn't easy and sometimes it is really tough. We don't need to enjoy the hard knocks, misunderstandings even rejection but we should be prepared for them and not taken aback. We need to remember that Jesus has promised to be there for us always, especially when things are hard because we are trying to be true to him. And perhaps we need to be more open to pray and receive help from one another. It is worth it!

Let's go forward in faith, towards Easter and beyond, supportive of one another, conscious of the Lord's presence and power, but recognising that all will not be plain sailing, that the cross has to come before the crown.

We can't just jump to Easter and bypass Good Friday or we fail to understand the whole point. In the words of the old hymn “If you will not bear a cross, you can't wear a crown”. This isn't being morbid, nor is it Presbyterianism trying to squash joy and celebration. It's a plea to take the whole package into account – Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the warm welcome he received, the welcome turning sour as the authorities stirred the crowds to reject him, his parting from the disciples in the Upper Room, the night of anguish in Gethsemane, Calvary – his suffering and death – and only later the joy of new life and resurrection and hope on Easter Day. We can't fully “get” the message unless we grasp all that God was doing in Christ at Easter. So any

| <b>Prayer Walk</b>              | <b>Congregational Bible Passage (prov)</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Mar 4 Whitson Way, Silver Way   | Mar 4 John 2:13-22                         |
| Mar 11 Adams Way, Lamb Way      | Mar 11 John 3:14-21                        |
| Mar 18 Baird Way, Fettes Way    | Mar 18 John 12:20-33                       |
| Mar 25 Coronation Avenue        | Mar 25 Mark 11:1-11                        |
| Apr 1 Ben More Ave, Garvock Ave | Apr 1 John 20:1-18                         |

**Reading Group**

From donations to our Book Exchange we were able to send £45 to the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance on your behalf. Many thanks to everyone who kindly supports us in this venture.



The next Messy Church is on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March from 4 – 5.30pm in the church hall and is “Messy Easter”. An exciting

and fun afternoon is planned including an Easter Treasure Hunt.

An invitation is extended to all to come along however 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.



## Café Church



Advance notice that there will be an Easter Café Church in the Church Halls at 9.30am on Easter Sunday. An exciting morning is being planned which will involve adults from the congregation and families from Messy Church.

As has become our tradition on Easter Sunday, breakfast of bacon rolls, croissants, cereal, orange juice and tea and coffee will be served. Jesus invited his disciples to “come and eat breakfast” - why don't you invite a friend to “come and have breakfast?”



**We can convert unwanted items into Bibles, Children's Bibles & New Testaments In 200 countries worldwide**

### **WANTED**

**Stamps – loose, albums, First Day Covers**  
**Coins – British, Foreign and loose change from foreign holidays**  
**Clocks – in working order, watches – pocket and wrist. Watch chains. Communion Tokens. Jewellery – Gold and Silver rings, bracelets, brooches, necklaces including scrap gold/silver (broken chains, earrings, etc). Costume Jewellery.**  
**Gold Sovereigns, Silver Tea Services, Solid silver cutlery, Medals.**  
**Paintings. Collectables – dog and cat medallions, nurses silver belt buckles, ring boxes, jewellery boxes, pill boxes, silver serviette rings, complete stamp albums, Kiltwear accessories – dirks, sgian dubhs, kilt belt buckles, brooches, silver buttons, silver or gold cufflinks, kiltpins, traditional Scottish and Celtic Jewellery. Cigarette and Tea cards. Old banknotes.**  
**Cameras - digital only. Telescopes.**

**Please Note: We cannot take old clothes, shoes, kilts or spectacles as we do not have a market for them.**

For more information please speak with your Bible Society Church Representative:

**Helen Boyd**

## **Montrose Churches Together Scottish Bible Society Fundraiser 2018**

This year we are supporting the SBS in raising money to supply Bibles in over 200 countries. SBS call it Operation Family and we are asking you to have a Springclean in aid of this project. Please see posters in Church for more information. A box will be provided in the Church vestibule for collections of donations.

We are also having a Soup and Sandwich lunch in the Columba hall on Saturday 10 March from 12 - 2 pm. Items can also be brought along to the lunch and it is hoped that all donations be received by the end of March.

*Helen Boyd*