

Steeple News

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Armistice Bells

Church bells rang out spontaneously across the country on November 11th 1918 marking the end of The First World War. The signing of the armistice brought an end to a war which had resulted in millions of deaths both in armed forces and civilians across the world. To commemorate 100 years since the end of hostilities, Martin Suckling has composed a piece of music entitled Meditation (after Donne). Martin Suckling is a senior lecturer at the University of York and an associate composer with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra.



Martin has taken his inspiration for the new piece from John Donne's 'Meditation XV11'. This is probably Donne's most famous work and the source of two well known quotes 'no man is an island' and 'ask not for whom the bell tolls'. Donne's meditation is instigated by the tolling of a funeral bell and one of the main themes of the work is that we are not isolated but the whole mankind is interconnected.

Martin decided to incorporate bells into his work and he came up with the unique idea of asking Scots, both at home and abroad, to send in recordings of their local church bells. A recording of Old and St Andrew's bells has been submitted along with many others and will be used as the electronic accompaniment to the orchestra as it plays the new piece.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra will perform the world premiere of the music in St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow in early November. More information can be found online at armisticebells.com.

As well the commissioning of the new piece, The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers is attempting to recruit 1400 new bell ringers from across the country. This recruitment drive is in honour of the 1400 bell ringers who died in service during the Great War. In July, an update from the CCCBR website indicated that 854 new bell ringers had been registered. Further details on this can be found online at ccabr.org.uk.

Valerie Morris

A BRIEF HISTORY

The bells in the steeple have an interesting history. There are four bells - the largest and oldest being **Big Peter** which is 3 feet in diameter. It was the bell which rang the hour, summoned worshippers to the services and signalled the 10 o'clock curfew. Big Peter was named after **Peter Ostens** the bell founder who cast it in Rotterdam in 1676. He was also responsible for a bell at Kinneff Church north of Inverbervie in 1679 and another at Banchory in Deeside in 1664.

The smaller bells in the steeple were cast in London by Thomas Mears of the renowned Whitechapel Foundry between 1801 and 1836.

(More on page 4)

Contacts

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**The Deadline for the November Steeple News
is 19th October 2018**

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

Diary

- Sun 30 Sep Harvest Thanksgiving 11am
Sat 6 Oct Montrose Community Council Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 7 Oct Service at Rowan Court 2pm
Thu 11 Oct Guild - Keir Room 2pm
Sat 13 Oct Voluntary Action Angus Coffee Morning 10-12
Thu 18 Oct Schools Cluster Concert in Church 7pm
Sat 20 Oct RNLI Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 21 Oct Service at Caledonian Ct led by Guild 2pm
Parish Grouping Songs of Praise in Ferryden Church 6.30pm tbc
Tue 23 Oct Mission TG 7pm
Wed 24 Oct Parish Grouping Steering Group Ferryden Halls 7.30pm
Thu 25 Oct Friendship Group - Keir Room 2pm
Sat 27 Oct British Legion Poppies Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 28 Oct Informal Communion
(Remember that the clocks go back)
Tue 30 Oct Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am
Sat 3 Nov Together We Pray Event
Sun 4 Nov Messy Church – Messy Names 4pm-5.30pm
All welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Advance notice:-

Sun 16th Dec Church Congregational Christmas Lunch

Prayer Walk

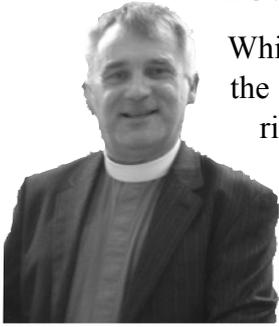
Oct 7 Caledonia Pl, St and Court
Oct 14 Provost Reid Road
Oct 21 Ferry Road
Oct 28 The Harbour, Glaxo & RNLI
Nov 4 Barrack Road

Congregational Bible Passage

(provisional)

Oct 7 Mark 9:38-50
Oct 14 Mark 10:17-31
Oct 21 Mark 10:35-45
Oct 28 Mark 10:46-52
Nov 4 Mark 12:28-34

Love your neighbour



Which comes first the chicken or the egg? There's a place for riddles and I've no doubt that Christians like a good riddle as well as the next person. But sometimes we are faced with imponderables that are not merely amusing but are

quite serious. I'm glad I'm not a politician – especially these days – there seems to be massive decisions being made that impact upon many people often in an adverse way. The choice is often not between a good and bad outcome but between poor outcomes and poorer ones or attempting to mitigate the effects of undesirable outcomes all round. They need our prayers.

Even in the Church we are not immune from having to make difficult decisions. We need to watch the “pennies” of course but perhaps what is more to the fore just now is the use of our time and the demands that are made upon the time both on ministers and volunteers both from within the Church and externally. The Church is an organisation and like all others these days is subject to a raft of regulatory requirements: Health and Safety, Safeguarding, Tax, Employment, Data Protection to name but a few – we simply can't afford to ignore these. But we need to keep them in perspective and not allow

our obligations to the state to detract us from our obligations to God.

When we are up against it there is a tendency to batten down the hatches (understandable in all the wind we've just had) but while we need to look after ourselves and our congregation we need take a lead from Jesus' teaching. To him neighbours are not just those who live beside us but those who are in need. We need to develop the pastoral work among our congregation and to involve more people in this worthy endeavour but the need to reach out beyond the congregation is stark – there are so many in our community who have little meaningful contact or understanding of Jesus and the faith.

Loving our neighbour may involve some tough decisions but in our current context I have no doubt that while we need to do our best with the governance issues the biblical priority should be on advancing the kingdom of God and while we need to work on supporting the existing congregation the missionary imperative remains paramount – Go into all the world and make them my disciples (the “world” includes Montrose!).

Pray that God would give us all the wherewithal to do what he requires of us and the discernment to know what to leave undone.

Ian A McLean

Together We Pray.

Together We Pray is a national prayer initiative, set in motion by the General Assembly in 2017. Together We Pray is a call to the Church to join together in prayer.

This year, the General Assembly asked the Church to continue its focus on prayer and to pray about the life and missional work of the Church of Scotland.

We want to think about each other, our communities and the future of this Church as it responds and adapts to the changing landscapes of the world today. As part of Together We Pray, we

are encouraging you to support a National Day of Prayer to be held on 3 November 2018 in our halls.

The meeting will commence at 09:00 am with a light breakfast which would last about 30 minutes.

The remaining 30 minutes will consist of prayers, meditation and discussion.

More information will be issued soon but in the mean time, if you are hoping to come along, please let Elaine Allan (01674 675764) or Doug Blacklaws (01674 676103) know so we can plan for catering requirements.

All will be most welcome.



We see the steeple from all corners of the town and hear the bells as they strike the hour, but few of us have ever seen the inside of the belfry and seen the old wooden beams that support the bells.



Church Summer opening

Have You ever stopped to think what visitors to our Church during the Summer Opening really think about our building and our volunteer guides? Let me share with You some of the comments noted in the visitors' book. (about the building) **Stunning, beautiful, illuminating, cool, unusual & lovely,** (about our people) **good people, a warm welcome and thank you for your open door.** All words and phrases I hope you'll agree gladden the heart.

This year again we welcomed over 200 people through our doors and fielded many diverse questions about Montrose in general, the state of the Worldwide Church and of course family history. This year saw a new departure for us with the introduction of a Memories Book – early days yet but we have a few recollections about weddings in the Church, visiting the Rev.

Kennedy for Afternoon Tea and life growing up in 1950's Montrose as the son of the lighthouse keeper.!

As a forward-looking Church which aims to be at the heart of the community we don't just open during the summer months. For many years now, we have opened our doors and extended a warm welcome to the many visitors to the Mo Fest and our next scheduled opening, unless there is any other special event, will be in December during the Christmas Extravaganza.

If you enjoy meeting people, talking about the Church, and sharing your memories of Montrose and can make a good cup of tea! Then why not join the Summer Opening team next year.

For more information please contact Willie Sinclair 01674 675671



Messy Church Invites You



To a Social Evening and a Body Shop Party in the British Legion on Friday 19th October at 7pm.

This event is the perfect chance to socialise and make a start on your Christmas Shopping.

The next Messy Church is on Sunday 4th November and is "Messy Names"