

Steeple News



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Together We Pray.

Together We Pray is an initiative introduced by the General Assembly a few years ago. We, in Montrose Old and St Andrews, have enjoyed this event since the initiative was first implemented and we would commend a visit by anyone who is considering joining us. We will meet on 2nd November in the Keir Room (Bottom Hall) at 09:00am where a light breakfast of croissant and pastries along with tea or coffee will be available.

Following on from there anyone who wishes can read out a prayer from those on the table, say their own prayer, or simply listen and enjoy Christian fellowship. The choice is yours. All will be most welcome.

The **Flower Calendar for 2020**, listing all those willing to donate flowers for **Sunday Worship**, is about to be updated.

If anyone would like their name to be included on the calendar for next year – **as there a few free dates**: please contact; Willie Sinclair 675671 or Helen Campbell 673667



**Advance notice of the
Congregational Christmas Lunch –
put the date in your diary now!**



A Picture and a Prayer Advent Calendar

The dark nights have arrived and soon the Advent Season will be upon us.

We will again be repeating the “Picture and Prayer Advent Calendar” which focuses on community and church events throughout Advent. Suggestions for themes and short prayers to be included in the calendar would be very welcome and should be given to either Elaine Allan or Willie Sinclair.



Christmas Angels

Our Host of Knitted Angels continues to grow as does the excitement of when they will appear in the town – The next step is to “hang” the angels around different locations in the town, if you can help with this stage of the missional project please contact Elaine Allan.

Contacts

Minister

The Rev. Dr. Ian A McLean
The Manse, 2 Rosehill Road,
Montrose
Tel. 672447

Ordained Local Minister

Rev Ian Gray

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
Tel. 675764

Church Secretary

Mrs Aileen Smith
Office hours:-
Thursdays 10-12am
Tel. 676270

Roll Keeper

Hazel Ritchie
Tel. 671757

Organists/Accompanists

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

Flower Convener

Willie Sinclair
Tel. 675671

Tea Convener

Jennifer Nicoll
Tel. 672558

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

Elaine Allan
Tel. 675764

Steeple News Editors

Peter & Kathleen Strachan
Tel. 675537

The Deadline for the December Steeple News is 15th November 2019

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

Diary

- Tue 29 Oct Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am
Sat 2 Nov Prayer Breakfast in Keir Room 9am – 10am
Sat 2 Nov Montrose Air Station Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 3 Nov Messy Church – Messy Fireworks 4pm-5.30pm
All welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Sat 9 Nov Hillside Bowling Club Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 10 Nov Remembrance Service 10.50am
Mon 11 Nov Short Act of Remembrance War Memorial 10.50am
Mon 11 Nov Kirk Session Keir Room 7.15pm
Tue 12 Nov Safeguarding Panel
Tue 12 Nov Chatty Knitters - 10am Session Room
Wed 13 Nov Montrose Churches Together Castle Street 7.30pm
Thu 14 Nov Guild Songs of Praise 2.00pm Keir Room
Thu 14 Nov Joint prayer meeting at 7.30pm in the Keir Room (see note P3)
Nov 16 Nov Guilds Coffee Morning 10-12
Thu 21 Nov Reading Group - 2pm Session Room
Sat 23 Nov Floral Art Club Coffee Morning 10-12
Sun 24 Nov Communion Sunday 11am
Mon 25 Nov Admin Task Group Session Room 2pm
Tue 26 Nov Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am
Thu 28 Nov Friendship Group -Musical Afternoon with Academy Pupils
Sun 1 Dec Advent Sunday
Service at Rowan Court 2pm
Sat 7 Dec Church Fair and Gift Day Coffee Morning 10-12
There are a number of other meetings and services whose dates were not available going to press.

The Society have launched two initiatives recently which we encourage you to try have a look at.

Not only are they interesting in their own right they also serve to enlighten and provide direction in our Christian thinking.

Copies of the Society magazine – Alive & Active – are available in the vestibule together with – Twin your Bible – which explains the rationale behind our distribution of Bibles for those who want, but cannot get access to a copy of their own.

If none are available, please contact an elder who will try and source a copy for you

Many thanks. Scottish Bible Society.



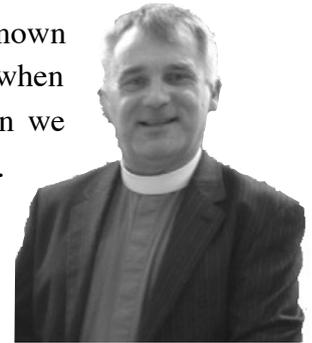
A New Hope

That phrase may ring bells for those who are/were into the Star Wars films, being the subtitle of the origin film starring Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher and Alec Guinness. I realise that such films are not everyone's cup of tea. However, hope ought to be a major thread running through the lives of all Christians.

We live in an age of unprecedented change. The rate of change seems to be increasing and countries not only individuals are sensing that they have less say over the changes. Uncertainty is the norm – and it's scary. Coupled with the changes that come personally, in us and to our families and friends it ramps up both the practical pressures on us to come to terms with change, and the emotional stresses and strains that inevitably follow. We can feel helpless to deal with the relentless march of change, and changes to change.

Traditionally, many have seen the Church and even God as constants. A better reading of scripture would suggest that God is a God of change – a force for improved relations, for practical application of love, and for grace, mercy and forgiveness to displace power and might. What remains constant is the love of God in Christ and Jesus' commitment to be with us -

not just when things are known or are going well, but when things are uncertain, when we are under real pressure. That is a firm foundation which cannot be taken from us, no matter what external pressures home in on us. Jeremiah speaks



of a future and a hope – not only for his people's return from exile but for a new relationship with God. For Christians, Jesus is seen as that new hope – a future that is grounded on his self-giving love, fostered by the Spirit's presence among us and underwritten by God's absolute commitment to keep on loving us. Hope for heaven, hope for a positive future on earth, hope for the here and now as it is given new meaning and purpose with and for Jesus.

We will never like everything that is going on round about us, but this is the time and place where we have been set. Don't despair. Don't give up on the world – God hasn't. Instead, hold fast to the promises of God in Jesus – believe him when he says I will be with you always and that there is a future and a hope – and live, faithfully to share in making that hope a reality.

Ian A McLean

Prayer Walk Nov 3 Glenesk Ave, Glenprosen St Nov 10The Armed Services Nov 17Tayock Av, Conanbank Nov 24Glenlethnot Pl., Glenclova Pl Dec 1 Glenogil St, Glenisla Road	Congregational Bible Passage (provisional) Nov 3 Luke 19:1-10 Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Nov 10Haggai 2:1-9; 2 Thess 2:13-17 Nov 17Luke 4:16-27 Nov 24Luke 23:33-43 Dec 1 Isaiah 2:1-5
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Joint Prayer Meeting
There will be a joint prayer meeting with the other Church of Scotland Churches in the town on Thursday 14th November at 7.30pm in the Keir Room for "My Place" which is the Youth Project/Worker.



The Church of Scotland Presbytery of Angus

"Could somebody please ...?"

Alison Andrews, Oathlaw/Tannadice Worship Team

One very hot summer when I was about ten, we had lots of relatives visiting. Every afternoon, we would settle comfortably on the lawn for tea, and there would inevitably be something that needed fetching from the house. My mother would look brightly around the family and say "Could somebody please refill the teapot/bring some more milk/find my sunglasses/set a wasp trap ...?" Maybe it was because I was the youngest, but the Somebody who ran the errands always seemed to be me. I thought I was the only one who noticed this, but at the end of one teatime Uncle Hugh winked at me and said, "I don't know where this family would be without Somebody." It was nice to be appreciated.

In adult life, there are often situations where things need to be done but it isn't clear who is going to do them. There may well be a person whose job description covers the area in question, but that person is often so overloaded that they just can't manage.

In the Church of Scotland, we are facing a serious shortage of ministers – where once

there might have been six ministers, now there are three. They just cannot carry out the workload of their predecessors. Members of all our congregations have a wide range of skills. The obvious next step is to use our skills to be the Somebody who helps fill the gaps where the ministers can't.

You don't need to be a minister to visit people at home or in hospital; organise events for children and young people; do Bible readings and lead prayers in church; and even plan and lead an entire church service. You don't even need to be an Elder. What you probably do need, if you aren't already involved in these things, is support and confidence-building that you can do it! That's where the Presbytery Training Team comes in. If you are willing to be Somebody in the church family, please consider joining one of the training sessions on offer. These sessions provide guidance on the role to be carried out and an opportunity to share experiences with colleagues from churches around Presbytery. I can tell you from experience that the confidence-building really works.

Please also consider inviting people you know, who you think would be good at some of the many tasks that need doing. Details about the programme have been circulated to Session Clerks but if you'd like to know more, please contact Alex Rae: fourraes@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS FAIR & GIFT DAY

Saturday 7th December
Church Hall 10-12

Coffee/Tea + Christmas pie £2.00

STALLS:- Gifts, Craft, Books,
Cake & Candy, Toys

The Church Hall will be open on
Friday 6th December

6-8pm

when contributions to the stalls will be
gratefully received.

Gift envelopes and Christmas Cards may
also be brought to the Sale.

CHRISTMAS POST

The Church Christmas Card deliveries
for **Montrose, Hillside and Ferryden**
only will run from
30th Nov - 13th December
25p per card.

Collection boxes will be placed in the
Church Vestibule,

Henry Hoggs - High Street,
Scotmid - Borrowfield

All proceeds will go to
Church Funds

Contact Valerie Morris 671343 if you
would like to help with this worthwhile
activity.