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## It's Almost Time for Christmas Angels

We are almost there (thanks to the volunteers who came along to our Angel Workshop pictured below) and the excitement is building - our hosts of Angels are to appear in different areas of Montrose early in the morning of Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December. If you are able to help distribute these around the town please contact any member of the Mission Task Group.

Each individual angel has a card from the church attached to it with the message saying "we bring good news" and "please take me home and hang on your Christmas Tree".

Thanks to all who have contributed in any way to this missional exercise. It has been wonderful to have so many people involved and to see the angels grow in numbers - let's hope when the people of Montrose wake up on 21<sup>st</sup> December they are pleasantly surprised when they see the hosts of angels around the town and that they are touched by the message of good news that they bring.



**Old and St Andrews Church**  
**Congregational Christmas Lunch**  
**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019**  
**12.30pm in Church Halls**  
**All welcome**  
**Tickets available from duty elders.**  
**(Donation on the day)**

### Musical Events in the Church in December

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** Schools Cluster Concert - 7pm

Leader - Beth Wyllie

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** Montrose Choral Concert.-7.30pm

Conductor - Adam Baliga

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Montrose Academy Baroque

Ensemble Concert 7pm

Leader - Beth Wyllie

### Gareth Davies-Jones Christmas Acoustic Tour

Montrose South &  
Ferryden Church

*Come and hear Gareth present Christmas carols that have echoed through the centuries alongside fresh arrangements and his original Christmas music*

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
7.30pm  
Tickets £6 from  
Aileen Scott here  
Alan Fraser 07909336247  
Or Pay at the Door

Christmas Invitations to get you in the mood

### 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

Adam Baliga  
Ann Stewart  
Beth Wyllie  
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 February Steeple News is 17th January 2020

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

### Diary

30 Nov -13 Dec Christmas Post

- Sun 1 Dec Rowan Court Service 2pm  
Sat 7 Dec Church Fair and Gift Day - Church Hall 10-12  
Sun 8 Dec Messy Christmas 4pm – 6pm.  
All welcome but children need to be accompanied by an adult.  
Carol Concert with Montrose Town Band, Song Shop & Choir  
6.30pm (Donations)  
Mon 9 Dec Carol Singing around Sheltered complexes.  
Meet at St Mary's & St Peter's 6.55pm for 7pm start.  
Schools Cluster Concert in Church. 7pm  
Sat 14 Dec Hillside Scouts Coffee Morning 10-12  
Montrose Choral Concert. Church, 7.30pm  
Sun 15 Dec Congregational Christmas Lunch after service. Tickets for  
catering.  
Wed 18 Dec Service at Fordmill 1030am  
Montrose Academy Baroque Ensemble Concert 7pm in the  
Church  
Fri 20 Dec Lochside School Service in Church time tbc 10 or 10.15am  
Montrose Academy Service in Church 12.15pm  
Sat 21 Dec No Coffee Morning  
Sun 22 Dec All Age Christmas Service 11am  
Tue 24 Dec Watchnight Service 11.30pm Gathering Carols from  
11.15pm  
Wed 25 Dec Short All Age Service for Christmas Day 10.30am  
Sun 29 Dec Christmas Message through Carols 11am. No Informal  
Communion

### 2020

- Sat 4 Jan Dorward House Coffee Morning 10-12  
Thu 9th Jan Guild - 2.00pm Theme - Companions on the Road  
Sat 11 Jan Montrose Stroke Club Coffee Morning 10-12  
Mon 13 Jan Gordon Town Mission Session Room 7pm.  
Sat 18 Jan Youth Group Coffee Morning 10-12  
18-25 Jan Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Steeple 12.45pm – 1pm  
Weekdays  
Sun 19 Jan Service at Carnegie Court 2pm  
Mon 20 Jan Kirk Session Keir Room 7.15pm  
Thu 23 Jan Friendship Group - Neil Werninck slides  
Sat 25 Jan Montrose & Dist Choral Coffee Morning 10-12  
Sun 26 Jan Communion 11am All welcome.  
Messy Church 4pm – 5.30pm in Halls  
All welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult  
Tue 28 Jan Church Coffee Morning 10am – 11.30am Halls

**Towards the Light**

It's getting dark quite early now, later in the morning before it's daylight and some days it's hardly light at all. It can really get us down and even if we aren't seriously affected it often has a dampening effect on us – casts a cloud and just makes life seem more dreary and difficult. (Apologies to those for whom this is far more problematic – maybe you can help us all be more understanding?)



On top of lack of daylight we all have 'dark days', when due to all manner of circumstances we find life a struggle, heavy and daunting. That's true of us as individuals and it's also true as a community, even society – there can all be facing 'dark days' together, maybe without realising it. Am I right in thinking there's something of that just now? Let's face it, I don't see a lot of evidence of happy go lucky, bouncy sentiment!

Well, there was 'deep darkness' around in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judah too. They were occupied by the Romans – heavily taxed, sanctioned and if truth be told they felt that God was remote, far away.

But things were going to change dramatically! God had promised them light – the Messiah was coming imminently – albeit in a most unexpected way. The child to be born to an unknown young couple from the backwoods was to be the Light of the world, the Saviour Son of God – light in the darkness for sure.

Their troubles would not disappear, life would still have its fill of challenges but there was light at the end of the tunnel, a real hope founded on the promise and presence of God. And that's true for us too. In the very real stresses and strains of modern living where the relevance of faith is called into question and we face so much darkness we have access to the Light of the world, to Jesus – and we need to hold on to it and not allow our faith and hope to be diminished. Jesus is among us, Jesus is here! The light can't be extinguished. In your dark days, in society's darkness let's be sure to hold on to the light, hold fast faith and be encouraged to see and know God at work in the world – the world he loved enough to send his only Son to love and save.

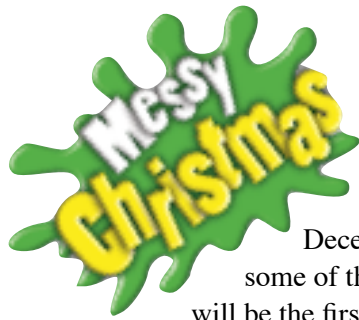
May you and your loved ones know the love and light of God this Christmas and throughout 2020.

*Ian A McLean*

<b>Prayer Walk</b>	<b>Congregational Bible Passage (prov)</b>
Dec 1 Glenogil St, Glenisla Road	Dec 1 Isaiah 2:2-5
Dec 8 Sharpe Pl, Brechin Road	Dec 8 Isaiah 11:1-10
Dec 15 Panter and Renny Cres	Dec 15 Isaiah 35:1-10
Dec 22 Tailyour Cres, Gardyne St	Dec 22 Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 29 Graham and Borrowfield Cres	Dec 29 Matthew 2:13-23
Jan 5 Borrowfield Road	Jan 5 John 1:10-18
Jan 12 Macnab Cres, Lochside Cres	Jan 12 Matthew 3:13-17
Jan 19 Distillery View	Jan 19 John 1:29-42
Jan 26 Newhame Rd, Borrowfield School	Jan 26 Matthew 4:12-23
Feb 2 Langley Ave, Gannochy Cres	Feb 2 Matthew 5:1-12

**Christian Aid**

“Many thanks to those who supported the lunches served at Taylors Auctions in November. The sum raised was £730. Special thanks go to those who made soup and baked. It was a good day with people from all the churches working together to raise funds to help those, for whom a soup and Sandwich lunch



## It's Messy Christmas!

Messy Christmas takes place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>

December from 4 – 6pm. For some of the children attending this

will be the first time they will have heard

the Christmas Story! When was the first time you heard the story? Has the story become so familiar that you miss the wonder of it all? Why not come along and join us for Messy Christmas and experience the wonder and excitement once more?

A wonderful family afternoon of fellowship, activities and worship awaits. We really do hope you can come along and join us however for craft and catering purposes we would ask if possible, that you let us know you are coming.



## Hello I'm Becky,

I am the recently appointed Children and youth worker for the Montrose and area parish grouping. I have been around since the end of August so hopefully by now you have come across me.

I grew up in Dunfermline. My Mum was one of the children's leaders at my church growing up so I was dragged to all the church children's events. First as a child and then when I became too old, I was encouraged to be a leader at these activities from holiday clubs to Sunday school. As a teenager I got involved in a holiday club that is connected to Scripture union Scotland (SU). Through this I got involved in the SU commission programme for training young leaders. This is where I really got into youth work and felt God putting on my heart to take this beyond something I did in my spare time.

In 2014 I moved to Dundee to study Sociology at Abertay university and got involved many different things whilst being in Dundee (And loved my time there). I graduated back in July 2018.

During the summer of 2015, I heard about a Christian youth work charity called XLP which is based in London. Little did I know 3 years later I would move to London to work with this charity. In September 2018 I started with XLP working with young people from all kinds of backgrounds in Lambeth and Southwark. As part of my time with XLP I got training in both theology and youth work. As well as working in schools, on estates and part-time in a church as there youth intern. This year was challenging however I learnt a lot about God, myself and young people.

I am excited to see what God has instore for the young people in Montrose. My hopes are that this project could reach every young person in Montrose showing them Gods Love. Please pray as we are in the stages of planning what this project will look like. Ask God to give us for wisdom and guidance.

## 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 Fair.

### MyPlaceMontrose - Prayer Email List

If anyone did not manage the Prayer Evening for youth in Montrose, but would like to be on the email list to receive prayer points, please give your details to Aileen Scott who will pass them on to Becky. Thanks

### 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 :- **the Church, Henry Hoggs & Scotmid**