

# Montrose Trinity Church

Easter Newsletter - March 2024

## EASTER HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Hillside Church** - 7.00 pm for 30 minutes each evening - Monday to Thursday during Holy Week, with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening -all led by Rev. Ian Gray

**Ferryden Hall** - Good Friday Event with prayer stations in the Hall - it's 'A Walk Through Holy Week', an opportunity to spend some time in quiet, prayerful reflection on the events of that week. Open from 2pm, it will be paused from 3.00 pm - 3.30 pm for a Last Hour Service, also in the hall, then continue till 6.00pm.

**Steeple Halls** - Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9am followed by

**The Steeple** - Easter Sunday Worship 11am led by Rev. Brian Oxburgh, with Montrose Town Band.



**Brian - A welcome**

**Gavin Drummond**

Can I offer a warm welcome from the Team to Rev. Brian Oxburgh who joined us on 1<sup>st</sup>. January. By now Brian has led worship in all the Hubs, has attended some of our events and has already got to know many members of the congregation. He brings many years of Parish Ministry experience – so Brian, good to have you working along with Ian, Shona and me.

Potted biographies for Brian, Ian, Shona and Gavin can be viewed on the Trinity website. Check out the 'About Us' menu.

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BRIAN OXBURGH

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure for me to write to you. As your locum minister I am still getting to know you and it has been a great encouragement to me that I have been so warmly welcomed amongst you. We all know that the Church is facing great changes at every level including in our parishes and here in Montrose much has already happened. The new Union of congregations has made a really good start and things are moving forward.

For all of us this is a great time of year as we look forward to Easter, surely the most important time in the Christian year. A few weeks ago I attended the Grow Group bible study which is using material produced by the Bible Society. This material provides a wonderful overview of the whole bible, and of course has a study which looks at Jesus' death and resurrection.

It contains a very powerful quote from C S Lewis:

**'Christianity    If false, is of no importance, and,  
                          If true, is of infinite importance.  
                          The one thing it cannot be, is moderately important.'**

This reminds me of a passage in the bible: *'I passed on to you, as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared . . . to over five hundred people.'*

The writer, Paul, then wrote: *'If Christ has not been raised then our preaching is useless and so is your faith.'* He clearly believed that Christ is raised.

Everything depends on the events of Easter being true and we have excellent reasons for believing that they are true. This means that Christianity is 'of infinite importance'.



I think that we need to be sure of this, for if true then it is of infinite importance to us. Christ gives us a real hope, a deep sense of personal worth and an assurance that heaven is real and is open to each of us who believes. Equally, Christianity should be of infinite importance to everyone else. Sadly today, most people do not have the hope that we share together. That is the very reason why 'Mission' is vital; because everyone else has a right to know, and should have the opportunity to believe as we do.

So as we build a new congregational life together we also have to work out how to engage in mission. This is something that many of us find quite difficult. Although maybe we could invite a friend to our Easter Sunday service. (Most people like a good sing and Easter hymns are usually uplifting and there is a great band playing!) I would hope that any ministers considering the vacancy here would be encouraged to discover a church with a strong sense of pastoral care and a heart for mission, arising from a strong vibrant faith.

So let us go forward together in faith; let us build up one another in faith. I have been thinking recently about the value of prayer. It is so necessary for a strong faith and so essential if God is going to bless us as a congregation and bless the mission of the church.

I have provided a short prayer which I have used in church and which you may find helpful, written by Rev John Stott who was a well known minister in the Church of England.

May God greatly encourage you and bless our congregational life together this Easter.

Brian

## **AN UPDATE FROM GAVIN DRUMMOND - OUR INTERIM MODERATOR**

Greetings to everyone

We say time goes by quickly, maybe an age thing, and as I sat down to write this article, I was amazed to realise that we are more than six months into the life of Montrose Trinity. It may be that some feel nothing has happened but, can I assure you that the Kirk Session has been working hard on plans for the organisation of the congregation and for the growth of our Mission to the community we serve, so that we spread the Jesus message in words and actions.

I felt that I should outline to you some of what has been done since we became Montrose Trinity. With a union of this size it will take some time until everything gels and we get used to working together. I certainly feel that in the first six months the signs of that coming together are there.

Events in each Hub, ( that is what we are calling the former congregations(!) ) show that members are moving around events and are getting to know one another. Then the joint services have had good attendances from all the Hubs with a warm sense of fellowship and togetherness. If you have not been able to get to these services, do try to join in to the forthcoming ones. I am sure that if transport is the problem, you can get a lift if you ask one of your elders.

So now to the outline of some of the things that have happened since August.

**The Kirk Session** is the leadership team of the congregation and has set up a system for elders to work in Teams which are responsible for those themes they have a special interest in. What are the Teams, you ask?

**Worship and Prayer** - led by Gordon Penman.

**Pastoral** - led by Anne Tully.

**Youth & Mission** - led by Meg Cowan.

**Administration and Finance** - led by Willie Sinclair and Lorna Keillor.

**Property** - led by David Ward

**Communications** – led by Douglas Craig.

The Teams consist of elders but we hope they will expand to also include members of the congregation with an interest in the remit of the Teams. If you would like to join one of the Teams please speak to the leaders or the Assistant Session Clerk at your Hub: Alan Fraser, David Taylor or Willie Sinclair.

There is a Leadership Team comprising the Team leaders, Session Clerk, three Assistant Session Clerks and the Ministry Team which acts as a co-ordinating group.

### **THE VACANCY**

As you know this situation, called a Vacancy, is a very misleading word, as thanks to the dedicated work of so many people, the work of Montrose Trinity goes on; the congregation is not at a standstill! We do, however, have vacancies for two Ministers of Word and Sacrament (MWS) to join the Team. The posts are on a Reviewable Tenure of seven years, which is the system being developed throughout the Church of Scotland where there is a team ministry. This does not mean that after seven years the ministers will have to go, but instead allows Presbytery to have a discussion with the ministers and the congregation on whether to extend the ministry for another period of time.

The vacancy process required the Kirk Session to produce a Parish Profile, now completed, basically giving an outline of the work of the congregation and our Mission Plan showing how we wish to grow and engage with the wider community to tell the Gospel story in words and actions – we have a great message to tell those who have never heard it. That is where we all come in. The link to the Parish Profile is on the Website Home page. Just click 'Vacancy' -please read it so you can see what kinds of ministers we hope to appoint.

We now have a Nominating Committee appointed, 13 members with four each from Ferryden and Hillside and five from the Steeple. Their task is to seek out two ministers, probably with different skills, to be part of the Ministry Team with the OLM, the Youth and Family Worker, and members, to grow and develop the Mission Plan of the congregation.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Aileen Scott, chair, Di Millar. Vice-chair, John Campbell, secretary: Elaine Allan, Hannah Barnett, Helen Campbell, Pete Cowan, Alan Fraser, Jamie Livingston, Fiona McIntosh, Willie Sinclair, Kerry Walker, Diane Turberfield.**

They have an important role to carry out looking for the right ministers to be part of the Team and may have to travel around the country to hear ministers, or probationers who have completed their training, leading worship in their own congregation. This is likely to take time so please be patient! The committee must work in complete confidence so please do not ask them how they are getting on – they **can not** tell you!! Do keep them in your prayers.

## HOLY WEEK

As we walk with Jesus on the way to the Cross I hope as many members as possible will join for the services as we think about what Jesus went through for us and how we are called upon to respond to that sacrifice.

**In Hillside Church** Rev. Ian Gray will lead reflections from 7.00 pm lasting for about 30 minutes— Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, Thursday evening will see a short service of Holy Communion.

**In Ferryden Hall** on Good Friday, there will be a "Walk through Holy Week" - an opportunity to spend time in reflection and prayer as we think through the message of Holy Week for us as individuals and in our congregation. Prayer stations will be set up for us to move round, sit in quiet and contemplate. The Hall will open for 2.00pm, pausing at 3.00 pm for the 'Last Hour' service at 3.00pm then continuing till 6.00pm to allow those working time to reflect on the day.

**Steeple Halls** - Easter Sunday Breakfast at 9am followed by

**The Steeple** - Easter Sunday Worship 11am led by Rev. Brian Oxburgh, with Montrose Town Band.

Gavin Drummond

### A Prayer: John Stott's Daily Prayer.

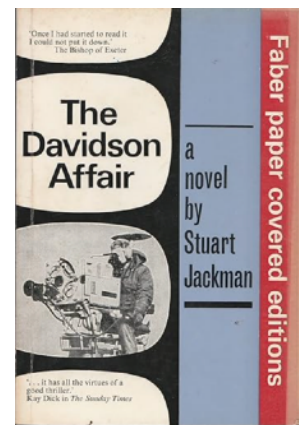
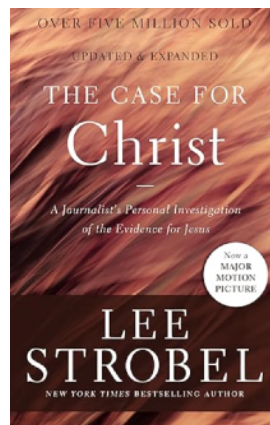
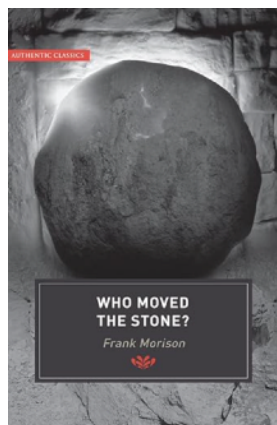
Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me.

Heavenly Father, I worship you as the creator and sustainer of the universe.  
Lord Jesus, I worship you, Saviour and Lord of the world.  
Holy Spirit, I worship you, sanctifier of the people of God.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more. Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*



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