



Montrose- Trinity Church

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2023

what's happening

From Gavin Drummond, Interim Moderator.

Warm Greetings to all members of Montrose Trinity, a new congregation bringing together the three former Church of Scotland congregations in Montrose, now known as:

Montrose Trinity@Hillside

Montrose Trinity@the Steeple

Montrose Trinity@Ferryden

But please let me introduce myself?



I'm Gavin Drummond, your new Interim Moderator. So, what does that mean for the Montrose Trinity Church?

I have been appointed by Perth Presbytery to work with the congregation of Montrose Trinity until at least one of the posts of Team Minister is filled.

In effect, I fill the role that Ian McLean and Geoff Redmayne had when they were in post. I am delighted to be supported by Ian Gray as locum. Ian and I have worked together in the past and I am conscious of the dedicated work he has carried out in Montrose, Brechin, Arbroath and beyond. Then the Youth worker Shona Barakat leads a busy programme of engagement with children and young families, and I look forward to working with her.

In the three months that I have been around with you I am conscious of the vast amount of work done by Elaine Allan, the Session Clerk along with her team of Alan Fraser, David Taylor and Willie Sinclair and how they keep me right when I get confused!! My thanks to them all.

This is such an exciting time for all the members to come together and to work together so that we shine a bright light and bring more of our community to know about Jesus and his message. I am sure that, working together, we can have an influence for good in the community and go for growth in our congregational life and with the mission work we do in the community. Much preparatory work was done by the Transition Team who have planned a way for Montrose Trinity to move forward in a positive way and we thank them all for that work.

But I am sure you ask, where do we go from here, especially as we have lost two ministers, Ian McLean and Geoff Redmayne – what do we have to do to get replacements and how quickly will that happen? Well let me explain the process of the vacancy.

We are looking for two ministers to be part of the team to work with an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) Ian Gray's current post, and with our Youth Worker. That team will work with the elders and all members involved in the mission of the congregation. The steps are:

Parish profile

We must prepare a Parish Profile which outlines the vision of the congregation, what is done just now and where we want to go in the future. That has to be an exciting and a challenging document to encourage the right person to consider applying for the post. As you will know there is a shortage of ministers of word and sacrament (MWS) so it is important to be able to stress that this is a congregation with a forward looking vision to develop their mission in the community and beyond. The Profile has to be approved by the Kirk Session and is likely to be on the website, so look out for it!

Electoral Register

An Electoral Register has to be prepared, listing all those on the congregational roll as only those listed on that roll can vote for a new minister.

The arrangements for that have been announced in Church and will be finalised on 23rd. November. So make sure your name is on the Roll!

Nominating Committee

A nominating Committee has to be appointed. There will be thirteen members on the committee who are charged with finding two suitable candidates for the congregation. The committee will have four members from Ferryden, four from Hillside, with five from the Steeple. The selection of members for the committee will be done by you, the members at a meeting, just after a Sunday service, the date of which will be announced two weeks in advance of being held.

That committee will elect a chair and a secretary, then through advertising and making direct contacts they will set out to find potential Team Ministers. The members are required to act in complete confidence so please do not ask them how they are getting on – they must not tell anyone!

Sole Nominees

When the committee has two sole nominees, the candidates will lead worship at joint services in one of the Hubs. After the service, members whose names are on the Electoral Register can vote whether or not to invite those persons to be part of the Montrose Trinity team.

I am sure this sounds very convoluted, but we will try to keep everyone up to date with things as we progress and if you have any questions, please speak with me.

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I live in Forfar, am a member & elder of Forfar St. Margaret's, which is shortly due to begin the same process which you are currently navigating. I have been on Angus Presbytery for a long time and am heavily involved in the elder training team in the new Presbytery. I live with my wife Muriel, and we have two sons who live with their families in Ayrshire and Glasgow, which give us places to visit occasionally.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the next few months as we embark on the exciting mission vision for Montrose Trinity.

Every blessing to you and yours

Gavin Drummond

Nativity Stall at Montrose Town Fayre



Probably the first public display of the “Montrose-Trinity Name and logo? On display at the town Christmas Fayre and tree lighting event on Saturday 11 November. Manned by members of the Mission Team it was an opportunity for young children to step into the Nativity Scene and even hold the baby Jesus, while candy canes and details of the Christmas services were handed out to their parents.

Ministry Team

Rev. Ian Gray
Gavin Drummond
Shona Barakat
Locum 2 - TBA

Session Clerk Elaine Allan,
Treasurer Lorna Keillor

Team Leaders
Session Clerk Elaine Allan
Worship/ Prayer Gordon Penman
Mission / Youth Meg Cowan
Finance Lorna Keillor
Administration Willie Sinclair
Pastoral/Nurture Anne Tulley
Property David Ward
Communications Douglas Craig

As a sign of our Union, we have a new symbol



The key element of the new “Trinity” logo is a “Triquetra” a Celtic symbol for the Trinity –in its simplest form a knot of three interlaced arcs.

In our case, the blue triquetra represents our three congregations united within the one Church, embraced by the gold circle itself representing the Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Fond Farewell - part 1

The folk at Trinity Church @ Steeple (formerly Montrose: Old & St Andrews) gathered for worship on Sunday 27th August to give their thanks and to say a fond farewell to Revd Dr Ian McLean as he headed towards retirement.

The praise was led by the town band, and worship was led by Ian McLean and he said later it was a day full of surprises.

Ian was ordained in May 1981 by the Presbytery of Aberdeen then served in Summerhill for 27 years before answering the



call to serve the congregation of Montrose: Old & St Andrews. Inducted to that congregation in June 2008 he served for over 15 years until the union in August 2023 when he became part of the team Ministry of Montrose Trinity Church of Scotland.

Ian also served as Presbytery Clerk in Aberdeen and Clerk and depute in Angus and acted as Assistant Chaplain to the UK Oil and Gas Chaplaincy for 12 years mostly on an "on call" basis.

In saying thank you to Ian, the congregation presented him with a painting from the artist Linda Hoskins. The painting commissioned by the congregation is an interpretation of Psalm 107 v 29 "He stilled the storm to a whisper" and is titled "to the storm be still". There were also vouchers for the Cromix House Hotel.

Speaking on behalf of the congregation, Elaine Allan, Session Clerk coined the acronym of Ian's name "I AM CLEAN":

- I for Ian
- A for Approachable
- M for Minister
- C for Commitment
- L for Leadership
- E could only be for Elaine
- A for Anchor
- N for Nurtured

Beth Wylie and pupils played during the lunch that followed in the hall, Song Shop gave a performance the Ian was presented with a quach from the British Legion.

Elaine Allan

A Fond Farewell - Part 2

The last weekend of October was a bittersweet time for Trinity Church @ Ferryden as the church family said farewell to Geoff and Sharon Redmayne on the occasion of Geoff's retirement.

On the Friday evening there was a curry night for the church family and friends in Ferryden Hall with music, singing and a quiz on '*How well do you know your minister?*' to follow the meal. That brought to the surface lots of interesting, and sometimes surprising, information.

Unsurprisingly Geoff won the Quiz!

The efforts of all of those contributing were much appreciated.

Then, on the Sunday, Geoff led his last service, from John 14, with the theme 'I am the true vine.' Everyone needs to maintain an active connection with Jesus for his love and grace to flow into them. He encouraged everyone to remain in Jesus' love, keeping the connection secure and loving one another. Afterwards, Alan Fraser expressed the congregation's sincere gratitude to Geoff for all he had brought to the church in the previous seven years – for a ministry which encouraged everyone to depend more on the church and for the music.

Geoff's choice of gift was a photo-book commemorating his ministry and he was presented with that along with items to help him develop his new patio – a pizza oven (with 1010 youth group giving a pizza peel) and a cheque for new garden furniture while Sharon was given flowers and a tote bag in the shape of a giraffe (her favourite animal) .

Alan Fraser



A Close Shave

Storm Babet certainly had an impact in Angus, leaving the people of Brechin still reeling from the damage to their homes, and their lives. Some of our local roads and bridges will take considerable time to be repaired. Nearer to hand, Hillside Church had a very close shave when this tree fell onto the roof. Thankfully no one was injured and only one or two slates were damaged, and only one Sunday service cancelled.



Joint Service of Remembrance

Members of the Trinity congregation along with the Lord Lieutenant of Angus, local Councillors Community Representatives and members of the uniformed services met for our 'Remembrance Service' on Sunday 12 November, led by Rev. Iain Gray. The music and hymns were led by the Montrose Town Band.

After the service, a parade of both military and civilian volunteers formed up and, led by the Lathallan School Pipe Band, proceeded to the War Memorial in the Mid Links for the laying of wreaths.

Special activities in December leading up to Christmas 2023

(These are in addition to regular Sunday services)

Saturday 2nd December 10am Steeple	Christmas Fayre
Sunday 3rd December 6.30pm Steeple	Town Band / Song Shop Concert
Sunday 10th December 2pm Hillside	Blue Christmas (for all those who may be grieving the loss of a loved one)
Sunday 10th December 4pm Steeple	Messy Church - Christmas
Sunday 24th December 11am Hillside	Joint Christmas Service incorporating Pop- up Nativity
Sunday 24th December 11.30pm Steeple	Watchnight Service
Sunday 25th December 10.30am Steeple	Joint Christmas Day Service
Sunday 31st December 11.00am Ferryden	Joint Service

