



Montrose Trinity Church

Christmas Newsletter 2024

PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Nativity Stall at Light Up Fayre	9 Nov. 11.00 - 7.00 pm	High Street
Hillside Christmas Fayre	16 Nov. 10.00 - 12.00pm	Hillside Hall
TRINITY GIFT DAY (Gift envelopes and instructions will be delivered with this newsletter.)	7 December	All Hubs
Steeple Christmas Fayre	7 Dec. 10.00-12.00pm	Steeple Hall
Carols with Town Band & Song Shop	8 Dec. 7.00 - 9.00pm	Steeple Church
Messy Church Christmas	15 Dec. 4.00 - 5.30 pm	Steeple Hall



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services are on page 2

FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR



Greetings everyone and it is good to be in contact with you all again. I can't believe that we are into our second year as Montrose Trinity. If you want to chat with me about any church matters phone me on 01307 463011.

When I look back on what has happened since August 2023, I am very impressed by the range of activities which are run, for all ages and thanks for that go to so many volunteers who run the events.

The Nominating Committee, which is charged with searching for two ministers to be part of the Ministry Team has been touring Scotland to meet ministers who they feel would be "right" for this congregation. Recently the Team decided that the "right person" had been found to become the Sole Nominee for one of the vacancies and had a date for the person to preach to the congregation, but sadly due to a family issue they had to withdraw, which was a huge disappointment. However, the Nominating Committee is back at work looking to fill the vacancies. Can I ask you to keep the Nominating Committee in your prayers

There is a separate Treasurers' Report on the difficult financial position which we have to deal with. I appreciate times are hard for many but hope you can increase your givings so we can meet all our commitments.

The Christmas season approaches, a time for us to draw breath amid all the commercial pressures around us to celebrate the amazing gift given to us all by the birth of Jesus. In his short life he gave us, his followers an example of a way to live life which will make the world a better place. So, let's celebrate the Christmas story, please come to the services, bring a friend with you so we make this a time for joy and a time for our congregation to move forward.

Blessings to you and your families.

Gavin

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Advent Services - Sunday 22nd December - 11.00am in each Hub

Family Christmas Singalong- Ferryden Hall at 7.00pm

**Joint Watchnight Service -
Steeple Church at 11.30 pm**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Steeple Church - Joint Service at 10.30am**



OOR WILLIE

A gentleman, unassuming, friend-to-all, non-judgemental, hard working. He lived a life of service to everybody he met, quick to smile, always waving, first to offer help, never looking for the limelight.



Willie was a modest man who would be nothing short of flabbergasted at the outpouring of love shown towards him following his sudden death on Friday 25 October.

He was born June 1957. He came to Montrose as Under Manager at the Park Hotel then moved into Community Learning and Development Worker for Perth and Kinross Council. Montrose became Willie's home, but he enjoyed his visits to stay with his twin brother Johnny, sister-in-law Karen and their family.

Ordained as an elder in the Old Kirk on 10 December 2000, he later becoming Assistant Session Clerk in Old & St Andrews Church, then Joint Session Clerk and finally, in August 2023, Assistant Session Clerk at the Steeple following the Union of the three churches in Montrose which formed Montrose Trinity Church.

Willie was always fully involved in the life of the church; he was a member of the Open Door Committee which focused on those on the fringes of the church. He was a member of the choir, mission team and was not afraid to get his sleeves rolled up – in fact never happier than when his sleeves were rolled up serving coffee in the church hall.

Always interested in the history of the church, Willie was an integral part of the group in having the church open for visitors during summer months and other special occasions in the town such as the MOFest and the Christmas Light Switch on.

But Willie was not solely focused on Old & St Andrews Church he was involved in the Philos Community Hub where his easy ways and openness earned him more friends and respect and, also at St Mary's and St Peter's Episcopalian church.

Not only the church benefitted from Willie's time and talents. He was the Secretary at the William Lamb Memorial Studio. Further afield Willie visited Ukraine and helped to set up the Mercy Ladies of Kiev Charity with which he remained involved up to his untimely death.

For many people in the town Willie was the face of the church and we could not have asked for a more welcoming face. From young parents at Messy Church to our oldest members at funerals, he had time for everybody.

Willie did the unseen jobs, a work horse, always interested in others, having a wicked sense of humour. These are just some of the things that have been said about this man who leaves a big hole not just in the church family but in the whole of Montrose – he was indeed "Oor Willie".

From his friends in the church.

FINANCES

To those of you who give regularly then can we say thank you for your continued support. Unfortunately, it is not enough at the moment to pay all of the bills and allow us to do the mission work that we would like to do.

With the sale of Inchbraoch Manse and Dun Church this year we have sufficient funds to carry out any fabric repairs but these funds cannot be used for paying for our ministers and funding holiday clubs, etc.

So, please can you support the **Montrose Trinity Gift Day on 7 December** so that we can continue to offer the service we want for Montrose.

Lorna Keillor & Susan Henderson

ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS



Come late November/early December, church members will be invited to donate suitable items for the hampers.

Even if we feel unable to contribute to this worthy initiative we can still do our part to help those for whom, for whatever reason, Christmas is a time of loneliness or sadness.

It might be the loss of a loved one, bad news about their own health or simply having no one close to share the festive season with them. However those of us who are blessed with family and close friends around us can help those less fortunate.

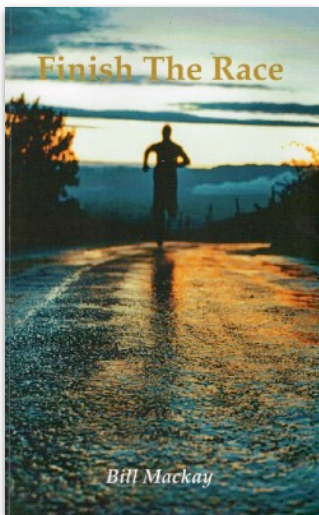
Helping does not necessarily involve any great sacrifice or expense. It could be something small and insignificant to us, but mean a lot to someone who is feeling isolated, particularly at this time of year.

Giving or sending a small item, such as a card or little gift, might be one way to help? Alternatively, it might involve making a short visit to a neighbour with no family close by or simply with no one to talk to. Just popping in for a moment, or inviting them in for a cup of tea or coffee, could make a big difference to someone who is lonely. The real benefit for the recipient is the feeling of being remembered – knowing that someone else is thinking about them.

We live in an age where the nuclear family is often a thing of the past and many people live very busy lives so just making time for others – a random act of kindness - might just help to make someone's Christmas.

Forbes Inglis

Please continue to support, by bringing goods to church or direct to -
MONTROSE FOODBANK - at YMCA Hall, corner of Murray Street and Lower Hall Street.
Details will be posted on Facebook Trinity.



Bill Mackay a faithful member of Hillside Church, has now published this book which many of us have been waiting to read. It is a wonderful account of his family life, his faith and service to God and to our country and the love and devotion shared with his wife Jean.

The book is full of stories which are moving, thought-provoking or simply make you smile. There is the story of his father, who served in the First World War and then worked for the newly formed Forestry Commission.

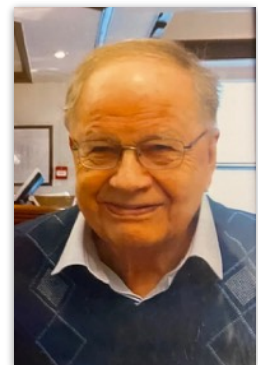
We also hear the story of Bill's school life, including a lovely story of the cheers he received for sprinting to the finish in the mile race in his final year at school. It was an amusing tale, but in a way would reflect what became his attitude to life.

There is also an account of his National Service, including his posting to the Far East. This is fascinating, because it was in Japan that he found his Christian faith which has played such an important part of his life and then in Hong Kong which Bill describes as "a great learning experience in the Christian Faith."

As well as serving communities with a number of N.H.S. posts, he would give dedicated support to churches wherever he was living and was ordained as an Elder in 1958 and served in many other roles too.

A book which reflects the faith, hope and love of Bill's life.

Christine Ramsay



Further giving by church members and groups



75 Shoeboxes-stuffed to the brim from Montrose Trinity.

Messy Church Event £560

Wilma's Jams

Save the Children Fund	£170
Missionary Aviation Fellowship	£70
Salvation Army	£20

Harvest Lunch - in Hillside Village Hall with donations for Tear Fund amounting to £450.76

STOP PRESS - OUR SOLE NOMINEE

The committee is delighted to announce that we have a Sole Nominee for the position of Minister A. The Rev Derek Peat has had a varied career - assistant accountant for the SFA (yes football!), hospital chaplaincy, parish ministry in Troon, strategy officer with Glasgow Presbytery, and currently working in a locum post at Kirkintilloch. He is keen to get back into parish ministry and likes what he sees and hears about Montrose Trinity. Derek has two grown up children, Beth & Callum, both in the student phase, and his wife Eileen, is a cardiologist in Paisley. Eileen will probably not come with Derek to Montrose initially, but is hoping to take early retirement soon and join him. As Interim Moderator, Gavin will now make the arrangements to organise a date for Derek to come and preach. The congregation will then vote, and all being well, sign the call, then we wait for Presbytery to organise Derek's induction. The committee was unanimous in choosing Derek as our Sole Nominee and is confident that both the Session and wider congregation will warm to him quickly.

Aileen Scott

WHAT, WHERE, HOW, WHEN, WHY?

Winter savings – Service changes

At a time when balancing the books is a challenge, the Session has had to look at energy costs for services at the most energy-consuming time of the year.

To achieve significant savings there will be changes in the service times from January until Easter 2025.

- ***The services in the Steeple will be held in the Hall rather than the Church, at 11am.*** (The Steeple Church is the most expensive of the buildings to heat. Insulating the roof to cut down heat loss will be explored.)
- ***The service times in Hillside and Ferryden will be offset with the Hillside service at 10:00 am and the Ferryden service at 11:30 am.*** (This will allow one minister to conduct both services, removing the need for pulpit supply.)
- ***From the start of 2025, joint services will be held in the Steeple Halls on the first Sunday of the month, thereby reducing heating costs and organist fees.***

Service details will be posted on the Website, Facebook pages, on the revamped noticeboards, and in the announcements before each Sunday service.

These will be substantial changes from the normal pattern but the need for savings is considerable. On the positive side, these changes will encourage us to explore new patterns of worship which will encourage others to join us.

The **QUIET HOUR** will continue in Montrose Trinity @ Steeple, on Wednesdays from 3.00 - 4.00 pm Entry, as usual by the side door.

Alan Fraser



**MONTROSE: TRINITY
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO: SC009934

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 7th December
10 am - 12 noon
Trinity Church Steeple Hall

Coffee / Tea +
Christmas Pie. £3
Many Lovely Stalls -
something for all.
Come along and enjoy the
beginning of the Festive
Season with tea/coffee,
a tasty treat
and friendly chats.



Montrose Trinity Church
@ Hillside

Christmas Fair

**Hillside
Village Hall**

Saturday
16th November 2024
10.00 am to 12 noon



Tea, coffee and mince pie
Craftwork
Cake and candy
Raffle
...and more

£3.00
Children free

Scottish Charity Number SC009934

www.montrose-trinity.co.uk , Facebook- Monrose Trinity