

Easter services at the Old and Abbey



- 5th April 10.00a.m. Palm Sunday service
(*note change of time*)
- 9th April 7.00p.m. Maundy Thursday communion
- 10th April 11a.m. Good Friday Service
Salvation Army Hall
- 12st April 9.00a.m. Easter day Service
followed by a light breakfast
in the Gallery.
- 11.00a.m. All age Easter Celebration



The next edition of the magazine will be published on 14th June, Articles should be handed in or emailed to the Church Office (church.office@old-and-abbey-church.org.uk). We would really appreciate photographs of church events and details of activities that would be of interest to others.

The O & A Factor

www.old-and-abbey-church.org.uk

Issue 38 - 15th March 2020

Tower Repairs

If you have passed by the front of the church since the middle of January, I am sure you can't fail to have noticed the scaffolding surrounding the tower. The Fabric Group were aware that there hadn't been any repairs to this part of our buildings for a number of years as the tower is too high for ladders to access.

Last April, the Fabric Group had a 'High Level Inspection' carried out by a firm of steeplejacks. One brave soul climbed to the top of the tower where he filmed different parts of the building in need of repairs. This mainly affected slates, downpipes and leadworks which are now being dealt with. Some of the stonework also needs attention but that is less urgent and will be repaired at a later date. The Steeplejacks gave us the DVD showing the extent of what needed to be done.

We are fortunate to have Alan Milne co-ordinating all the works involved and keeping a watchful 'eye' on the workmen to ensure the works will be completed within the next few weeks. At the moment we are still on schedule despite the recent wind and rain which hasn't impacted too much on the workmen. Hopefully they will be able to keep to the timetable and it won't be too long before everything is back to normal. This has been an expensive 'repair' for us but one that was absolutely necessary. We were also very fortunate, and grateful, to have received a legacy which will pay for most of the work involved. (Fabric Group)



And how it used to be done.....

A photo dated 1937 of Cuthills the Slaters repairing the tower. We don't think today's Health and Safety people would be impressed by their scaffolding!

CONTACT DETAILS

CHURCH OFFICE : Tel 877068

ADMINISTRATOR

Moira Steven
Tues - Fri : 10am - 1pm

MINISTER

Rev Dolly Purnell
Tel 872196

SESSION CLERK & ROLL KEEPER

Carole Munro
Tel 874133

DEPUTE SESSION CLERK & PROPERTY CONVENER

Sandra Ferguson

TREASURER

Trevor Forge

ASSISTANT TREASURER

Norma Spence

CHURCH OFFICER

- Vacant -

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

Carole Munro

PRESBYTERY ELDER

Neil Purnell

TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

Elinor MacKenzie
and
Jean Glass

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADER

Fay Forge

All of the above can be contacted through the Church Office on 877068.

TUESDAY COFFEE SHOP

'Pancakes for all' was the order of the day on Tuesday 25th February as the Coffee Shop celebrated Shrove Tuesday. The Tuesday Coffee ladies along with Jim Valentine work hard each week to set up the hall and have everything ready for their customers. Of course, it doesn't start there as many of them are busy baking beforehand to ensure there are always plenty of goodies on the baking stall. The church owes a real debt of gratitude to this group for the money they raise throughout the year and they very much deserve the support of the congregation so come along on a Tuesday morning and let them see they are appreciated.



This year's summer holiday club will run from

Monday 6th – Friday 10th July

10a.m.- 12 noon

For all primary aged children

Volunteers required – fun guaranteed!



The number of people attending January's Messy Church was a little lower than usual as Ladyloan had an evening event at the school.

Nevertheless, the fifty or so people who did attend heard the story of the boy Jesus being left behind at the temple with his parents thinking he was lost. The crafts and singing were thoroughly enjoyed as always.



February's Messy Church was back to normal with about 80 people present. It was lovely to greet some new families who all seemed to enjoy the experience. The theme was the story of the healing of the ten lepers when only one said 'thank you'. With our minister, Dolly, having lost her voice, the story was told by George Webster.

We are very grateful to all who give up their time and work in different ways to make Messy Church the success that it is. Their commitment is so important with this valuable outreach work in our community.





Four members of the Church, including two members of the World Church Group (AKA Eco Group) attended a lecture entitled "Saving Planet Earth" at the Communities Wing, Arbroath Academy. The lecture was given by Dr Keith Skene of the Biosphere Research Institute, Dundee University. He discussed the links between the environment, society and economics, exploring what we need to do to survive the century and build a better world, taking inspiration from indigenous thinking from across the globe. He stressed how the world is concentrating mainly on reducing carbon emissions, but soil erosion because of intense agriculture, animal husbandry and deforestation are also bad. Build up of salt in soil is also bad and excessive eutrophication, which is excessive richness of nutrients in bodies of water, caused by water running off land and into lakes, rivers etc, which is topical just now after all the recent flooding all over our country. We need to think of the bigger picture e.g. when trees are felled to build houses, don't object to the planting of trees, which will spoil the view from your house! Think of the need to grow new trees to reduce carbon and to stabilise the ground - better for everyone - think of the bigger picture - Help Save the Planet!

(Fay Forge)

**Hymn 240 -
A response to God - in the
stewardship of the earth**

*Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,
nourish the life of
the world in our care;
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender
trust for the children
tomorrow will bear.*

*God of all living,
God of all loving,
God of the seedling,
the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us,
Christ re-connect us,
using us gently
and making us one.*

Shirley Erena Murray



At our February Messy Church, George told us the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers and how only one of them came back to say thank you. He then set all of us a challenge which was to say **Thank you** – 5 times every day and if that was too easy to go platinum and try for 10. 'Do it for Dolly' he said to the children – *though I'd rather they did it for God.*



What a great challenge - so much so that the following Sunday, he encouraged the congregation to do likewise. As a church we have a lot to be thankful for most especially our volunteers who daily give of their time to all of the activities that happen in and around our church.

This is the first magazine that has been compiled by Moira in the church office. As we thank Moira for being willing to take this on, we say a **big thank you** to Carole Munro who has been the editor for more than six years as she hands on that mantle.

Recently we started meeting for prayer on a Wednesday at 12.30pm. Anyone can come along and if you would like us to pray for you then please let us know through the office or to me directly. An important part of our time of prayer is giving thanks to God for the answers to prayer we have received and for his goodness and his love.

Every year as the days lengthen, spring flowers start to push their heads through the dark earth, lambs are born and birds are nesting. How amazing it is that all of this new life coincides with the season of lent and Easter - the time when we are reminded of God's promise of a new and eternal life in Christ. The cost was great - but you were worth it.

Thank and You are just words until they are offered in response to what we have received.

So this Easter, come to church, join the celebrations as we say once again

Thanks be to God for his wonderful gift of love.

Dolly Purnell

O&A PARISH REGISTER

Jean Milne
Died 24th December 2019

John Mather
Died 24th January 2020

Isabel Liddle
Died 25th January 2020

Elsbeth Leadingham
Died 9th February 2020

George Webster
Admitted by Transfer Certificate
2nd February 2020

Marion Webster
Admitted by Transfer Certificate
2nd February 2020



Church Officer (Beadle)

Following the retirement of Rosemary Menmuir, we are currently looking to recruit a New Church Officer/Beadle. Please give this prayerful consideration and if you would like to know more speak to the Minister or Rosemary.

DIARY DATES

Kirk Session
Meeting on 17th March at 7.15pm

Messy Church
Friday 27th March in the Hall at 5.30pm

Communion
Sunday 19th April at 11am

**Arbroath 2020
Cornerstone Coffee Shop**
Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th April, 11am-4pm

Christian Aid Tay Bridge Walk
Saturday 25th April at 2pm

Christian Aid Coffee Morning
Saturday 16th May, 10am-12noon

You are invited to share at the Lord's table



Old and Abbey Church

11a.m. Sunday 19th April 2020

Taste and see that the Lord is Good

Droughts are now more frequent and more intense due to the climate crisis. Rose and her family, and millions of people in Kenya, are struggling to get enough food and water. Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. People like Rose need every last drop to survive the drought. Together we stop this climate crisis.



Arbroath's Christian Aid Coffee Morning is to be held at Old & Abbey Church on Saturday 16th May from 10am to 12noon. Our church is organising and serving the coffees this year, although donations for any stall will be gratefully accepted. If you are able to help out on the day, please give your name to Fiona O'Connor directly or through the office.

The Tay Bridge Walk will take place on Saturday 25th April at 2pm. If you would like to volunteer to take part, please give your name to Fiona O'Connor as soon as possible.

Baby and Me Group

A place to meet and share for babies & parents / carers

Wednesday Mornings
10 – 11:30 a.m.
Old and Abbey church hall

Wanna be my friend

Cost £1.50 per session
Includes tea/coffee and snacks

**For more information contact
Claire Fiddes ph.07857 460656**

Old and Abbey Church
A place to meet and share for toddlers & parents / carers

New group starting Monday 4th May

Toddler and me
Monday afternoons
12.30 – 2p.m.

Cost £1.50 per session
Includes tea/coffee and snack

For more information contact
Claire Fiddes ph.07857 460656

Old and Abbey church, West Abbey Street, Arbroath
SC11 3052

Sometimes Baby & Me can be a hair-raising experience!



Sunday School
*Please encourage parents of kids between the ages of three and mid teens to come to Church with them and encourage them to come out to Sunday School. We learn about Jesus and we do have fun!!!
Fay Forge. Sunday School Superintendent.*

Arbroath 2020



As most of you will already know April 6th 2020 marks the 700th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Scottish Independence in Arbroath Abbey. The Arbroath 2020 committee have been busy planning a series of events spanning the six months from April to September in celebration of this historic occasion. It is anticipated that there will be a large number of visitors to the town during the initial weekend of the programme. Did you know that our church is built on several abbey buildings and structures, and an abbey wall passes under it?

When we carried out our recent refurbishment at the Old & Abbey our long-term plan was to open the Gallery area as a Coffee Shop and it would seem appropriate to try this out as part of the Arbroath 2020 festivities. The **Cornerstone Coffee Shop** will be open to the public on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th April from 11am to 4pm, serving light meals and snacks with a Scottish flavour. We are also hoping to have a small number of local Craft stalls in the Small Hall.



This new church outreach venture will only succeed if we have enough volunteers to keep the Coffee Shop supplied with food and running smoothly. We will need waiters to take orders, people to prepare food orders, people to clear tables and others to stack up the dishwasher and dry off the dishes.

If you would like to help prepare food in advance that can be stored in the church's freezers, please speak to either Carole Munro or Sandra Ferguson. If you can help in any of the ways mentioned above on either the Saturday or the Sunday or both, there are sign-up sheets on the noticeboard in the New Hall. Alternatively, speak to Carole or Sandra or Moira in the Church Office.

We really need you to get involved!



I went to a member's funeral, a lady I hadn't known for very long, but she touched my heart when I visited her in the care home, where we shared a Goodfellow & Stevens caramel slice and a cup of tea and just talked about our lives. On my visits I noticed that this lady always had beautiful red nails and fresh flowers in her room - someone was showing great kindness and dedication. Even though she struggled with hearing loss and multiple sclerosis, she always had a smile and thanked me for my visits and hoped I would return sometime bringing the caramel slices. She was always so grateful for her life and the kindness of her friend who came regularly to file and paint her fingernails and massage her hands. At the funeral there were no family members, just a few colleagues, friends, carers from the care home and her minister. I met the lady who had painted the nails and brought the flowers and she turned out to be a friend of mine. She had been the lady's carer when she lived at home and had tended to her nails and hands for 18 years, from home to care home.

A taxi driver came into the crematorium and my friend wondered if he had been the kind man who had taken our friend shopping on a regular basis. After the funeral my friend asked the man if he was that person. "Yes" he said. Sue Ryder had stopped the service and he had been so touched by this lady that he had gone out of his way to persuade the Social Workers and care home staff to allow him to take her shopping in her wheelchair, which he did on a regular basis.

I was deeply saddened that there was not a solitary flower that day, not even on the coffin. I couldn't help thinking about the lack of flowers and spoke to God about it. The next day I thought about all the kind deeds people had done for this lady and I smiled as I realised that on that day we were the flowers, saying goodbye to a lovely lady and sharing stories of her life together.

(Submitted by Elaine Taylor)