

A night of music and  
drama in celebration of  
Skene Parish Church  
Trinity Church  
26th May @ 7pm

Come join us as we sing  
and chat our way  
through the decades

## Skene Parish Church – Service Sheet Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

This Friday night we are celebrating the life of our church through music and readings. We have some surprises in store and it is guaranteed to be an uplifting evening, with lots of singing and humour thrown in. We would love you to join us as we celebrate Skene Parish Church in advance of our union. Donations from the night will go to Christian Aid.

Our Thy Kingdom Come prayer room is up and running this week at Trinity. It is open from 8am until 8pm and it's not too late to get involved. If you would like to sign up for a slot, please contact Eva in the office, or go to: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/6e57bf>

### Dates for the diary:

- Sunday Worship at Kingswells Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 11am. This will be our final joint service at Kingswells Church before their building closes. Please make every effort to attend.
- Messy Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm at Trinity Church.
- Westhill Prays – Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> at 8pm online
- Wednesday Afternoon Tea Service – May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2pm at Trinity

### Opening Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory, forever ... Amen.*

### Call to Worship

With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>
380 There is a green hill	382 O Sacred Head	394 He came to earth	425 The Saviour died, but rose again	533 Will you come and follow
Thy Kingdom Come Anthem 2020 - <a href="https://youtu.be/CWhL6v8oQZ0">https://youtu.be/CWhL6v8oQZ0</a>				
We seek your Kingdom - <a href="https://youtu.be/2Lp2mMpSa1E">https://youtu.be/2Lp2mMpSa1E</a>				

### God's Word

Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew 27:1-26	Matthew 27:27-44	Matthew 27:45-66	Matthew 28:1-15	Matthew 28:16-20

### Reflection by Rev Stella



Originating back to 1994 the popular phrase '**Does exactly what it says on the tin**' was developed by Ronseal and is now part of our everyday vernacular. The phrase has come to represent a product or policy that is open, honest and delivers against its promise.

The final verses in Matthew's gospel remind me of this phrase because in it we see Jesus doing exactly that he said he was going to do.

During the Last Supper, just before they leave to go to the Mount of Olives, Jesus tells the disciples that he will go ahead of them in Galilee. Right throughout his ministry he had been open and honest with them. He had told them three times that he would suffer at the hands of men, that

he would die and that he would rise again. And he gave them specific instructions as where he would meet them, which the angel reminds the women of at the empty tomb.

And yet none of Jesus' followers seem to have understood, believed or trusted in Jesus' words. It was all written there on the tin, but when it came to pass, when Jesus fulfils his promises to them, they are taken by surprise. I wonder if sometimes we experience the same kind of surprise. How often have we prayed for something to happen, only to be utterly taken aback when our prayer is answered? Despite the fact that scripture tells us that God hears our prayers and responds.

We also discover in Matthew's account of the reunion that some of the people there were still not convinced of what has occurring before their eyes. That gives me such comfort. To know that some of those who had travelled with Jesus the longest, some of those who knew him the best, because they'd eaten with him and been taught by him – struggled to grasp what was unfolding before them. Their souls and spirits had not yet caught up with their eyes and their senses.

And yet, there was space for them. In this critical moment, where Jesus is about to give the great commission, there was space for those who doubted. And there was a promise for them.

### ***And surely I am with you always***

It is vital that we hear the promises of God and know that He will do what it says on the tin. Because God not only makes promises, He keeps them. Perhaps not in ways that we anticipate or on a timescale we approve of – but without question, God is a promise-keeper.

But when we doubt that, when we struggle to trust in what He has said to us or in what He is doing in our lives, in our church, in our communities, in our denomination, there is space for us. We can give voice to our questions and to disappointments and to our doubts. We can take our place alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ and know that we are bound together.

Jesus sets out a very clear picture of what the church is about. Going, making disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, and teaching others to obey Jesus' commands.

If we were to assess how we were doing in terms of obeying his commission, the question might be: **Are we doing what it says on the tin?**

### ***Prayer for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland***

*Father God we give thanks for the service of the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields in his year as Moderator. Grant him rest and renewal as he steps down.*

*We pray for Rev Sally Foster-Fulton who will moderate at this year's assembly and work as the church's ambassador in the year ahead. Grant her wisdom and energy as she embarks on this role.*

*We pray for the commissioners as they listen to the reports and discuss the challenges that are facing our church. Grant them grace to know how to respond to the information shared and lead them by your Holy Spirit to make good decisions.*

*We give thanks for our denomination and pray that you would uphold all those within it, who are seeking to do exactly what it says on the tin.*

*And give us wisdom locally Lord, as we navigate our union with Kingswells and welcome a new team member.*

*In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

### **Benediction**

May the God who breathed life into creation be your delight.

May Christ Jesus give hope to your dreaming,

and may the Holy Spirit, your advocate and supporter,

set your hearts ablaze with a passion for peace.

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