



MARY
SLESSOR
CENTENARY

1848-1915



MARY MITCHELL SLESSOR

2 DECEMBER 1848 - 13 JANUARY 1915

2015

CENTENARY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

WEAVER • MISSIONARY • TEACHER • MAGISTRATE

Mary Slessor was an extraordinary woman. In her work as a missionary in the Calabar region of Nigeria, she demonstrated a rare ability to combine steely resolve and uncompromising strength with deep compassion and remarkable selflessness. She was both unconventional and inspirational.

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At the time of going to print all of the information in this publication was correct. Mary Slessor Foundation are not responsible for any changes made to any of the events that are outwith their control.



MARY SLESSOR CENTENARY

2015 marks the centenary of the death of Mary Slessor. The Mary Slessor Foundation in conjunction with a number of individuals, companies and organisations has arranged a series of events to commemorate this.

Mary Slessor's story is virtually unknown locally or nationally and one of our objectives in this centenary year is to change that. This initiative is intended to raise her profile and also increase awareness of the work that the Foundation carries out in her name in a part of Africa in which she lived and worked, but also loved.

Details of the programme are listed in more detail within, but the events commence with the unveiling of a lasting tribute in the form of a cast bronze plaque fixed to a granite standing stone to be located adjacent to The Steeple Church in Dundee. This booklet pays tribute to Mary Slessor and also offers sincere thanks to the huge effort made in recognition of the achievements of a Dundee heroine.

We hope that you are able to attend, and in some instances participate in, some of the events we have planned. At the same time you will be able to appreciate the enormous contribution that Mary Slessor has made to the rich history and heritage of Dundee and Scotland.

Many thanks.

Doug Binnie

Chairman, Mary Slessor Foundation



MARY SLESSOR



Photo courtesy of Dundee City Council

Mary Slessor was a hardworking Scottish mill girl and Sunday school teacher who, inspired by David Livingstone, became a missionary in Calabar, Nigeria, an area known then as “the white man’s grave”. Born in Aberdeen, and raised in the poor slums of Dundee, Mary worked as a weaver and whenever she could, spent time with her books and Bible dreaming of becoming a missionary. At the age of 28, she achieved her ambition and set sail on a five week journey to the continent of Africa.

She went far beyond the role of a conventional missionary. Despite constant danger, Mary lived amongst the tribes, learning and understanding their languages and customs. Her bravery and unwavering belief in God’s guidance earned her respect and allowed her to challenge some of their more extreme superstitions and customs.

Perhaps one of Mary’s most remarkable achievements is in relation to twins. It was believed that twins were a bad omen, with one of the twins being cursed by an evil spirit. Unwilling to take any chances, both were killed or abandoned in the jungle and their mother cast from the community. While influential in the law created to prohibit this, Mary went further still, travelling great distances on foot, through uncertain terrain and unrepentant weather conditions, to protect, house, and sometimes adopt the children as her own.

When Nigeria became a British Protectorate, Mary was the first female magistrate in the British Empire and a skilful, though somewhat unorthodox, diplomatic emissary. She devoted her life to her work in Calabar and despite increasingly frequent and serious illness, within an already hostile environment, was protected and guided by her own motto, “God plus one is a majority”.

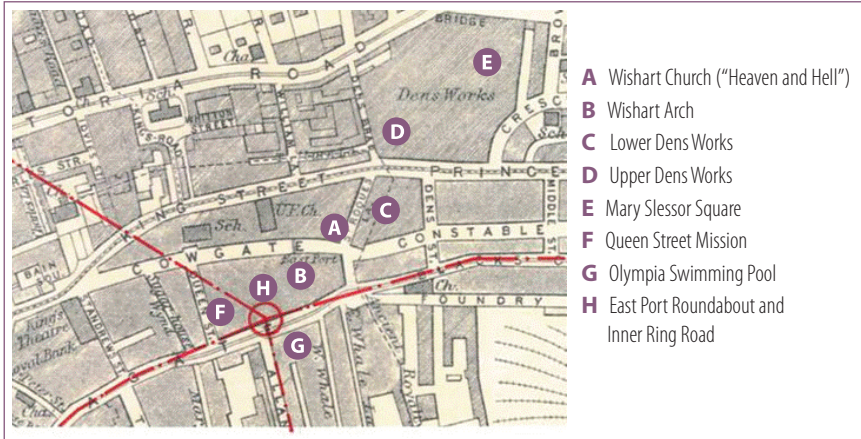


Photo courtesy of Dundee City Council

Respected and loved by all the tribes she encountered, Mary became known as “Eka Kpukpro Owo” or ‘Mother of all the Peoples’. Her legacy still lives on today, where her name is held in high regard and her story is known to all.

DUNDEE IN 1876

To put things into context about the year that Mary Slessor left Dundee; General Custer was killed fighting the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Alexander Graham Bell made the first telephone call and the first Tay Rail Bridge was under construction (and in three years time it would be blown down in a storm). Mary left the city of Dundee where hunger, poverty, squalor, short life expectancy and a lack of education for the majority of its people was all too common place, for a new life in Africa. Although life in Calabar proved to be a tough and sometimes gruelling experience, growing up in Dundee in 1876 had ensured that Mary was as mentally and physically prepared as anyone.



Although a thriving port, most people, including a vast number of children, worked in the jute industry toiling long hours in the huge number of noisy and dangerous mills across the city.

Mary Slessor lived, worked and primarily worshipped in the Cowgate area of Dundee which is illustrated in the map above. The original Wishart Church is at the corner of the Cowgate and St Roque's Lane and was known locally as "Heaven and Hell" due to the presence of a public house underneath. Although the building still exists, it is no longer used for worship. Mary also worshipped at other churches in the city. Little is left of Queen Street and 'the mission' has long gone, but the area is still dominated by Upper and Lower Dens Mills, where Mary worked for Baxter Brothers as a skilled weaver. The Inner Ring Road now cuts through this part of the city, but much would be recognised by Mary Slessor if she was alive today.

THE MARY SLESSOR FOUNDATION

It is difficult to convey the extent to which life at the Mary Slessor Foundation project in Nigeria is different from life in Dundee. It is simply a world apart.

In 2002, Dundonian Dr Lawrence Mitchell MBE, who had worked in the area as a doctor for the United Nations, set up and ran the Mary Slessor Foundation. With support from local charities and a substantial donation from the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, Dr Mitchell invested his own time, effort and money in overseeing the project. The early stages, which involved building the structures to house the project were completed in only 90 days!



Situated in the village of Akpap Okoyong, 55km north of Calabar, Cross River State Nigeria, the prime objective of the Mary Slessor Foundation is to continue the work its namesake started, helping and working with the local communities. From metalwork and mechanical engineering, welding and carpentry, to fashion and design, the educational guidance offered by the Skills Training Centre helps students build confidence and self-esteem, whilst developing skills that will prepare them for a career in the future and to support their families. The Foundation also has an agricultural processing mill which specialises in manufacturing palm oil and producing garri, a staple food of West Africa. Both products are sold as part of the projects self sustainability objectives. When finance and resources permit, a medical facility also exists. The Foundation focuses on converting the endeavours of those at the Project into a self-sustainable business, relying on the skills of those trained there to deliver that aspiration.

While the energy, spirit and enthusiasm abounds, the means to achieve the objective is constantly restricted. Facing poor roads and infrastructure, a variable water supply and an unreliable, intermittent electrical supply, the challenges are many.

The Mary Slessor Foundation is registered with the Scottish Charity Commission: (SC032781) and the Corporate Affairs Commission in Abuja, Nigeria. Its base in Dundee is run by a small group of voluntary Trustees who help with fundraising and raising awareness.

For more information on the Foundation, visit the website at:

www.maryslessor.org



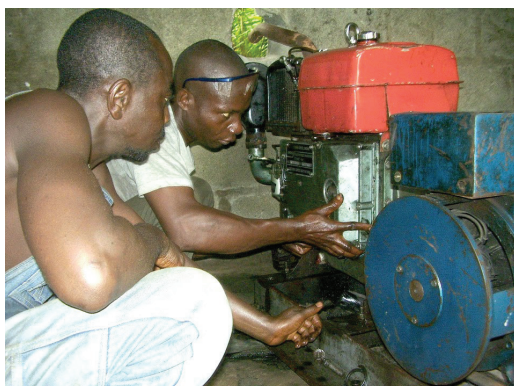
Palm fruit in the boiling pot



Fashion and design student practising her sewing skills



Hands on experience makes good engineers



Repairs to the clinic's generator



Emmanuel (left) and Asuqwo (right) press palm fruit for customers



Everybody busy in the wood shop

CENTENARY EVENTS

TUE 13
JANUARY

Unveiling of Commemorative Standing Stone and Plaques

The Steeple Church, Nethergate, Dundee • 12.30pm • Public event • Free

Lord Provost, Councillor Bob Duncan will be joined by a set of twins from Glebelands Primary School, Hope and Abbie Beattie, 100 years to the day that Mary Slessor died.

TUE 3
MARCH

Dundee Arts Café Event - "No Ordinary Missionary"

McManus Art Gallery and Museum, Albert Square, Meadowside, Dundee DD1 1DA • 6.00pm - 7.00pm • Public event • non-bookable • Free

With biographical story, song and personal insight, Ruth Kirkpatrick weaves the threads of Mary Slessor's remarkable life into a rich tapestry, to commemorate the centenary of her death. Having performed all over the world from Iceland to India, Ruth's strength is in forming a warm rapport with her audience, respecting the story telling tradition but giving her performance a personal, feisty sparkle.

THU 5
MARCH

Guest Lecture as part of Dundee Women's Festival (2-22 March)

Dundee and Angus College, Gardyne Campus, Dundee • 11.00am • Public event • Free

As part of Dundee Women's Festival, there will be a guest lecture by the Mary Slessor Foundation.

SUN 8
MARCH

Spotlight On: Mary Slessor - International Women's Day

National Museum of Scotland, Main Auditorium, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF • 2.00pm to 3.30pm • This is a ticketed event for adults • Free (booking required)

Join Curator Sarah Worden and guests in a celebration of Mary's remarkable life. Learn about Mary, her life, work and status after her death, and take a look at how Mary and other missionaries like her shaped museum collections during their time.

APR 11
- NOV 1

Mary Slessor: Mill Girl to Magistrate

Verdant Works, West Henderson's Wynd, Dundee, DD1 5BT • Scotland's Jute Museum
Opening hours: April - October - Monday to Saturday, 10am - 6pm, Sunday 11am - 6pm • Free

Featuring the story of Mary Slessor's life and work in the slums of Dundee to the enormous challenges of teaching the word of God, while staunchly defending women's and human rights in a part of the world frequently known as "The White Man's Grave".

SUN 12
APRIL

Dedication by the Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland

The Steeple Church, Nethergate, Dundee
10.30am Church Service • 12.00 for 12.15pm Dedication to take place at the site of the plaque. These are both public events • Free

Following a Church Service by Reverend Robert Calvert in The Steeple Church, Dundee, a dedication will take place at the site of the commemorative plaques and a wreath and flowers will be laid.

15-17 “Mother of All the Peoples”

APRIL

Dundee Repertory Theatre, Tay Square, Dundee • 7.30pm • Tickets £14, concessions £12, children £8, available at the Rep Box Office 01382 223530

With humour and pathos this much acclaimed musical play tells the story of Mary Slessor's life and work in Dundee before moving to Calabar where disease and danger lurked round every corner. This is the work of Scottish playwright Mike Gibb, with music by Mairi Warren and is based on the book “The Barefoot Missionary” by the late Elizabeth Robertson.

SAT 18 Saturday Night Lecture - “Mary Slessor and the Scottish Mission”

APRIL

Dalhousie Lecture Theatre, University of Dundee • 6.00pm • An illustrated talk by Writer and Broadcaster, Billy Kay • Public event • Free

Billy Kay is the author of The Scottish World, and the producer and presenter of several series of fascinating radio documentaries. Here Billy will place Mary Slessor in the context of the Scottish Diaspora and of the Scottish missionary effort which attempted to plant Presbyterianism in places as far afield as Russia, China, Africa and Brazil. The talk will be illustrated with audio from Billy's programmes and will include music from Mary's Duketown Parish Church in Calabar, and the voices of the daughters of Daniel Slessor, one of the children saved and adopted by Mary.

TUE 16 Harris Academy Dundee - Sheila Tennant Awards at Dundee West

JUNE

Church in the spirit of Mary Slessor

7.30pm

The Sheila Tennant Awards (each in the sum of £2,000), are in the spirit of Mary Slessor and Dundee West Church pays tribute to two enlightened and remarkable women who trusted humanity to deliver progress.

Award encouraging the performing and creative arts; Award encouraging creative Christianity; Award encouraging enterprise and employment; Award encouraging sporting endeavour; Award encouraging community endeavour.

SAT 18 African Praise and Gospel Mega concert

JULY

Caird Hall, Dundee • 6.00pm - 9.00pm

Tickets are available from the Box Office, City Square, Dundee

Dance and drama performances by the Afro-Scottish Heritage Drama Group, Dundee Mass Choir and guest artistes. Also featuring a play about Mary Slessor.

OCT 27 As part of Dundee Literary Festival “The Four Marys”

- NOV 1

Date and Venue to be decided • Public event

As the dawn rises on 2017, Dundee emerges from its industrial past to a new era. Four Marys – Slessor, Brooksbank, Walker and Baxter, each helped shape the city in their different ways and they meet in a disused jute mill to discuss their roles in creating the Dundee that is spread out before them. The good, the bad and the ugly truth will be revealed in this new play developed for the Mary Slessor Centenary. This is supported by the University of Dundee. For more information contact a.c.day@dundee.ac.uk.

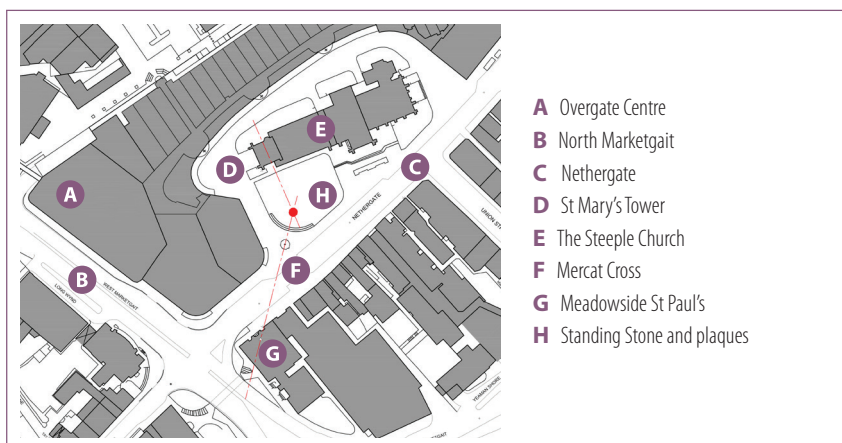
COMMEMORATIVE STANDING STONE

The award winning development of Upper Dens Works off Princes Street, Dundee by Hillcrest Housing Association features a cul-de-sac of modern housing, known as Mary Slessor Square. During an initial exploration of the site, it was evident that there was no local information explaining why this street name had been chosen. Following a discussion with Hillcrest's then Chief Executive, John Mulloy, the process of instigating the design, fabrication and installation of a commemorative plaque began. Hillcrest along with five other organisations offered financial support, which enabled consultations with local sculptor Roddy Mathieson, to begin. In the meantime, a location for the plaque was needed.

Location

A number of options were discussed amongst the Trustees of the Mary Slessor Foundation as well as some of the funders and other interested groups. Historical connections with the area of the city in which Mary lived and worked, were carefully measured against their prominence and visibility. Mary Slessor predominantly worshipped in the Wishart Church, Cowgate, Dundee, which is now occupied by a sign making company and most appropriately a children's nursery. It was unified with The Steeple Church, Nethergate in the 1960s, from where the Mary Slessor Centre was run for a number of years and was therefore chosen as a fitting location for such a tribute.

The map below illustrates the drawing together of three impressive historical structures in Dundee city centre. The adopted location of the standing stone, on the lawn adjacent to the church, is on the centre line of the spire of Meadowside St Paul's Church and the Mercat Cross and its point of intersection with the centre line of St Mary's Tower, an iconic landmark in the city.



Selection

It is fitting that the plaques are fixed to a piece of granite. Breedon Aggregates who operate Craigenlow Quarry, a few miles west of Aberdeen, the city in which Mary Slessor was born, were very willing to assist. After sifting through literally mountains of rock, in the company of Quarry Manager, Brian Fraser and Elizabeth Woodhouse for Dundee City Council, a suitable piece was identified and kindly donated for which we are extremely grateful. Identification and selection of an appropriate piece of stone was however just the start!

Preparing and Transportation

Weighing approximately 3 tons, the stone was transported to Dundee and then onto St Andrews courtesy of Dundee Plant. At the yard of stone masons, WL Watson and Sons in St Andrews, it was examined, measured, cleaned and cut to size before being prepared to receive the bronze plaques. Dundee City Council in conjunction with Sir Robert McAlpine, created the foundation, transported the stone back to Dundee, arranged for it be lifted into position and carefully made good the soft landscape to the lawn.



COMMEMORATIVE STANDING STONE

Excavation and Installation

The foundation location and depth were very carefully plotted to avoid a nearby underground electrical cable. An archaeologist was also on hand to monitor the excavations, to ensure that there was no disturbance of what was at one time a historical graveyard in the city centre. By good fortune, nothing was uncovered.

Dr Aubrey Zerkle, a biogeochemist at the University of St Andrews examined a sample of the stone and was able to say that it was granodiorite, which is similar to granite, but made up of slightly different minerals.

For the record, it has more plagioclase feldspar (as opposed to orthoclase feldspar in granite, which is pink), and also commonly contains biotite and hornblende, which are the black minerals that give it its two-toned appearance (thank you Aubrey...). The Rosetta Stone at the British Museum was carved from granodiorite, which is probably the most famous comparative example.

The project has been an excellent example of partnership collaboration involving a local charity working closely with a number of public and private sector organisations. The collective goodwill and spirit of co-operation has been critical to the project's successful delivery of a commemoration that is perfectly aligned with the history and heritage of Dundee. This has also been an incredible learning experience for everyone involved.



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Roddy Mathieson

Scottish artist Roddy Mathieson graduated in Sculpture from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee (1997) and has gone on to develop his practice in public art, work in education, direct his own business (The Mobile Foundry) and produce a diverse portfolio of works.



His work is informed by skills, processes and materials, working mostly in casting and specifically with bronze casting techniques. From bell-making to sculpture and portraiture, 'learning through making' is what drives his practice. By undertaking all aspects of the work from pattern-making to mould-making, furnace construction, metal casting and hand finishing the casts, he is developing a deeper understanding of the process and the properties of the materials involved. With funding provided by local companies and organisations, the Mary Slessor Foundation was able to commission Roddy and have thoroughly enjoyed working with him.

Making of the Plaques

A lot of time, thought, materials and processes went into the making of the plaques. Below is a short description of the work involved, which illustrates not only the phenomenal skill required, but the coming together of art, engineering, maths and science, in creating a piece of history that will be a permanent part of Scotland's heritage. Roddy takes over the story from here.

Brief

Initial meetings took place with the Foundation to discuss the aspirations of the project, its budget and timescale after which, various preliminary sketches and drawings were prepared. The size, shape and style of the plaques were deliberated along with the materials and the wording.

Portrait

In order to make the Bas Relief portrait, a slab of clay was rolled out to about an inch thick, and sculpted back using a variety of tools. Several studies and practice attempts were made to help better understand Mary's features and character.

Pattern Making

Once the portrait had been sculpted in clay, a silicone mould was made by pouring a two-part rubber over the clay, and encasing it in a plaster shell for stability. Using the silicone mould, a copy of the portrait was then cast in resin and fibreglass, adding in bronze powder to the surface to replicate how it was to look in metal. This 1:1 model of the form is known as the pattern and this was then varnished in preparation for moulding.

COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Text Plaque Pattern

The text plaque was made differently. A board was prepared to the desired size, and a profile routed along the border to provide some detail to the piece, matching the portrait plaque. Special tapered casting letters were carefully glued onto the pattern board, each letter individually positioned and fixed to spell out the message. The pattern was then varnished to create a non-stick surface ready for moulding, while the format and setting out was checked with the Foundation progressively.

Sand Mould

Bespoke mould boxes were made for casting each plaque; two separate two-part moulds built around the dimensions and thicknesses of each plaque pattern, allowing for runners and risers for the metal and air to flow through the mould. Each pattern was fixed within its mould-box, coated in graphite powder (to help it release from the sand), and a fine casting sand sieved over it. Special foundry Oil Bonded Sand was used for the moulds due to its good replication of detail. The sieved sand was at first gently packed over the pattern. As the mould was filled with more sand, a pneumatic hammer was used to ram the sand under pressure to create a stronger mould. This process was repeated to create a reverse side of each plaque.

The mould boxes were then opened carefully, the patterns removed, and channels cut into the sand to allow the molten metal to flow in and the air to escape, these are known as runners and risers.

Casting

The plaques are made of a high grade Silicone Bronze alloy. The crucible (melting pot) was loaded with the metal and heated in a gas and air furnace to 1,150° C. The crucible was lifted out and placed into the Ringshank for pouring. The molten metal was cleaned of any oxidation on the surface, then carefully lifted and the bright molten metal was poured as smoothly as possible into the mould, where it solidified relatively quickly. The pour is a critical time; many elements come together all at once, and this requires full concentration and a certain amount of luck. After about 20 minutes of cooling, the cast was then de-moulded, which is a nervous moment for any caster, the results are inspected.



MARY MITCHELL SLESSOR
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Chasing

The drama of the casting was followed by the grind of chasing the cast, cutting off the runners and risers, welding any small holes, grinding it flush, improving detail and form, sanding, filing and polishing the metal. The cast was sand-blasted to clean it; the hidden fixings on the back of the plaque were drilled and tapped to house large brass bolts for installation. At this point the casts were then hand sanded with fine grit sandpaper and polished with leather, prior to being sand-blasted thoroughly to create a clean sterile surface in preparation for patination.

Patination

This process is the controlled colouring and ageing of the metal to create a tone and look to the cast, bringing out the qualities of the material that would otherwise take a long time to occur naturally. The plaques were patinated with a classical dark brown known as Fiorentina, and polished back using brass brushes to reveal a golden highlight of the bronze. The patina was scrubbed down and re-applied in many layers until the process is complete. After a final polishing of the highlights, the cast was reheated and beeswax was applied to seal the surface of the patina, preventing further changes. The wax was polished leaving a rich finish to the cast.

All parts of the process of making a bronze sculpture, require careful planning and preparation to reduce risk, but also to avoid mishaps and inadvertent pitfalls. This is all part of the 'heart in your mouth' nature of creating this type of work!



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUES

Installation

Once the face of the stone had been cleaned and prepared at the mason's yard the final setting out was checked. Holes were then drilled into the face of the granite at the corresponding location of the brass bolts and a dry fit was undertaken, which allowed any final adjustments to be made to either component. Once complete, the bolt holes were filled with epoxy resin to receive the plaque and to ensure it was securely fixed in position. The border of the plaque was sealed with masonry resin to further secure it and prevent ingress of water.

I have enjoyed making the plaques and working with the Mary Slessor Foundation and hope it is enjoyed as a celebration of Mary's life and work, which will give her the national recognition she deserves.



The Mary Slessor Foundation would like to thank:-

Donation, Selection, Transportation and Preparation of the Stone

Dundee City Council (Ken Laing, Elizabeth Woodhouse and Fergus Wilson),
Breedon Aggregates at Craigenlow Quarry (Brian Fraser and Rodney Rollo),
Dundee Plant (Dave Hovell), Sir Robert McAlpine (Ian Reid and Clare Summers),
WL Watson and Sons of St Andrews (Ross and Ian Watson).

Designers

Roddy Mathieson of the Mobile Foundry and
Andy Baxter and Doug Binnie of Nicoll Russell Studios.

Funders

Hillcrest Housing Association, Dundee Civic Trust, Dundee Historic
Environmental Trust, Charitable trust of the late Walter Craig,
Church of Scotland and Dundee City Council.

STAINED GLASS MEMORIAL WINDOW

"It is a memorial to her work, let it be also a challenge to our own and future generations to carry on the work she so nobly, with God's Grace, began"

- James D. Boyd

In 1923 to commemorate Mary Slessor, money was raised for a stained glass window to be installed in The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum, where it is located in their Jute Café. The window, packed with details of her adventures, beautifully encapsulates the story of a Scottish mill girl becoming a renowned missionary, magistrate and 'Mother of All the Peoples'.

The window was designed by Mr William Aikman, who had been taught by Mary in Sunday school as a child. Constructed using 900 pieces of glass, it depicts many aspects of Mary Slessor's life both in Dundee and in Calabar.


The motivation for installing this commemorative window is best described in the inscription that runs along the bottom:

"Erected by many admiring friends, to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Slessor - Dundee factory girl, pioneer missionary Old Calabar, White Queen of Okoyong and member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem."

The opening ceremony for the window took place on Friday 28th September 1923 with the money for the window being raised by a special Memorial Fund Committee. Amongst the members were familiar names such as R. H. Lundie, who hosted Mary when she came home on leave to the city and a representative from Baxter Brothers, where Mary had worked until her departure for Africa.



MOTHER OF ALL THE PEOPLES



TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF
THE DEATH OF MARY SLESSOR

MOTHER OF ALL THE PEOPLES

A MUSICAL PLAY

TOLD WITH HUMOUR AND PATHOS
BY MIKE GIBB AND MUSIC BY MAIRI WARREN

15 – 17 APRIL 2015 - 7.30PM

THE REP BOX OFFICE 01382 223530

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE MARY SLESSOR FOUNDATION
(SC032781) AND THEIR ONGOING WORK IN AKPAP OKOYONG, NIGERIA.



Cast of Mother of All the Peoples



Dr Lawrie Mitchell & Mike Gibb

Tickets are now
on sale at the
Dundee Rep
Box Office:

**01382
223530**

Carolyn Johnston, Lynne Binnie, Tricia Stewart and Aileen Air return to the stage of Dundee Rep to tell the incredible story of the life and work of Mary Slessor in this highly acclaimed musical play.

Brought up in poverty in the slums of Victorian Dundee and enduring the hard life as a weaver in the city's jute mills, "Mother of All the Peoples" tells of how at the age of 28 she travelled to Africa, known then as "the white man's grave" to become a missionary... but that is only part of the story...

Supremely courageous with endless spirit and energy she challenged the superstitions of tribes, stopped their cruel practices and rescued and adopted twins who were believed to be the work of evil spirits.

Mary Slessor: Mill Girl to Magistrate
Free Exhibition
Scotland's Jute Museum @ Verdant Works

11 April - 1 November 2015

Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday: 10.00am - 6.00pm

Sunday: 11.00am - 6.00pm



└ photos courtesy of Dundee City Council ┐

The centenary exhibition tells the story of Mary Slessor's journey from Dundee mill girl to missionary and later magistrate in Calabar and celebrates her work to improve the lives of the local tribes, in particular the women and children and her ongoing legacy.

This temporary exhibition includes personal objects which belonged to Mary Slessor from the collections of Dundee Art Gallery & Museums, along with contemporary images and quotes from her letters written during her life in Calabar.

The story begins in Dundee, an expanding industrial city, struggling with poor housing, sanitation and poverty. It then follows Mary as she sets out for the then mysterious continent of Africa, encountering a whole new set of dangers and challenges.

Exhibition curated by: Catriona Baird, Freelance Curator

Designed by: GBDM Ltd. Dundee: Griff Boyle, Wendy Maltman and Emma Thompson

Supported by the National Lottery through the Heritage Lottery Fund.

COMPETITIONS



The Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, in conjunction with the Mary Slessor Foundation, have launched a Mary Slessor Short Story Competition.

Jim Shearer, Deacon Convenor of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, and Collector, Ron Scrimgeour advised that the purpose of the competition was *“to promote a wider awareness of Mary Slessor, her life, times and her accomplishments through a fictional narrative and to honour a Dundee weaver who gave a powerful example of the impact women can make in adversity”*.

Ron Scrimgeour added, *“Mary Slessor was as extraordinary as she was unorthodox, she faced huge language, cultural and social challenges and we are looking to local budding authors to provide a personal insight into Mary’s struggle to be accepted as a missionary against this backdrop. It is our hope that the competition will inspire pride in the City of Dundee for all of the young people taking part”*.

The competition is open to all S2 pupils attending city of Dundee Secondary Schools who can submit entries to both categories, up to 800 words.



The Dyer Craft, of the Nine Incorporated Trades of Dundee, in conjunction with the Mary Slessor Foundation, has launched a Mary Slessor Photography Competition.

Tim Heilbronn, Past Convenor of the Dyer Craft of Dundee explained that the purpose was *“to promote wider awareness of Mary Slessor, her life and work as a weaver in the city and her accomplishments in Calabar, Nigeria as a missionary”*.

Tim added, *“the subject matter can be wide ranging and could include - the Dundee that inspired and influenced Mary Slessor in a spiritual way or photographs that she might have taken as a memento to Africa if that had been possible”*.

The judges will consider technical merit, content and composition, imagination and style and in **particular an emphasis on the use of light and colour**.

The competition is open to three groups: Primary, Secondary under 14, and over 14.

All competition entries must be submitted to the Mary Slessor Foundation, per Nicoll Russell Studios, 111 King Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5 1EL or by emailing **ajames@maryslessor.org** by no later than **20th March 2015**. The winning entries, to whom prizes will be awarded, will also feature in the Mary Slessor Centenary Exhibition at Verdant Works, Dundee.

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our supporters.

A great number of people have assisted the Mary Slessor Foundation in delivering the programme of events, and below we have included quotes from those who have contributed to the cost of designing and sculpting the bronze plaques.

Dundee City Council– Common Good Fund

(Marjory Stewart – Director of Corporate Services)



As indicated by its name, the fund is used for the common good of the City. In administering the Common Good Fund, the Council must “have regard to the interests of all inhabitants of the district”.

Dundee City Council, has been delighted to provide core funding for the programme to help commemorate the significant contribution made by Mary Slessor to the history and heritage of the city, in showing a remarkable fearlessness in the face of danger to promote basic human and women’s rights.

Dundee Civic Trust

(Nick Day and Jack Searle)



Dundee Civic Trust
‘Encouraging the Best’

Dundee Civic Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation whose aim is to promote the civic realm by encouraging the best in new development and conservation and sympathetic restoration of historic buildings and places.

Mary Slessor worked as a weaver in the now neglected buildings of the Lower Dens Works and the Trust is proud to be able to contribute to the commemoration of her life and work.

Dundee Historic Environment Trust

(Adam Swan and Iain Mudie)



Dundee Historic Environment Trust is an independent charitable trust, supported by Historic Scotland and Dundee City Council, and is concerned with promoting, protecting and enhancing Dundee’s historic built environment.

Mary Slessor’s formative years were spent around Cowgate, Queen Street and Princes Street, where Dens Works, the original Wishart Church and the Cowgate Arch, so familiar to her, are now all protected buildings. We hope that this memorial to her in her hometown will encourage others to find out more about the places that she knew so well.

Walter Craig's Charitable Fund

(Norman Robertson)

The late Walter Craig's Charitable Fund was set up following his death, on 25 March 2009, in terms of his testamentary instructions. The Fund was established for the benefit of charitable causes in the Tayside area.

After 52 years involved in the jute industry and textile trade, Walter Craig was involved in the establishment of Verdant Works, in which he took a great interest. It is therefore appropriate that a centenary exhibition is also taking place at this venue, the home of Scotland's Jute Museum.

Hillcrest Housing Association

(John Mulloy and Angela Linton)



Our previous Chief Executive, John Mulloy took a personal interest in the work of Mary Slessor and as an organisation we were keen to support that. Hillcrest has converted several redundant jute mills in the city, and part of the cleared site at Upper Dens Mills was given the name Mary Slessor Square. Hillcrest are keen to maintain that connection with one of Dundee's most courageous women.

Church of Scotland

(Carol Finlay and Jennie Chinembiri)



The Church of Scotland sees itself as having a significant role in this centenary of the death of one of its famous Missionaries. Her Christian upbringing and nurture within the church in Dundee shaped her and served her well during her years of ministry in Nigeria. That ministry continues through the work of our partner church, the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and we rejoice in the opportunity to celebrate with them both here in Scotland and in Nigeria. We remember with thanksgiving our shared history and rejoice as we take her legacy into the next 100 years.

The Mary Slessor Foundation owes a debt of gratitude to:-

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Clydesdale Bank PLC who, without charge, re-designed our website - www.maryslessor.org

DC Thomson and Company Limited for meeting many of the printing costs.

Dundee City Council for providing additional administrative and practical support.

The Steeple Church, Dundee for their support with the unveiling and dedication events.

In addition, we would like to thank...

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Carolyn Johnston
Jack McKeown
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David Morrison
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Elizabeth Shearer

Friends of Mary Slessor

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The Steeple Church

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Very Rev John Chalmers
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Ian McGregor
Kevin Welsh

And the many others...

Pastor Rufus Aizbeoje
Andrew Anderson
Catriona Baird
Hope and Abbie Beattie
Vicki Bowman
Griff Boyle
Mark Carmichael
James Carter
Carly Cooper
Malcolm Dowie
Lord Provost Bob Duncan
Effiom Effiong Bassey
Kevin Fitzpatrick
Iain Flett
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Andrew Greaves
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Clare Summers
Emma Thompson
Murray Thomson
Sarah Worden
Katherine Wynn
Aubrey Zerkle

Our sincere apologies if you have been overlooked...

"I beg to direct your attention to Africa; I know that in a few years I shall be cut off in that country, which is now open: do not let it be shut again! I go back to Africa to try to make an open path for commerce and Christianity; it is for you to carry out the work which I have begun. I leave it with you!"

- David Livingstone

