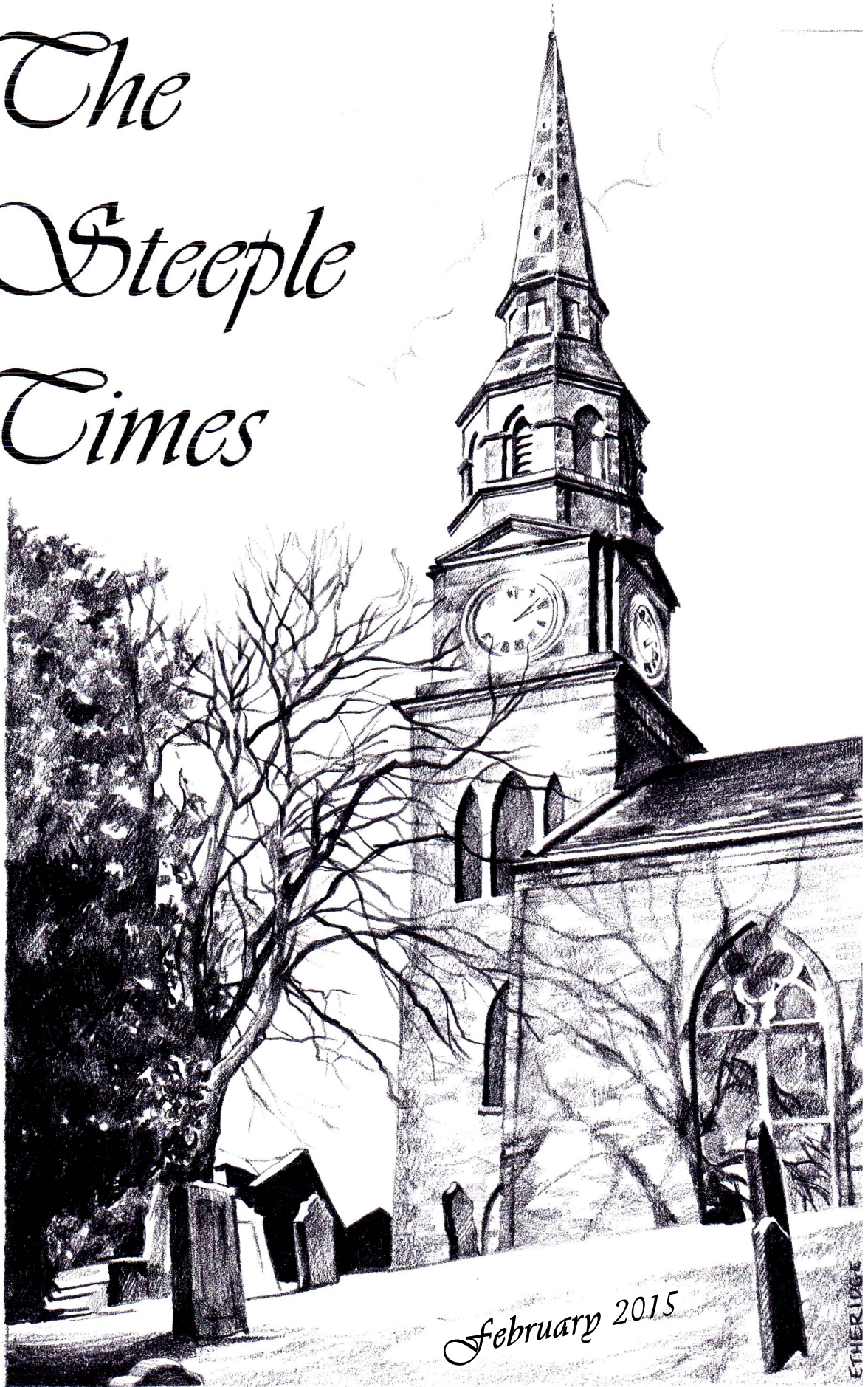


*The  
Steeple  
Times*



*February 2015*

ETHERIDGE

**Services of Public Worship:**

Every Sunday at 11. a.m.

A short service is also held on the first Sunday of each month at 9.30 a.m. and on Wednesdays at 12.10 p.m.

**Minister:**

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: [barbara.ann17@talktalk.net](mailto:barbara.ann17@talktalk.net)

**Web Site:** [www.thebigkirk.co.uk](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk)

**Church E-mail:** [eando\\_office@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:eando_office@yahoo.co.uk)

**Scottish Charity No.:** SC004921

# FROM THE MANSE

February 2015

Dear Friends

I know it is a little bit late but a Happy New Year to you all and I wish you a very peaceful 2015. I am writing this letter to you on 20<sup>th</sup> January so that Elma can edit it and then put it into the layout of the magazine before it is printed in the next few days. Did you know that it takes Elma hours and hours to edit and put the magazine in its form and then it takes Irene Duthie and Janet Milne hours to print it off? And then there is a team who meet to collate, staple and fold the magazines before then being split into the different areas for delivery. Finishing it off we have all the people who deliver the magazines. A huge thank you folks!!!

In this edition I want to say a very, very big thank you to all the people in East and Old who do so much work to further Christ's mission here in Forfar and further afield. And also the work you will be undertaking this year!!! Nothing appears to be a problem to the members of East and Old as they are forward thinking and progressive and that is why East and Old Church is alive and thriving. I hope you can feel the Holy Spirit in our church also. Can I take this opportunity also to say thank you for your attendance at worship over this last year as numbers are up as is the number of people who volunteer for the many, many activities we run for our community and – well I was going to say also for ourselves – but everything we organise and run is open to all people not just our members.

I have informed you many times not to give me a few days off because my mind just starts to go around and think up new ideas to spread the Good News of Christ and be involved in our community so to that end you will find in this edition of the Steeple Times a number of new ventures we are undertaking in the coming months for our children and youth of Forfar and there is also an opportunity for you to help in our new shop (you will find the details further on).

At a recent Kirk Session meeting I opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 25:4-6 and asked the Kirk Session to talk to God when they were considering making decisions on behalf of our church and to remember that God will show us the right path to take. We need to be open to new ideas and not get trapped in old mind-sets. 'Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights'. Clinging to the familiar can be crippling. God may choose to lead you along a new path of fresh insight. So breathe deeply, seek His wisdom, and open up your heart to receive it for each and every one of you is needed in the life of East and Old Church; I need you, East and Old Parish Church needs you, your neighbour needs you and most importantly God needs you! Jesus' call to his followers was never 'stop and listen' it was 'follow me' and I ask that of you this year – to follow Christ in your thoughts, words, deeds and actions.

Every blessing to you and your families

*Barbara Ann*

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY** – on the three Thursday evenings during December the advent bible study held at the manse was well attended. The theme of the bible study was entitled 'Revealed' – revealed to oneself, to others and to the community. The people attending were open in their discussions and gained a lot from the bible study.

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**CHRISTMAS TREE, DECORATIONS, NATIVITY SET AND FLOWERS** – everything was put out and in its place during the first week of December. It is amazing how these things happen just like that! Needless to say they do not happen just like that but involves as host of helpers, Bill & Irene Duthie Doug & Margaret Robertson, Jim Farquharson and the Busy Hands Group. Our porcelain nativity set really sets the whole scene off and we are very thankful to the couple who donated this set – it really enhances the whole setting. Year after year Marlene Sim outdoes herself with the flowers over the festive period. From the flowers at the stations, to the flowers on the window sills and then the flowers at the chancel area and also on the communion table. Many thank Marlene.



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December saw the annual **CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION** take place in the church followed by mulled wine, tea and coffee, lots of nibbles and cakes and then carol singing. The judge this year was councillor Lynne Devine and she awarded first place to the Art Group, second place was Friends of East and Old and third place Busy Hands. Next year the format will change slightly as there will now be two sections to be judged: adults and then another section for children. Well done to Bob Todd and Mary Daun from the Art Group with their version of Jack and the Beanstalk.



On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December it was our **ANNUAL GIFT SERVICE** in aid of the Angus Toy Appeal and the folks of East and Old came out in force. Thank you so very, very much for the wonderful gifts that you brought along and the amount of them too. The people from the Angus Toy Appeal were delighted at the amount and the quality. Once again East and Old members are thinking of others.

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On the evening of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> we held our annual **CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT**. Barbara Ann has said that the programme was a bit too long and will need to be cut next time (date for your diary – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015) but a special thank you must go to the Waddell school Dancers and the Waddell and Woodcock children for their dancing and bagpipe playing. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event on the night.



Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December was a busy day for our members. Firstly a big thank you for the wonderful retiring offering for SCAA (Scottish Charity Air Ambulance) a magnificent total of £203.30 was raised and then added to the amount collected by the other churches and the evening concert at Lawson Memorial with the Salvation Army Band. In the afternoon it was the retiral service for Major Jim McCluskey of the Salvation Army which was well attended. But don't expect Jim to disappear – he re-starts again in January with a different job title!!!

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December was the **LADIES NIGHT OUT** Christmas meal. Chapter and Verse did us very well and a big thank you to Ali the owner who bought us all a round of drinks!!!

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During the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> the communion table was moved away and a manger was built in its place. Bill and Irene Duthie did a fantastic job of creating and building the manger with a very little bit of help from Busy Hands. If you looked closely enough you would have seen the mice as well.



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December Barbara Ann was taking one of the House Group assemblies in the **ACADEMY**. Barbara Ann said that the youths were very respectful, polite and well-behaved and were a credit to the school.

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In the evening of 18<sup>th</sup> it was the **MEN'S NIGHT OUT** Christmas meal in The Stag and Alf Birse asked each of the men coming along that evening to do a party turn; so there was a guitar, a fiddle, songs, jokes, stories – all around a great night was had even though someone took the wrong dinner order and another one had to be made up – well done to The Stag for not charging for an extra meal!!!

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December saw **CHIMES PLAYGROUP** Take over the church for their end of year show. The children were just delightful and their singing was great; it was loud and strong and lots of actions too. It was great that they could use the church for this occasion.

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Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December was the **WALKING GROUP'S** final walk of the year with a lunch at the end of the walk. Well done Billy for a very enjoyable walk at Edzell followed by a very nice lunch at The Tuck Inn – the team want to go back again!!! There was only one hill so Barbara Ann didn't moan about that but she didn't like the mud and wet moss underfoot!!! We are losing count of the number of things you don't like on a walk Barbara Ann: hills, mud, sand, rain, ice, not too far from Forfar – have we missed anything!!!



Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December was **NATIVITY SUNDAY** and the Groovy Gryphons were excellent. As most of our children are of a younger age group the nativity story was sung to nursery rhymes which had their words changed. The older children were the narrators and everyone did really well. Everyone loved the One Sheep went to graze song!!!



The afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> was our annual **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**. This is a more quiet and reflective service which takes us from the Old Testament to the birth of Jesus with our bible readings interspersed with Christmas carols which also tell the story. Barbara Ann would like to thank everyone who took part and to all those who attended. Thank you to the people who helped with the refreshments also.

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In the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> many from East and Old attended **FORFAR'S BIG SING** in St Margaret's in aid of Christian Aid. Sing, sing, sing was the theme with old and new Christmas carols and songs interspersed with stories of Christmas. Thank you for the tea and coffee afterwards and thank you to our helpers who manned various points in the evening. It was lovely to receive a blessing at the end from St Margaret's new minister Rev Maggie Hunt and we wish her every blessing in her new ministry.



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On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> **STRATHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL** should have been along at the church but because of the inclement weather a few days before it was decided to keep them at the school. The Christmas service was very good with the school choir singing and three children playing their brass instruments. For only being nine and ten years old they did very, very well indeed. Barbara Ann then told them a story which linked into the nativity story and gave away lots of goodies.

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A big, big, big **THANK YOU** must go to the volunteers who turned out to make the **CHRISTINGLES** on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. At least fifteen people were on hand to make 350 Christingles. That is 350 oranges, 350 strips of red tape, 350 candles, 1400 cocktail sticks and the same in sultanas, marshmallows and jelly tots. Bill Duthie and his team made holders for the oranges for safety reasons and then Bill took us all through the health and safety issue and risk assessment with having 350 open flames in the building at the one time. Thank you must also go to Asda Forfar for giving us a £20 gift card to off-set the cost of the oranges and the other supplies.



**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** – what a night it was! Barbara Ann had people up and down in their seats. The sheep song from the nativity service made an appearance, football nativity story, little skits and plays and of course lots of singing too. 350 Christingles were made and even then some people did not get one as the numbers were higher than that – there was nearly no room at the church never mind the inn!!! The orange holders were a good idea and worked well and it was great to see all the families out in force.

Did you know that Bob Kidd now has four wives? He has his real wife Esther, two weeks before Christmas he was married to Ada (aka Margaret Scrimgeour); the week before Christmas he was married to Margaret Myles and on the night of the Christingle service he was married to Isabel Farquharson! Esther you will need to keep an eye on him!!! And let's not forget that we had a new minister at the Christingle service – Rev Jane! Esther Kidd was playing a part in one of the sketches and she borrowed Barbara Ann's dog collar – watch out though – she hasn't given it back yet!!!

Following in the tradition that started many years ago there was a retiring collection at the end of the Christingle service which was split between Archie's Foundation at Ninewells Hospital and Lippen Care here in Forfar. **THANK YOU** to everyone who donated money and both organisations received £300 each.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY** – well done to everyone who turned out on Christmas morning for our worship service. It only lasted 40 minutes who would have thought Barbara Ann could do anything less than 75 minutes!!! The people who came forward with their gifts were delighted with them and hopefully next year more people will remember to bring at least one gift with them!!!

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December the members of the **BOOK CLUB** went out for their Christmas Meal and once again Chapter and Verse did very well indeed. They did have some discussion about the last book they read but there was more chatter than anything else.

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**THANKS-** Our busy little beavers have been at it again when the Christmas Tree, decorations, flowers all had to be put away or taken to the skip. If putting up the tree was difficult enough you ought have seen it coming down. The pine needles were everywhere! The same people were on hand who put the tree up but also thanks to Dave Bowman for taking it away. He takes away so much rubbish from the church in his trailer he should be charging us a fee!!

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**ACCORD** – is our concert party which consists of 10 people. Accord has been very, very busy over the last few months and have now performed on 15 occasions in a variety of venues around Forfar and Kirriemuir. Accord have been well received wherever they go and they bring light entertainment and fun to everyone. Whenever they are given a donation for performing the money goes to the Improvement Fund.

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**FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP** – continues to meet once a month at the manse. It gives our members a chance to ask questions, talk openly and freely about their faith, what it means in their lives and how we use our faith in our lives. No question is too silly but there are plenty of difficult questions that we struggle to sort out amongst ourselves. It is a good job that God is with us at these times!!! Below are the dates that are meeting over the next few months. Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, Mar 9<sup>th</sup>, Apr 13<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and Jun 8<sup>th</sup>.

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**BOOK CLUB** – reads one book a month and then discusses it at the end of the month. Each month the venue changes to book club members houses and in this last 6 months the books have been varied with both good and not so good reports on the books. Some books people either love or hate while a number of books have been middle of the road but all worth reading. Below are the books and dates: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February to discuss Good Behaviour by Molly Keane; Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to discuss Dancer Off Her Feet by Julie Sheldon; Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April to discuss Philomena by Martin Sixsmith.

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**KIRKRIGGS COURT** – thank you to the residents of Kirkriggs Court for the donation they gave to the church just before Christmas. The residents are grateful to Barbara Ann and Bruce for coming along every month to take the worship service. They also said a big thank you to Anna Mitchell who comes along every Tuesday and supplies everyone with pancakes, cakes and tray bakes – well done Anna. Barbara Ann told us that she also gets a great deal of enjoyment going along to Kirkriggs Court and has got to know the residents really well and even though some of members belong to other churches she had adopted them all in her usual style.

## WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US AT.....

**CARE HOME SERVICES** – every month East and Old conduct two care home services in Forfar and this is also done alongside Lawson Church, St Margaret's and the Forfar Community Church where the care home services are conducted on a rota basis (there is a list on the notice board in the hallway). It is great when some of our own members come along to help with the singing and the page turning with the residents and Barbara Ann would like to urge you to think about coming along to these services.

**LADIES NIGHT OUT** – the numbers have fallen slightly on the night outs but we are still averaging 15 ladies but we could do with more. We meet once a month at Chapter and Verse at 7.30pm and at about 9pm tea, coffee and sandwiches are served. Chapter and Verse treat us very well indeed! Why not come along and join us! The next few dates are below: Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.



**MEN'S NIGHT OUT** – the men really enjoy their time away from all the woman folk of the church at The Stag. They also meet once a month on a Thursday night at 7.30pm in The Stag. Again, why not come along and join them! The dates are as follows: 26<sup>th</sup> February, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> April.

**HEAVENLY BITES** is run with a group of volunteers from the church in conjunction with the primary seven pupils from Strathmore Primary. Due to staff allocation the café only ran the first Thursday of the month over this last 5 months. The children learn a great deal from this venture from cooking to making the accounts balance with a profit and loss account sheet.



**COSY CORNER** is our lunch club which runs every Tuesday from 12 noon until just after 1pm. We have a team of volunteers who make the soup and sandwiches and serve them and also do the washing up afterwards. The Cosy Corner is open to the public and we look forward to meeting and greeting everyone. We have our regulars but we also have people coming in off the street. Keep up the good work folks and Jean Alexander would be delighted hear from you if you would like to volunteer for this very worthwhile venture. Some people on the rota don't like doing the soup and others not so keen on doing the sandwiches – we can accommodate your preference

**THE HUB** – runs every Monday from 11.30am to 1pm in the Choir Room of the church. On average we see 3 to 5 people every Monday and we hope this will continue to grow. Thank you to the volunteers and the soup makers and to the members of the public who come along. We as people of faith are being educated and learning a great deal from the people who use this café.

### THANK YOU

**VANESSA FERRIE** – in case you do not know who this person is, the easiest way to describe her is an angel! Vanessa is one of our members but she is also the church cleaner and what a great job she does. Vanessa works more hours than she is paid for and whenever she knows that something big is happening in the church she makes sure everything is looking good and comes in afterwards to clear and tidy up. Did you know that Vanessa is cleaning the church

Every Christmas Eve after the Christingle service so that it is looking good for Christmas Day, she even gets her family to help out that night too. Vanessa received an early Christmas present from the church on Christmas Eve – a new vacuum cleaner, a new super duper industrial vacuum cleaner – it is well deserved Vanessa and we hope it makes life a bit easier when vacuuming the church. Everybody knows what a large church we have but it is not until you start vacuuming the floor that you realise just how big our floor area is!



## **WE NEED YOUR HELP SHOP PREMISES**

The steering group for the refurbishment work has been considering for some time the idea of opening up a fundraising shop and have been looking for premises in Forfar.

Mr Ul Haq who owns the Spicy Hut Restaurant at the corner of the church gates met with the group just before Christmas. Mr Ul Haq is a man of God and understands our need for improvements in our building and trying to fund that. After looking around the premises Mr Ul Haq offered the shop to East and Old rent free for 6 months. Barbara Ann accepted this offer on behalf of East and Old and was delighted at the next Kirk Session meeting when the Kirk Session granted this new venture retrospectively!

Our team of men: Bill Duthie, Doug Robertson, Jim Farquharson, Bob Sim, Bill Sim, Dave Bowman and John Fairley have been busy clearing out the shop and talks have been ongoing with the council and utility companies.

We are delighted to say that Nicola Wilson, one of our elders, has offered to lead this venture with a lot of help from others. If you can do a couple of hours a week in the shop we will be more than delighted to hear from you.

The shop will sell nearly new and new clothes which have been and will be donated to us along with other good quality items. We hope to have an art display on the wall and watch out for the shop opening. We have an option at the end of the 6 months to rent the property from Mr Ul Haq for a price or the possibility of buying the property.

Any member who can knit or make crafts and cards please consider donating some of them to the shop. Lots of volunteers needed. Can you spare a few hours.

**WE NEED YOU !!! DON'T  
THINK - JUST DO IT!!!**

SITUATIONS VACANT- REMUNERATION  
NIL- SATISFACTION GREAT

**WANTED FOR THE BIG KIRK SHOP**

## **SHOP ASSISTANTS**

**HOURS TO SUIT YOU BUT PROBABLY AROUND 2 OR  
3 HOURS PER WEEK.**

**PHONE NICOLA ON 460431**

## **DROP N' SHOP CLUB**

**Time—first Saturday of every month,**

**Hours—9.30 a.m. until 12 noon**

**Duties—Have fun and games with the children.**

**Phone Barbara Ann on 01307 248228**

## **CHILDREN'S FILM CLUB**

Time: 2nd Saturday of month

From 3 p.m. till 5 p.m.  
In the Church Hall

Help required to supervise children

Phone Barbara Ann on 01307 248228

## **YOUTH GROUP**

**STARTING ON SUNDAY EVENINGS**

**PHONE KAREN ON 745923679 TO HELP**

## **VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED FOR -**

**Cosy Corner Lunch Club** —Tuesday 12 till 1

**The Friday Fling**—Friday afternoons

Phone Jean Alexander 463860

## **WHAT'S COMING UP & WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR**

### **YOUTH CAMP IN BUDAPEST**

our twinning church in Zuglo, Budapest has offered to take some of our young people to their summer camp this year. Karen Liddle has offered to go with our young people but they must be aged between 15 and 20 years of age. If you know of anyone who might be interested get them to contact Barbara Ann. The dates are 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> August plus a few days either side in Budapest. The Kirk session have agreed to pay for the youths to attend this event but numbers have not been set until we know how many are interested in going.

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME**



Barbara Ann has been in talks with Angus Council about opening up an 'open unit' under the councils name for the DOE scheme. Barbara Ann has been involved in the DOE for many, many years but was under the belief that all the children at the Academy could take part in this scheme. It was only when she discovered before Christmas that this was not the case that she took action. This new scheme will operate from the church and is open to all young people aged 14 years to 24 years (you need to complete the scheme before you turn 25). Do you know anyone in this age range that would like to join the DOE scheme? They could be in school, at college or university and they could also be working.

## COMPUTER CLASSES



The Kirk Session were on a roll in January and have agreed to fund the purchase of tables, laptops and printers for the session room and we will be running computer classes for those who want to learn even basic points to more detailed instruction; word documents, spreadsheets, diagrams, photo shop, Power Point, downloading music, buying over the internet and so much more..

As you know we now have WiFi in the Church. Building so you can learn how to access the internet and even buy over the internet. Did you know that Easy Fundraising on the net for East and Old has only 26 people signed up to use it out of over 800 people on our role and of those 26 people 4 of them are not even members of East and Old. This web page which costs you nothing in addition to what you are buying and has raised £726 with these 26 people. Well done folks!

### **STATED ANNUAL MEETING- SUNDAY 23 MARCH, AFTER MORNING WORSHIP ADVANCE NOTICE!**

We hope you will stay for this meeting when the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014 are reported to the Congregation. This is an opportunity to have your say on how the church is progressing and to raise any questions on the accounts or the report. A particular recommendation is to be made with regard to the existing Organ Fund. This fund was set up almost 40 years ago following the union of the former East & Old Parish Churches to ensure funds were available for repairs to the organ (by then 70 years old). The Organ Fund is a Restricted Fund and the original purpose of the funding may be changed, following consultation with the Congregation and with OSCR's approval. At the time of writing the exact amount that will be in the fund at the year end is not known, but an estimated amount is approximately £78,000.

As a replacement organ has been bought and is now in use and the old organ is to be removed the Steering Group of Session suggests that the balance of £78,000 in the Organ fund should be transferred to the Designated Improvement Fund (DIF). This fund has been set up to meet the costs of the considerable repairs and changes which have either been made or are going to be made to improve the overall suitability and use of the present church, its fittings and equipment. It is not envisaged that repairs or replacement of the new organ will be required in the foreseeable future, given that it is brand new and is under guarantee. It is therefore considered appropriate that the Congregation be asked to endorse the transfer of funds. If you have any detailed questions, it would be helpful to address these either to Bob Kidd, Session Clerk, or Mabel Martin, Treasurer, before the Stated Annual Meeting.

**LEPROSY MISSION TALK** – on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in the Session room with the guest speaker being Professor Cairns Smith and we will be joined by members of the Leprosy Mission from Dundee. Come along and hear more about this dreadful disease which is so easily cured these days.

**LENT BIBLE STUDY** – FACT are holding their annual Lent Bible Studies in East and Old during the 6 weeks of Lent. A member of the Forfar clergy will take each of the sessions and they will be held every Thursday during Lent at 7.30pm. This event has proved to be very popular over the years with lots of different viewpoints coming to the forefront. The first bible study starts on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.



**LENT LUNCHESES** – Once again this very, very popular FACT event takes place during the 6 weeks of Lent – every Friday from 12 noon until 1.30pm however the venue has changed this year. Instead of being in St John’s Hall the lunches will now be held in East & Old Church not the hall but the Church itself. Jean Alexander will be looking for lots of volunteers to help with East and Old’s week which is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

**GIRLS’ BRIGADE DIVISIONAL COMPETITION** – as you may know Barbara Ann is the National Chaplain to Girls’ Brigade Scotland so she popped along to the Angus Divisional meeting last year and was asked to help judge one of the Divisional competitions they are running in March to which Barbara Ann readily agreed, however she will no doubt come back with lots of new ideas for us!

**BOYS’ BRIGADE MEAL** – you may also be aware that Barbara Ann is the Battalion Chaplain to the Dundee and Angus Battalion of the Boys’ Brigade. To this end and a way of breaking down barriers between companies, each other and chaplains, Barbara Ann has asked our social team to help her out by hosting a buffet style meal for the leaders and partners of the battalion in our church on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. If Irene asks you to help out we would be very grateful.



**KIRK SESSION MEETING** – The Kirk Session have agreed to some new ventures that our minister has come up with although it may take a few months or so to get them off the ground. Added to that Barbara Ann needs your help!

We will be starting a **DROP N’ SHOP** club for parents on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month where parents can drop their children off and pick them up anytime between 9.30am and 12 noon. We all know how difficult it is trying to shop with children under our feet, they want this and they want that, tempers get frayed – so why not drop the children off where they can have some fun and games for a time.

**CHILDREN’S FILM CLUB** will also be starting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month in the church hall from 3pm to 5pm. The children will watch a film and have a snack too.

## CAPABILITY BOXES

We have been collecting our small change in the Capability boxes and thank you very much for doing that. If your box is full you can empty it into a bag with your name and Capability on a piece of paper and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Marlene or Barbara Ann. You can reuse your box or ask Marlene for another one (there are new boxes at the back of the church). Keep the boxes filling up please – it is such a worthwhile cause.



## 10 PENCE PIECES

Who can believe it is taking so long to make a mile of 10 pence pieces but we are getting there folks. Our yardage is now up to 646 yards which equals £2358.00 (it doesn’t really equal the yardage because extra 10 pence pieces accidentally double up on the slide) – keep them coming and remember to ask for 10 pence piece in your change. If you don’t receive a lot of 10 pence pieces you may like to know that people have been giving Barbara Ann 5 pence pieces as well and she then takes them to the bank and changes them into 10 pence pieces. Did you know every time Alf Birse goes into his pocket to get his plectrum for the guitar out he also brings out some loose change and guess what happens – Barbara Ann has eyes like a hawk and spots 10 pence and 5 pence pieces very quickly!

**THE DEDICATED IMPROVEMENT FUND  
BALANCE NOW STANDS AT**

**£51482**

**FACT**

We are very grateful to Isabel Farquharson, who has kindly volunteered to join the FACT team on our behalf.

Thank you so very much Isabel

**WELCOME**

We are delighted to hear that Rev Maggie Hunt has been appointed the new minister at St Margaret's Church. We wish her and her family and the congregation of St Margaret's every blessing.

**AROUND THE GROUPS**

**THE GUILD**

Like many other organisations, our first meeting this session had to be cancelled because of the wintry weather.



Many of our members are now looking forward to travelling to and from our meetings using our Church mini-bus. This saves a lot of hassle for our car drivers and Billy Sweetin has kindly organised a rota of helpers.

February's meetings—A talk on Scottish Stoneware and A Christian Aid meeting will hopefully go as planned.

**WALKING GROUP**

The following walks will take place in February and March

14th February - Scone Circular including the McDuff Monument and Lynedoch Obelisk (5 miles)

14 March—Johnshaven to Inverbervie (5 miles)

Meet at The Myre 10am For more details contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228 or [bjs@talktalk.net](mailto:bjs@talktalk.net)



## **NEWS FROM WORLD MISSION**

The latest news update received from the World Mission Council focuses mainly on the theme of Eldership. It talks of how it is a privilege to serve within a congregation and to be part of a leadership group with many diverse talents, and to see how these talents can be used to aid the spiritual growth of a congregation. Elders are very important to a congregation and we at East & Old are very blessed with our own group of talented Elders who help spread God's word and grow our congregation, which we are fortunate to do under the guidance of such a committed and visionary minister as Barbara Ann. We ask that you pray for the Elders in East & Old that they can continue to do their jobs effectively.

Information is given by Rev Neil Galbraith, CEO of Glasgow the Caring City, which is working in partnership with the Church of Scotland World Mission Council in their Glasgow 2014 Legacy Project, "Hit the Net." The aim of this project is to hold "net" themed events to fundraise in order to buy mosquito nets for people in Commonwealth countries through a chosen charity. It explains that people in nearly two thirds of the Commonwealth are at serious risk of insect borne infection, with the African, Asian and South American nations being the prime targets. The consequences are devastating. Perhaps we at East & Old could organise a "net" themed event to help raise money for the project?

### **PRAYER & STUDY UPDATE**

We met on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. and studied Isaiah, Ch's 38-39. This study was entitled "How quick we are to forget!" and the purpose was to recognize that God is a God who hears our prayers and answers them, but that we must continually listen for His voice as well.

We have now completed Part 1 of the study booklet which was "Eleven Lessons in Trust" and the next eleven are about "Finding Hope", which will start on 16<sup>th</sup> April in the Manse at 7.30 p.m. after the Lent Studies, organized by Forfar Action of Churches Together (FACT). Their dates are all Thursdays on 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Feb; 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> Mar, at 7.30 p.m. in the East & Old.

Our Prayer Group dates for the rest of the year are 16<sup>th</sup> April and 14<sup>th</sup> May in the Manse; 18<sup>th</sup> June in the Choir Room; off for July and August and returning to the Manse on 17<sup>th</sup> September; 15<sup>th</sup> Oct; and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.

December Advent Bible Studies are 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, all in the Manse at 7.30 p.m. We hope you will come along to join us.

### **PRAYER DIARY-LOCAL**

"We pray for all the initiatives that they will prove to be successful in reaching out into the community. "

### **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD:**

"We pray that together Governments and Religious Leaders throughout the world will find a way to reach out and meet their peoples' needs. "

### **EDUCATION GROUP**

Please keep in mind the bookstall each Sunday and also the daily reading notes entitled "The Upper Room", which can be ordered at the bookstall, where a sample is available.

On the three Saturdays just before Christmas members of the group were at the Church gate distributing blessings cards and small gifts of tea and coffee. We were greatly encouraged by the reception and a large number of blessings cards were distributed.

# Friends of East and Old

Friends ran a trip to the Caird Hall to see the Nutcracker Suite on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and what a great afternoon it turned out to be. Everyone is looking forward to the next ballet trip in February to see Sleeping Beauty.

The next trip on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December was the outing to see Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Pitlochry. The day started with a lovely lunch at the theatre followed by the show itself which was very good. Once again a great day was had by all.

The evening before on 5<sup>th</sup> December Friends came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Christmas Tree competition and they were delighted with that result. Their theme for the tree was Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

## What's coming up

The next few trips are to see; Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in February, Sleeping Beauty the Ballet in March (evening), Jesus Christ Superstar in April (matinee) and Shrek in October (matinee). At the time of writing this there was one space left for Sleeping Beauty, 2 spaces for Jesus Christ Superstar and 3 spaces for Shrek.

Love food hate waste. Because of the popularity of the Ready, Steady Cook event we held last year this time Elizabeth and Susan will be bringing left overs from their fridge. Watch out for this event being publicised!

Fashion Show – following on from a very good fashion show at M&Co last year that some of the committee attended Friends decided to host one for our church and our friends of the church. This is open to men, women and children and we need models in all categories. Come on guys – don't let your wives buy all your clothes!!!



## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Dec	5	Ann Stewart	5 Rosebank Lane, Forfar	21
	18	Maureen Prentice	8 Hanick Terrace, Forfar	28
	20	Catherine Reid	Lochbank Manor, Forfar	36
	30	Edith Jamieson	St David's Care Home, Forfar	*
Jan	1	Henrietta Foreman	32 Ivy Road, Forfar	13
	3	Charles Jamieson	20 Priory Court, Forfar	*
	5	Gordon Hampton	Finavon Care Home, Forfar	2
	18	Charles Ewen	Storeyville Home Kirriemuir	46

### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Marie Blake,	1 Strathview, Dundee Road, Forfar	30
Ms Lorna Scott,	67 Lordburn Place, Forfar	12

### MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Feb	1	Anna Mitchell	Mar	8	Esther Kidd
	8	Joan Petrie		15	Bruce Simpson
	15	Dave Bowman		22	Margaret Myles
	22	Karin Murray		29	Pat Milne
Mar	1	George Richardson	Apr	5	Margaret Robertson

### THE FLOWER CALENDAR FOR 2015

This is now in the church. Please fill your name in your preferred date. A huge thank you to all who have donated this past year and enabled us to deliver almost 200 bunches of flowers to folk in our congregation .

We are indebted to Fiona who has kindly taken on the huge job of visiting and delivering our flowers to elderly, sick and those just needing a reminder that we are a caring church.

## **HAVE A COMPUTER? THEN YOU CAN HELP**

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ou can help raise funds for East & Old's Dedicated Improvement Fund by clicking on the links below. It costs nothing but will help our funds.

Do you shop online then click on <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forfareastoldparish/> then follow the simple steps on how to register then every time you shop online always go here first then shop. The best way is to make this a bookmark or favourite.

Even if you don't shop online you can still raise funds by clicking on <http://forfareastoldparish.easysearch.org.uk/> and use this every time you want to search the web. This uses Bing, Yahoo and Ask.com to search the web. Again the best way is to make this a bookmark or favourite.

For more information click on <http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/easyfundraising/> Why not try it. If you need help setting it up please contact Billy Sweetin 01307 248228

**NEED A VENUE FOR CONFERENCES MEETINGS ETC?  
THEN LOOK NO FURTHER**

**FORFAR EAST & OLD HAS IT ALL .**

**MULTI MEDIA FACILITIES WITH PLASMA TELEVISIONS,  
SOUND SYSTEM AND WI-FI.**

**ENQUIRIES TO :- BILL DUTHIE ON 01307 465895**

## **PARKING AT THE CHURCH**



There are two available car spaces beside the east door of the church for members with poor mobility.

Other members can park around the front of the church.



Do you need Transport to Church -The Forfarian bus is available on the first Sunday of each month. Please telephone Liz Nicoll on 462480 or Jean Alexander on 463860.

## **Next Issue of the Steeple Times**

The deadline for submission of articles  
for the **April 2015** issue is  
**Sunday 22 March 2015**

Material can be given/sent to the Editor  
or e-mail

**[elma.milne@virgin.net](mailto:elma.milne@virgin.net)**



Session Clerk	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307465043
Treasurer	Mabel Martin	01307 462713
	Douglas Thomson	01307 462965
FWO Treasurers	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
	Jean Brymer	01307 462075
Gift Aid Convener	Bruce Martin	01307 462713
Roll Keeper and Editor Steeple Times	Elma Milne	01307 463821
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Property Convener & Lets	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
Groovy Gryphons Leader	Susan Forbes	01307 465200
Flower Group	Marlene Sim	01307 466616
Guild Contact	Jean Smith	01307 463308
Life & Work	Esther Kidd	01307462701
Prayer Group	Margaret Robertson	01307 463613
2nd Forfar Co. The Boy's Brigade	Irene Duthie	01307 465895
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
Minibus Hire	Billy Sweetin	01307 248228