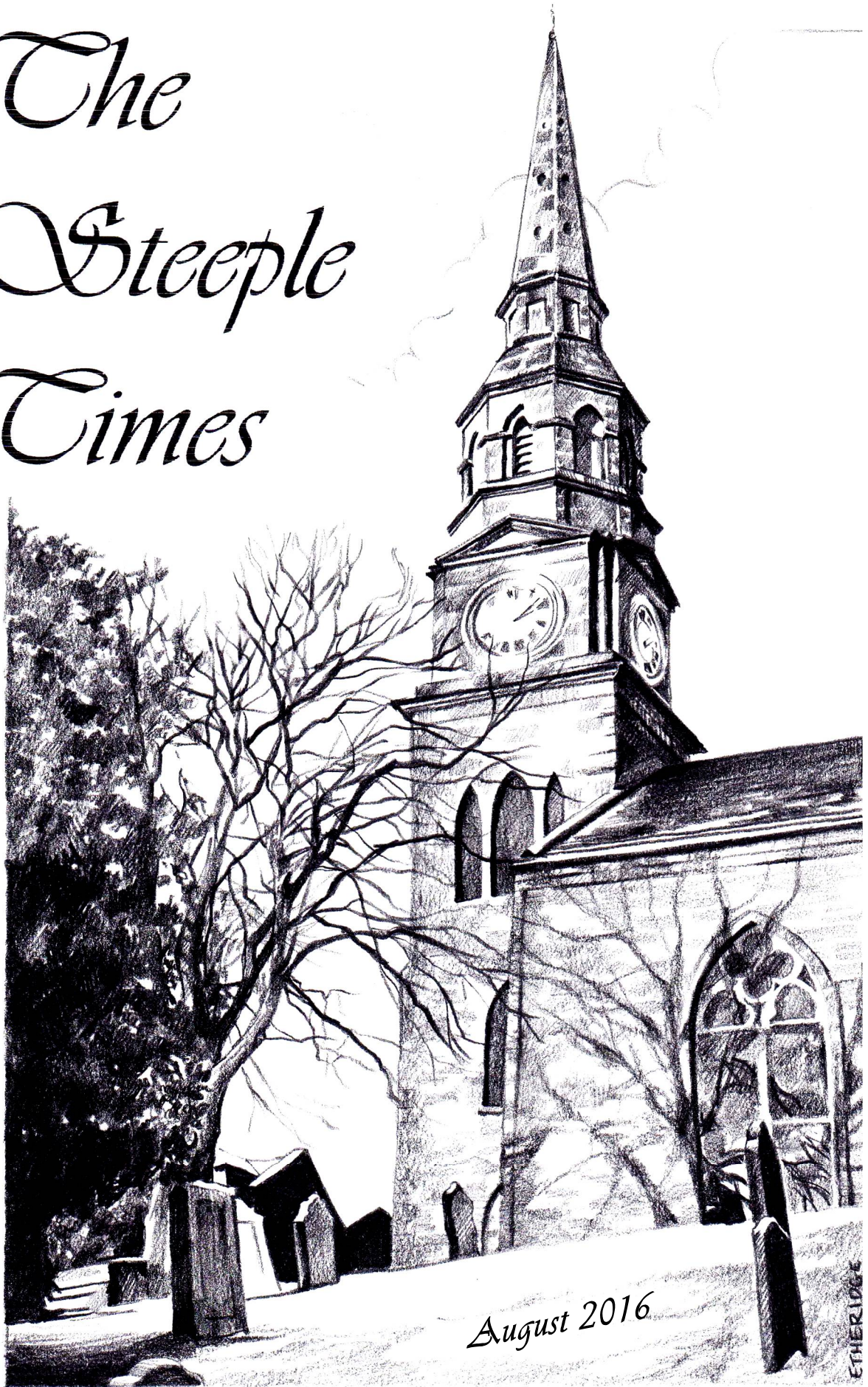


*The
Steeple
Times*



August 2016

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

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Scottish Charity No.: SC004921

FROM THE MANSE

August 2016

Hello my dear friends

Ian Dury and the Blockheads sang a song entitled 'Reasons to be cheerful' and although there are many events in all our lives that can make us feel hurt, sad, angry and a multitude of other emotions I believe that in the big scheme of things we have a lot to be cheerful about in this world, in our country, in our community and in our church. First and foremost I hope that you would agree with me that the first in the list is God's love for each and every one of us quickly followed by God's forgiveness of our wrongdoings through Jesus Christ and then cheerful that God's Holy Spirit is alive and well in us and in this community of Forfar. We have three great Church of Scotland congregations in Forfar plus a variety of other denominations and also other faith groups who each in their own way help the Forfar community in a variety of ways.

I would need this whole addition of the Steeple Times to write down just some of things that I am cheerful about in this life and I hope and pray that is the same with you. Britain's favourite subject is the weather and although it has not been a great summer (yet) we are so fortunate not to have the extremes in our weather. We have food on our tables, a roof over our heads, fresh clean water and on and on the list goes. As a church we offer food to the vulnerable in society on a Monday and many members continue to bring into the church groceries which we give to the Salvation Army. We continue our Wee Blether and Cosy Corner every Tuesday for members and friends of the community. Where else would you get constant refills of tea and coffee, pancakes, biscuits and the occasional meringues for a couple of pounds and then a soup and sandwich lunch with cakes and biscuits for a few pounds also. It is not just about the food it is the fellowship and the chatting that goes on also.

Our Music Café and Friday Fling for people with Dementia and their carers is going strong and our efforts in this area have been copied by other churches in the Angus area and beyond. Our mid-week service has a steady number of people attending with the talks revolving around day to day life and events. Our pastoral care team and flower team are doing a remarkable job visiting and supporting some of our members and our flower displays and deliveries are greatly appreciated. The church shop 'The Big Kirk Shop' is doing really well with donations and sales and I thank you for that but remember keep the bric -a -brac coming in – it sells really well. However once again it is not just about the money – the shop has its own little community with many people who have no church connection popping in every few days to see what is on sale. Our editor of the Steeple Times used to put 10 magazines into the shop when they were printed and now nearly 100 copies go into the shop for the community. If you are one of the people who picks up our magazine and has a read of it we are

delighted that you do and you will be assured of a warm welcome at the church.

As you all know we are worshipping in the Church Hall at the present time and I admit it is not the same and I am still trying to get used to our new accommodation however I am cheerful in the fact that we have a hall to worship in and is large enough to accommodate our members. This is only a small fraction of what we do in East and Old and it makes us feel very cheerful indeed – not only does good news make us feel cheerful it gives us and other people hope – hope for tomorrow – for Jesus Christ is alive and thriving in Forfar through the members of East and Old. As I said at the beginning of the letter sometimes it can be difficult to be cheerful and if that is the case with you as you read this letter then take it to the Lord in prayer and an answer I am sure you will be provided in some way whether through God's word as you pick up your bible or through the words or actions of someone you will meet today, tomorrow or at some point when God has chosen it to happen. Although death is never cheerful sometimes it can be a blessing for the person who has died and a bereaved person when they look back can be cheerful for the life that person has lived and the memories they leave behind. Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verses 1 to 8 reminds us there is a time under heaven for everything but I thank God when I think of all the reasons to be cheerful because there are so many of them. Just pause for a moment and think of the many aspects in your life that you have reasons to be cheerful – once you start I am sure many more will follow. As a starter for ten: God, church, close family, extended family, food, clothing, shelter, holidays, weather, transport, NHS, doctors, dentists, nurses, cooks, cleaners, teachers, lawyers, ministers, government, Royalty, organisations and clubs of which there are too many to mention and on and on and on and on and on it goes!!!

Every blessing to you and your families during this summer period and no matter where you are or what you doing through the end of the summer months I hope you find the time to relax, unwind and recharge your batteries.

Your minister and your friend

Barbara Ann

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

E&O CHURCH PROJECT:

My role as the Project Co-ordinator is to act on behalf of the Kirk Session as the primary client of Wellwood Leslie architects and the appointed contractor George Martin Builders to undertake the work for the improvement of our Church. I will provide regular updates on the key facts of the project as things progress and will update through Kirk Session Meetings, The Steeple Times, www.thebigkirk.co.uk Website and where appropriate through Social Media (Facebook)

Our Architects:

Have recently presented to the congregation some images showing how our new sanctuary, social areas and new walls might look. Have recently accepted and mobilised our approved contractor for works to begin. The earliest start date for works will be August 22nd 2016.

Our Builders:

George Martin Builders Limited have been established in Dundee for more than half a century as House Builders and Building Contractors satisfying the needs of clients within Dundee itself and throughout Tayside, Perthshire and Fife.

Our Grant Applications:

The following applications have been submitted and we await the outcome. This can take up to 6 months.

- All Churches Trust Limited – Visited 2nd August to assess our application.
- The Joseph Rank Trust – Due end of July
- The Laing Family Trust – Due end of July

The following applications were submitted before the end of May 2016

- Bank Of Scotland Foundation – Due September
- Scotlands Churches Trust

There are further applications in progress for Phase 2 works and these will be submitted as we plan for the second phase of the project..

Our Supporters:

Thanks go to everyone in our congregation and in the local community who support our work through our Pledge Campaign, our church shop and by purchasing tickets to our various fundraising events. There is a long way to go but we have achieved a tremendous amount in a short space of time.

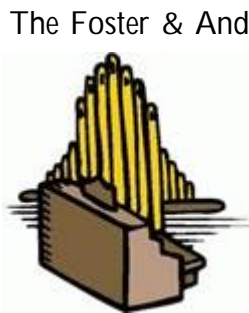
Our Local Small Business Community supported our project during 2015 and we would like to kindly acknowledge their support – space prohibits publishing all the small business names here but a full list is available on our website -> <http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/million-pound-challenge/> and click on SUPPORTERS.

Progress Update:

- Organ removal works began on Monday 9th May and took around 12 days to complete. A team from Poland have taken the Organ and will be re-installing it at their Church.
- Works on the interior are planned to begin at the earliest 22nd August 2016.
- Phase 1 works only include work to the lower levels and will deliver a reconfigured sanctuary, a feature wall to fill the gap left by the organ, a social space and a reception area.
- Despite a lot of design work and planning by groups in the church, CARTA, the Church Art and Architecture Committee rejected our proposals for the main North Wall and a plain finish has been requested with high quality wall hangings to be commissioned and designed in due course. These also have to be pre-approved by CARTA.
- **Funding:** Funding is in place to allow us to begin phase 1. We do still have a shortfall (15%) but we are confident of filling that gap before fees are due.

Angus Spence

CHURCH ORGAN REMOVAL



The Foster & Andrews organ was built in to Forfar Parish Church in 1899. Over the years it was improved and regularly serviced. Latterly there were problems playing it and by 2010 a third of it was not operating with squeaks and whistles heard by the congregation. Some of this was through age, but mostly caused by rainwater from the leaky roof. Costs to repair the instrument were estimated at £300,000 to £500,000.

It was agreed by session during the vacancy to remove the instrument to a new home. Details & photos of the machine were put on a Redundant Organs website that attracted interest across Europe. Two replies came in from Scotland, one from Italy and three from Poland. A form was sent to each church for detailed information about their organ builder and new site etc. The six interested customers visited during 2013/14 and following this a number of offers were withdrawn through problems with finance or space for the instrument. In October 2014 Rafael Sulima (organist), Michal Klepacki (organ builder) and Father Tomasz Chludzinski, (parish priest) of John Paul II Church, Grajewo, visited Forfar and were very impressed with the organ. The Session Clerk at the time Bob Kidd formed a small committee (Neill Wilson, Derek Calder, Bill Duthie, Paul Wilson and himself) to consider accident & liability insurance, work plan & preparation of the sanctuary, truck parking on East High Street and reinstatement of the church floor after removal. The offer from Grajewo in Poland was accepted by session on assurances (a) that the instrument would be completely restored and installed in their church, also (b) on the reputation of the organist and builders.

The team, the Glepacki family firm of father, brother, uncle and son with two friends arrived

and started work on Monday 9th May, carefully dismantling and packing the organ parts on large trucks bound for Grajewo. No damage was done either to the instrument or our sanctuary. The team were very friendly, enjoyed their stay and after ten days of very hard work, were treated to a farewell meal on their last night at Chapter & Verse, organised by Session Clerk Lexi Smart. They flew home the next morning, estimating 2 years work in refurbishing & rebuilding the organ. Also there was an invitation to Forfar folk to come to Poland for a re-dedication service and future concerts.

Thanks to all the planning committee, to Billy, Douglas & Derek for Edinburgh airport trips, to Barbara Ann and all others who offered bedding, use of showers in their homes each evening and food supplies for our Polish friends.

AND.....

As previously stated the church sanctuary closed on Sunday 8th May and the Polish organ builders took out the organ and as that was going on our own men went to work removing the last of the pews downstairs, removing the screens from the walls and all the other wall hangings and building a temporary store under the west balcony to house the chairs, screens, organ, speakers and a host of other bits and pieces.

Marlene Sim cleared out the flower storage area also and managed to find other areas to store all her goodies. In the church hall we have our communion table, three of the decorative church chairs for behind the communion table, the baptismal font and the electric small organ.

Because there was so much to do in the run up to the church closing not a great deal of thought was given to the church hall and how it would look. It did not help that Barbara Ann went away the Friday after the church closed for three Sundays and Bill Duthie was away on holiday as well but everyone in the church rallied round and got it all organised.

Thanks go to our members who helped and also to Pat Walker from Kirriemuir who took our services for three Sundays while our minister was away.

However when our minister arrived at the hall on her first Sunday back a few things were changed (needless to say!) Barbara Ann has been asking members what their thoughts are alongside her own to get an overall view and then a few other things changed and we are glad to say for the better. All the lights are now on in the hall which means Billy Sweetin had to change to background colour and font of the power point slides and he also changed the size of the font so that we only use the top half of the screen so people can see the words better. Esther Kidd and Isabel Farquharson made up curtains to cover all the notice boards which are easily put up and taken down each Sunday. The guys in the church rescued some of our framed artwork and hangings from the church and on the walls in the hall we now have a number of items that were on the church walls. We are not asking how the guys got the wooden cross down from above the pulpit! We have altered the layout of the chairs and the area for having your tea and coffee after the service and have asked Bruce Simpson to turn the volume up on the electric organ.



Three of the big benefits to moving to the hall is that the congregation is closer to Barbara Ann (we think that is a benefit more to Barbara Ann than us), the singing is so much better and the choir sound fantastic because they sit closer together and it is a smaller venue.

Just over the last two weeks another new idea has come to fruition. Every Sunday morning from 10.30am there is a **SHUTTLE CAR RUNNING** from the layby in Academy Street at the car park to the church hall with the last car leaving at 10.45am. If you find walking a struggle or the weather is really inclement then a car will bring you along and take you back.



We have just discovered that a number of people are struggling with the black plastic chairs. Please bring along a cushion if you feel this would help and remember at the front of the hall there are the firmer chairs so that may work for you better.

At this point we would like to say a big, big thank you to those individuals who took on the many roles while Bill was away. If we started to list some of the people involved we would no doubt miss people out and that is not right. However a special thanks must go to Doug Findlay who took on the role as Church Beadle and set out the hall and was on the door to meet and greet people as they arrived. Doug Robertson took on the role as Property Convener and dealt with quite a few issues especially as contractors needed access and information to give us our tendering prices.

MINISTER'S CHALLENGE

Before we talk about the response to the challenge the minister would like to clear up a point that was made in her letter. Her house in Houston which her daughter lives in, is in Houston, Renfrewshire and not a holiday home in Houston Texas – although she wishes it was!

In the last edition of the Steeple Times our minister put out a challenge to the church membership regarding the shortfall we have in the building fund for the renovations. To date 43 people out of 800 members have responded to the challenge and plea and have brought in £30,000. Two other members have informed our minister that they have increased the money that they give to the building fund via their standing order with their bank. Donations have been in the range of £50 to £1000. Barbara Ann would like to say thank you very much to all those who have responded so far and is eagerly awaiting to hear from some of the other 750 members who are hopefully still considering giving some additional contribution to the work of the church.



At this point we would like to say thank you to the Seagrave family and the Maclean family for their donations to the church of £1000 and £500 respectively which was put into the ministers challenge fund.

Our **NEW TREASURER PAULA STEWART** is now firmly in the post and is getting to grip with our finances; income, outgoings, expenses, investments, standing orders, direct debits, cash coming in, what funds are used for what and lots more besides! Thank you to Paula for helping with the order of services for the church services while Karen Kelly was on holiday.

It with regret that we need to inform you that one of the church laptops was stolen during June which did cause a number of headaches but Paula managed to sort it all out really quickly. The police were informed as were presbytery and the bank and all the information on the computer was password protected on a number of levels. The only information they could gain from the laptop is East and Old's bank account number. Due to this theft the church has revised where all our laptops are stored and are now secured under lock and key.



Our minister finished her three year term as **DUNDEE AND ANGUS BOYS' BRIGADE BATTALION CHAPLAIN** at the end of May and wished them God's blessings in the years ahead. Barbara Ann was thanked for her work over the last three years and all she had contributed to the Boys' Brigade Battalion.

LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD' held their last ever concert in the church halls from Thursday 2nd June to Saturday 4th June. The hall was transformed into a theatre for a few days and our thanks go to the church hall users who coped well with the disruption. Numbers this year were down a bit but their farewell concert was very good and they raised £600 after expenses were paid. £300 of this went to the Cancer unit at Ninewells Hospital and £300 came to us in East and Old – a big thank you to the cast of 'Let our voices be heard' and all who came along to support the show



Saturday 4th June into Sunday 5th June was our **DUKE OF EDINBURGH BRONZE PRACTICE HIKE**. Angus Spence, Glenda Robertson, Karen Liddle, Nicola Wilson and Jim Nicol all helped the girls prepare for this 10 mile hike with one night camping under canvass. Thank you to Glenda for going out during the day and evening with the girls as an observer and we are delighted to say the girls did really well. Their actual hike now takes place in September. In addition to the hike the girls have been involved in numerous ways in the church that you may be unaware of. Two of the girls have been working in our shop, one of the other girls has been helping out with Groovy Gryphons and another two girls have been conducting some home visits so thank you to Cathy Strachan of Taylor Street and Wilma Pringle of Turfbeg Crescent.



The 12th June was a busy Sunday in our church. We were delighted to host John and Nancy Eckersley who were walking from **FIRTH TO FIRTH IN AID OF CHRISTIAN AID** and gave a short talk on the reason for the walk which was to raise funds to help women and girls in Ethiopia. For every pound they raise the European Union will give them this sum times 5. John and Nancy knew that we could not hold a retiring offering for them on this day as we were already holding a retiring offering for the Queen's Birthday celebrations, however at the end of the service a few people approached John and Nancy to give them a donation and they raised £111 from our members and with the European Union multiplying this by 5 they raised £555.



Immediately following the service we held our **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LUNCH CELEBRATION** and retiring offering. The lunch was a great success and thanks go to all the people involved in making the lunch, serving it and clearing up afterwards. We really must do it again sometime soon! The retiring offering came to £303 pounds and the Kirk Session took the decision to split the money three ways to three of the Queen's charities in Scotland: British Legion – Forfar Branch, British Heart Foundation and the Scottish Bible Society.



12th June was the first day on sale for our new **225 ANNIVERSARY BOOK**. The book looks really good and has lots of information and pictures of what has been happening in East and Old over all these years. Barbara Ann bought a copy of the book to give to Graham Norrie and Sheena Benvie bought a book to give to the past Moderator of the General Assembly the Very Rev Dr Angus Morrison. We wanted these men to have a copy of the book and did not want to take the money from our profit margins. Two people have since notified us that there is a



typing error with one of the dates in the book and instead of 2007 it reads 2008. Well done to the team of people who got this book together from the writing to the photographs to the printers and then the selling. We hope you will buy a few more copies and give them to your family and friends as Christmas gifts – a bargain at £10 each!

On Friday 17th June Barbara Ann and Billy were invited along to **ANGUS CHORAL'S GOLDEN JUBILEE PARTY** in Kirriemuir Golf Club. The Choral society invited our minister as they have been using our church halls for many, many years. Barbara Ann said the meal was lovely, the entertainment was very good and she was made to feel most welcome by the members. She told the choral society that East and Old Church wished them every blessing in the coming years under their new conductor.

On Tuesday 28th June a number of our members attended Angus Presbytery meeting to see our minister installed as the **MODERATOR OF ANGUS PRESBYTERY** for session 2016/2017. Barbara Ann took over the role as moderator immediately after the opening worship and was handed the reins by the outgoing moderator the Rev Dougal Edwards. We wish Barbara Ann God's blessing in this new role. Our minister has two events which will take her away from our church on a Sunday in 2016. The first is a 150th Church anniversary of Knox's Church on 28th August and the second is the Kirkin' of Angus Council in Kirriemuir Old Parish Church on 25th September.

Friday 1st July was **STRATHMORE PRIMARY'S SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING** and Barbara Ann was invited along to say a few words and help to give out the awards and prizes. The children were as high as kites and all looking forward to the school holidays. East and Old award three prizes each year for RME – Religious and Moral Education. The winners in each category this year are as follows: P1-3 Grace Stewart, P4-5 Emelie Whyte, P6-7 Ryan Elliot. Each child received a large trophy with their name engraved on it along with a smaller trophy to take home and a congratulations card with a £10 note inside signed from East and Old Parish Church.

Wednesday 6th July was the **LADIES NIGHT OUT SUMMER MEAL** at the Strathmore Arms. Needless to say it was a great evening with wonderful food, companionship and right good old natter – the ladies of the Kirk put the world to rights.



As you are aware our minister is the **INTERIM MODERATOR FOR ARBIRLOT AND CARMYLLIE CHURCHES** and has been involved with Kirk Session meetings, nominating committee meeting, baptisms, funerals and weddings – all in all a very busy time. On Sunday 17th June the Rev Brian Dingwall preached as sole nominee and has accepted the invitation to be their minister. The induction date looks as though it will be in September and then Barbara Ann can step away from this role. Barbara Ann would like to thank Bob Kidd, Esther Kidd and Sheila McDougall for being the independent officials on the day of the voting. We wish Arbirlot and Carmyllie churches and the Rev Brian Dingwall God's blessing for the future.

THE BOOK CLUB has started on their new list of books and it appears to so far so good this time!!! We will be heading off to Bearsden New Kilpatrick Church on Wednesday 31st August for a joint Book Club meeting with them where we will discuss the book 'The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks' by Rebecca Skloot.



At the time of writing this material the church has just organised a **STRAW-BERRY AFTERNOON TEA** and we will give you an update in the next edition. We did hear that there will be strawberries and cream, creamed scones, meringue nests with strawberries, tray bakes, sandwiches and sausage rolls –



WHAT'S COMING UP & WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

LADIES NIGHT OUT



in August will be on Monday 8th August in the Osnaburg. We are back to rotating the nights once again as some people can no longer make a Wednesday evening.

Our **MUSIC GROUP 'ACCORD'** are to start up rehearsals again due to the bookings they have in the coming months. They meet to rehearse on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.



On Thursday 11th August 15 people from the church will attend a church trip to the **MILITARY TATTOO IN EDINBURGH**. The bus leaves from outside the church at 3pm so that the group can get to Edinburgh, have a meal before heading to the show which starts at 9pm – we hope the driver will stay awake during the drive home as it is going to be a late night!



The next **CONVENERS MEETING** is on Monday 22nd August in the Manse at 7pm and then followed by the session meeting on Tuesday 30th August at 7pm in the session room.

REHOBOTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

It is with delight that Connie Andrews will be coming to give us a talk on Wednesday 24th August on her work at this hospital and why she felt God called her to do this work. It starts at 7pm and we would love to see as many there as possible for this interesting talk with some disturbing images also. Connie now travels and gives talks to raise awareness of the work and to ask people to pray for the children, the hospital and children's homes.

TWINNING EVENT

As you know we are twinned with Zuglo Church in Budapest, Hungary. Because of our success with our twinning the World Mission twinning team are holding a twinning event in East and Old on Saturday 3rd September from 10am to 1pm. This event will be interesting to those who would like to know more about twinning, how to take their twinning forward and speak to other people who are twinned or thinking of twinning. Why not sign up and come along!

GIRLS' BRIGADE SCOTLAND are holding their annual AGM on Saturday 10th September in Irvine. At this AGM Barbara Ann will finish her three year term as National Chaplain to Girls' Brigade Scotland and she says it has been a role that she has enjoyed and wishes her successor every blessing in their new role.

SCOTTISH MISSION TO THE JEWS IN HUNGARY – the Church of Scotland sent missionaries (as they were called then – now mission partners) to Hungary 175 years ago and in September this year (16th to 22nd) there is a celebration in Budapest to mark this occasion. There are three people going on this trip from our church Barbara Ann, Billy and Susan Beattie and while the group of 25 people are there they will be taking the Jane Haining tour, a tour of the Jewish Synagogue, visiting the mission hospital and spending an evening with some refugees from Syria. There will also be a reception evening dinner where we will meet the Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Hungary. Our hosts are giving us an evening dinner cruise also. During some of the free time our three people will spending time in Zuglo and meeting up with our friends there.

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 10am to 4pm there is a conference in Bridge of Allan entitled '**CARE FOR CREATION**' where there are a number of guest speakers. This conference is shaping up to be informative, interesting and educational. If you would like to go then please speak to Barbara Ann as she has room in her car.

AFTERNOON COMMUNION on Sunday 16th October – once again the week before the main communion services we will be holding an afternoon communion service at 2.30pm in the church hall. Transport is available for this service so please let your elder know if transport is needed and then afternoon tea and cake will be served after the service for those who wish to stay for some fellowship.

Our main **COMMUNION SERVICES** always take place on the fourth Sunday of April and October so this is a reminder to everyone that October 2016 has five Sundays so our communion service will still take place on the fourth Sunday which is 23RD OCTOBER. We hope as many people as possible will attempt to make it to one of our services on this Sunday and because we are in the church hall we are considering putting on three services that day; morning, afternoon and evening. Watch out for more information in the next edition of the Steeple Times.

Around the Groups



THE GUILD

On June 9th we had a lovely trip to the Kelpies and to Bridge of Allan. The weather was glorious and a full busload enjoyed their day

The first event next session is the Afternoon Tea at 2pm on Wednesday 7th September in the Church hall. Please note the change of day.

The opening Social Evening is on Wednesday 28th September at 7.15pm when Accord will entertain us. Everyone will be made most welcome. Please come along and join in any of our meetings this session.

PS Please note that there will be a committee meeting on Wednesday August 17th at 10.30am in choir room.

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP

We have now finished our series on Gender Violence - a study prepared by the World Mission Council. The hope is that we will be able to follow this with practical action in the near future. We restart on Thursday, 29th September, at 7.30p.m. in the Manse and our focus will be on Human Trafficking with the material prepared by the World Mission Council. Please note the change of date. The following dates for this year are 20th Oct., 17th Nov., and Advent Reflections - 1st, 8th and 15th December.



FAIRTRADE

Oliver Hardy is reputed to have said to Stan Laurel, 'That's another fine mess you've got me into!' Well, I got myself into a 'fine mess' about eighteen months ago when I drifted off into a 'dwam' during a meeting of an Angus Presbytery sub-committee. I came out of my daydream to hear myself volunteering to go to a meeting in County Buildings, or so I thought! But apparently I had volunteered to be Presbytery's named Fairtrade person. Nightmare! But I knew I would have to get on with it.

I have to say that I found quite a few Presbytery people to be thoroughly uncooperative but there were certain 'stars': Rev Barbara Ann, Rev Jane Blackley, Rev Matthew Bicket, Rev John Orr and Rev Malcolm Rooney. The last named was very helpful even though I wrongly accused him – having looked at one of his emailed photos – of having a good 'swally' of Fairtrade wine while assisting at some event in Kirriemuir. Oops! Eventually I had enough material, which satisfied certain criteria, to post out to the Fairtrade Foundation in London. I photocopied it all before I sent it via a tracking service, at my own expense. I thought I would hear nothing for ages and the following evening I opened up our email to tell the other committee members that I had submitted the material, only to discover that a gentleman from the Fairtrade Foundation had already emailed me to say that they loved what we'd been doing and Angus Presbytery was now officially a Fairtrade Denominational Area!

This is where I need to give a further big thank you to a number of key people: Glenda Robertson for ordering goods; Barbara Ann, again, for really publicising the Fairtrade Big Breakfast; Irene Duthie who cooked lots of bacon; the three BB members who assisted; all of you who came and had bacon rolls etc.; all of you who have bought Fairtrade produce over the years; my husband who helped me with all manner of things on the computer and took great photos of the BB members – 'The Courier' liked one photo so much that they printed it twice!

BOYS BRIGADE

As the weeks roll by, I am sure that all our Boys and Officers are enjoying their summer break.

The company will start again on Thursday 18th August and I look forward to welcoming our boys back and hopefully some new faces this year.

By the time we do start back our senior boy Keiran Dear will be off on his travels to Guyana as a volunteer with Project Trust.

So many people in the Church helped to sponsor Keiran for his trip and I am sure that along with the B.B's you wish him well on this big adventure.

At the start of this session we still have our summer camp at Scott Lodge to look forward to on 2/3/4th September

Any enquiries to Irene Duthie 01307 4658 95

ART GROUP

The Art Group restarts on **THURSDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER** from 1.30 until 4 pm. New members will be made very welcome. We do have some materials which people can use if they do not have enough of their own. Art Group Calendars are again planned and should be ready for sale in November.

FILM CLUB

The calendar for the club is as follows:-

Friday 26 August at 6 pm Dad's Army

Saturday 17 September at 6 pm The Big Shout

Saturday 22 October at 6 pm Eddie the Eagle.



FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD

Just as this edition is being printed the Friends of East and Old will be going on their **ANNUAL WALK** which this year is to Pitlochry so look out for the details of what happened in the next edition.

QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 27th August in the Church Hall, tables of 4 and £5 per head. If you are not in a group of four already we will sort you out into groups. This is a great night of fun and laughter so come along and join us.

Date for your diary Saturday 29th October which is the **FRIENDS RENEWAL NIGHT** in the Church Hall. Cost will be £5 for your evening of entertainment with the Angus Strathspey and Reel Society and food and bring along your renewal money of £10. If you are fed up paying £10 each year why not take out a lifelong membership at £150.

The Friends of East and Old run four social events a year to bring in some income to the church and also for a time of socialising with each other.

WALKING GROUP

The Group are walking on the following dates. Venues have not yet been decided.

6th August with Friends
27th August
10th September
24th September.

Please meet in The Myre Car Park at 10 am and bring along a packed lunch. For more details contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228 or bjs801@talktalk.net

THE BIG KIRK SHOP by Nicola Wilson

Our wee charity shop has just had one of it's best weeks, taking in nearly £600 which is 25% higher than normal !

I realise that everyone hears The Shop being mentioned and I realise it's usually when we are struggling for volunteers or we are really short of stock, so when Barbara Ann asked me the other day to write a piece about The Shop for the Steeple Times I thought I would try and give you a "behind the scenes" of The Shop . Actually I'm sure I volunteered to do this months ago but there's nothing like a "gentle reminder" from Barbara Ann to make you sit down with the laptop and type into the wee hours of the morning.

Shop facts-

The Shop has now been open for 17 months it is open Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 4pm and has only been closed for 2 weeks over the Christmas holiday and the "occasional" closure mostly due to staff shortages and power cuts.

We have 22 permanent staff, 6 of which regularly do more than one shift per week and we have 10 people on our "only call if you have to" list. Now I can hear you all saying "surely that's more than enough people to run the shop". Unfortunately for the shop to run smoothly we need 3 people on each shift that's 6 people daily and 30 people per week. Counting in illness, appointments, holidays and the regular Guild trips we can very quickly work through our reserve list and find we are still short.

Many volunteers have come and gone in the shop for various reasons. Our volunteers have been made up of Church Elders, Church members, members of other churches, friends & family of church members and no connection with the church they just really liked our shop. We have 3 girls doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award in the shop. This is part of their volunteering section which can be over a period of 3 or 6 months. Bethan and Katie have recently finished their 3 months volunteering on a Saturday in the shop. Chloe will finish at the end of July after completing her 6 months volunteering

We have had many donations handed in the strangest donation was a black bin liner filled with half finished taxidermy projects. We had no idea what the finished project was meant to be but I can assure you I still have nightmares about putting my hand into a bag and pulling out a handful of fur and feathers. Needless to say the lovely volunteer Louise Bonnyman could not help for laughing at me screaming and throwing feathers everywhere.

We have a pricing team of 5 people who meet every Monday evening in the shop. We have also made connections with several businesses in the town who help us with pricing more expensive items like pictures, ornaments and jewellery. Recently the very nice gentleman from Forfar Antiques valued our silver and gold jewellery all of which came to almost £200. We then asked Bob Sim if he could make a display case for our more expensive pieces which he did in a matter of days.

We also help out other projects in the community, surrounding area and further a field.

Forfar Resource Centre - We have a great relationship with Forfar Resource Centre. As you may know we can not sell electrical items but the Resource Centre can, so they bring us any bric-a-brac they have spare and we give them the electrical goods. On several occasions this has been a life saver as we can find ourselves short of stock very quickly. Just when we think we will have to raid our attics again the Resource Centre van pulls up and our little stock room is full to the ceiling.

We have also helped out a **group in Carnoustie** who started a knitting group. They were looking for knitted baby clothes to send to Malawi. We get a lot of hand made baby clothes handed in and most of them sell really well but unfortunately there are some that do not. Muriel Fairley heard about this group in Carnoustie and felt we could help out by donating these baby clothes we were struggling to sell. Muriel contacted the lady running the group who stated they would be most grateful for any help we could offer. Muriel made the trip to Carnoustie and met with the group who were overwhelmed with our donation and really couldn't thank Muriel enough.

Smalls for All - Along with all the clothing donations we get handed in we also get lots of underwear. We found out quite quickly that pants were something we could not sell, for obvious reasons, and bras just did not sell. So it has taken a little while but we have found a project we can support who are very keen to take our bras! Smalls for All is a little charity based in Livingston. Bras (used but still in good condition) and pants (only new) are sent to Zimbabwe, Africa to help children and women meet their most basic hygiene and security needs. Underwear can also be seen as a status symbol and can offer a degree of security for women.

We are always looking for donations of women's, men's and children's clothing as well as bedding, curtains, bric a brac, pictures, jewellery, bags, scarves, shoes small furniture, books, CD's and DVD's , toys . We'll sell it all.

If you are not in a position to help out in the shop, please pop in for a chat and you might even pick up a few bargains

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

May	24	Arthur Davidson	6 Myre View, Forfar	6
	28	Margaret Steadman	23 Brander Ha', Forfar	16
	28	Adeline Seagrave	30 Pitreuchie Place, Forfar	12
	31	Elizabeth Anderson	42 Kemsley Park, Forfar	37
June	13	Agnes Kennedy	45 Wellbraehead, Forfar	*
July	4	Ann Carnegie	80 Lordum Place, Forfar	*
	11	William Morrison	Finavon Court, Forfar	*
	13	Elizabeth Cameron	56 Thornton Pak, Forfar	32
	13	Sheila Brown	68 Brown Avenue, Clydebank	*
	14	George Robertson	Lisden NH, Kirriemuir	*
	25	Agnes Duncan	101 Strathmore Avenue, Forfar	22

BAPTISMS

Jun	12	Abby Susan Jane Thomson
	12	Sophie Ellen Jane Crawford

Weddings

June	24	Kelly Mason and Shaun Baxter
July	8	Grace Rose and Adaline Wood
	23	Melanie Cairney and Gordon Henderson
	24	Angela Trigger and Stuart Ferguson

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Aug	7	Esther Kidd	Sep	11	
	14	Jean Alexander		18	Joan Petrie
	21	Margaret Myles		25	Morag Milne
	28	Isabella Farquharson	Oct	2	Sheena Ewart
Sep	4	Mabel Martin		9	Liz Nicoll

HAVE A COMPUTER? THEN YOU CAN HELP

You 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

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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 **October 2016** issue is

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

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