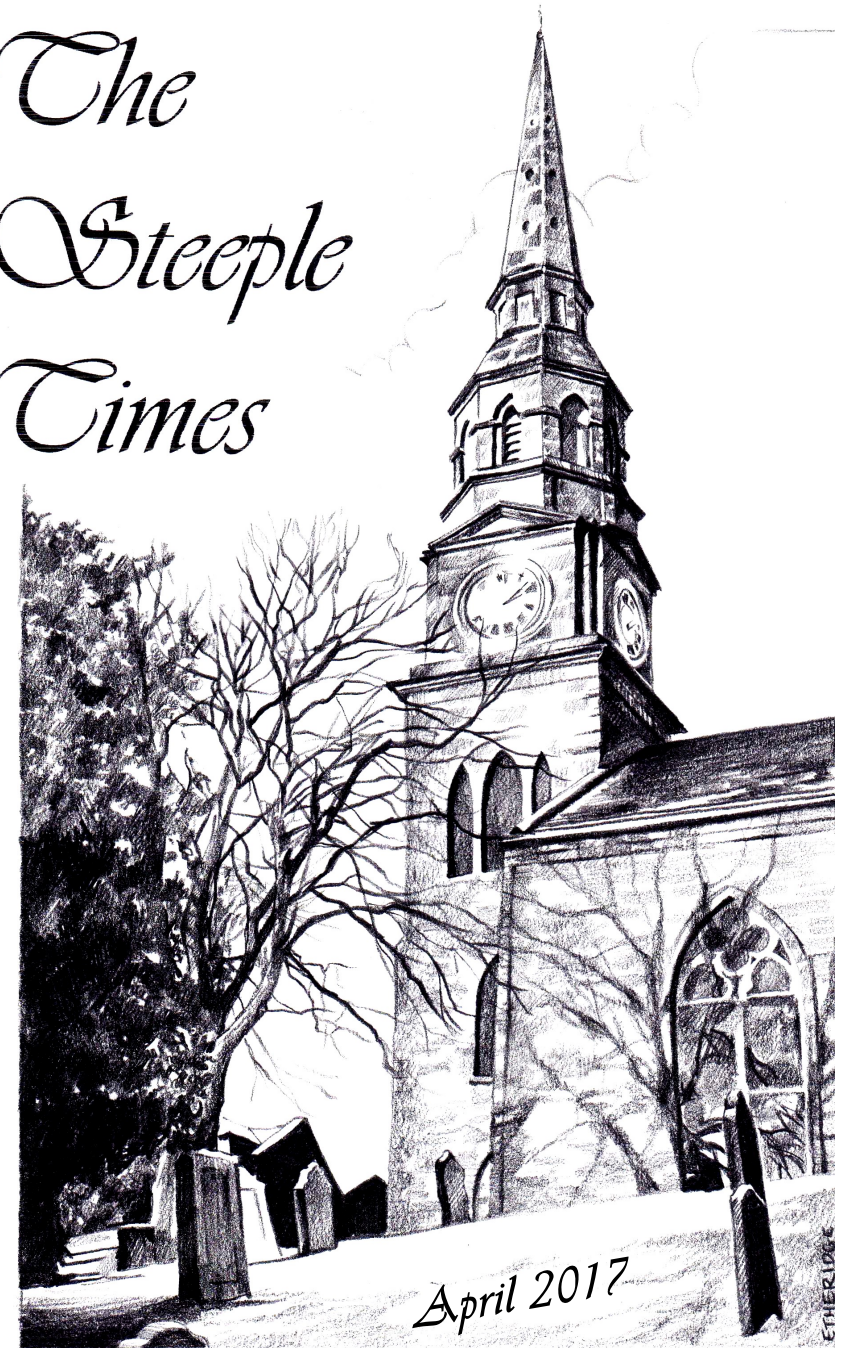


Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
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Groovy Gryphons Leader	Susan Forbes	01307 465200
Flower Group	Marlene Sim	01307 466616
Guild Contact and Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organisers	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
	Elma Sim	01307 465049
Prayer Group	Margaret Robertson	01307 463613
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Friends of Forfar East & Old	Mary Daun	01307 464935
Protection of Vulnerable Groups	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228

# The Steeple Times





### 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: [bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk)

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

### 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

### NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

The deadline for submission of articles for the **JUNE 2017** issue is

**SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2017**

Material can be given/sent to the Editor  
or e-mail [ed@thebigkirk.co.uk](mailto:ed@thebigkirk.co.uk)





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Do you need Transport to Church ?  
The Forfarian bus is available on the first Sunday of each month.

Please telephone Jean Alexander on 463860.

## FROM THE MANSE

### Letter from the Manse

Hello my dear friends

I am writing to you in this edition immediately after the opening of the new church sanctuary and additional areas. If you did not make it along to the opening on the 12<sup>th</sup> March then I urge you to come along and see it sometime soon. The sanctuary is simply beautiful and shows God's glory by the vision and work that has been done. It looks as though we have new stained glass windows, but of course we do not, the layout of the church and the colours within the sanctuary bring our windows out in all their glorious colours (although they will look even better when we have the money to get them professionally cleaned and new protective glass on the outside). Our focal point on the new east wall is of course the Cross which has been praised by so many people. The new social area has already been used for the Lent Lunches and it seats 90 people with ease and comfort. The new reception area will also be able to hold similar numbers and all these areas are available for hire to various organisations that need accommodation. Overall, the feedback has been great and we now have a sanctuary and a building that is fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and beyond. I was disappointed to hear that some of our members have criticised our new sanctuary and the disappointment is felt because these are people who are members of our church and have not been in the church since I became minister over 6 years ago. Some have even gone as far to say they won't come and see the change because they liked it the way it was!!!  
The church has changed because society and the way church is done today has changed. God is always moving forward, God's work is never done and as representatives of Christ on earth we need to keep moving onward, we need to keep adapting and changing to keep up with the mission

that God has commanded us to do. Love God, love one another, and love your neighbour whether it is in Forfar, Scotland, Britain, or the World.

As Easter approaches remember the resurrection, the bringing back to life of Jesus - we the people of East and Old are bringing life back into East and Old Parish Church. As ministers we keep saying to everyone that the church is not a building it is the people and that is the case but the missional work, the work that God has commanded us to do, the work that we do in East and Old needs a building that gives us facilities that are up-to-date. It all fits together like a jigsaw puzzle - we in East and Old are needed by the community and we need the community. It will take time for some people to adjust to the new church layout but the more you see it the more it will become the norm because some of us feel like it is home already!

There are so many people to thank for this amazing journey that we have been through that it would be difficult to list them but the professionals and the builders were amazing, the support from grant bodies, local businesses and most especially the members and friends who have carried out their vows when they joined the church - the giving of their time, talents and money has been inspiring, amazing and a blessing. We must thank Angus Spence one of our elders who was the co-ordinator for the project - for his time and talent which were invaluable and a true blessing for East and Old.

I wish you every blessing at this Eastertime  
Your minister and friend

*Barbara Ann*

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Jan	24	Anna Mitchell	4 Kirkriggs, Forfar	19
	28	Muriel Shaw	13 Inchgarth Street, Forfar	
Feb	14	Charlotte (Lottie) Todd	3 Strangs Ley, Forfar	9

### WEDDINGS

Mar 18 Mike Watson to Julie Hoy

### BLESSINGS

Mar 12 Sophie Ann McIntosh

### MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Apr	02	Helena Todd	Jun	04	Mrs Morris
	09	Glenda Robertson		11	Morag Milne
	16	Easter		18	Alistair McDonald
	23	Allison McLaren		25	Barbara Ann Sweetin
	30	Margaret Myles			
May	07	Bob Breedie			
	14	Marjory & Jim Herron			
	21	Margaret & Doug Robertson			
	28	Catherine McEwen			



Anchor and Junior Boys are all busy with glue and paints making gifts for Mothers Day and preparing for Easter.

The Company Section boys have been busy helping the green team. Under the watchful eye of Doug Robertson, they varnished the wooden planters which are situated at the entrance to the church. Last week 2 boys and 1 Mum arrived to help plant up the boxes and do some tidying on the stairway

Hadyn Dear our Senior boy represented 2nd Forfar at the Battalion cross country competition. He then went on to represent the Battalion at the Scottish competition. Well done Hadyn.

Boys and officers attended the re-dedication service. This was a special day for us They all enjoyed the day and I am sure they will remember it in years to come.

After a really busy time we are all looking forward to our Easter break .

## FLOWER GROUP



The flower calendar for 2017 is on the notice board in the hall. Please choose your date.

We now have a rota of volunteers who will arrange the flowers for Sunday mornings.

We are indebted to Fiona who delivers flowers to those who need to know that our church community are thinking of them at difficult times. Last year 225 people enjoyed these flowers which are funded by the donations from our flower fund. We are very grateful for these donations.

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



### Church Coffee Morning 14<sup>th</sup> January

This coffee

morning in January is proving to be very popular as it is the first get together since before Christmas. We raised over £500. During the following mornings worship our minister informed us that she did not like figures that do not end in a nice round zero. So the Groovy Gryphons took around a box and asked members to put in their change. The total then became over £600. Thank you to everyone who contributed on the Saturday or Sunday or both!!!

### Strathmore Primary School Burns Competition

Every January our minister is asked to judge the Scottish Poetry competition in the school. In the last few years Barbara Ann has asked **Isabel Farquharson** to join her. The children as per usual were super with the poems they recited and acted out. It became very difficult to pick out winners from each class but after visiting 14

classes both Barbara Ann and Isabel picked the winners and had a wonderful morning in the school. They want to say thank you to the primary sevens who gave them potted plants which were decorated by their own hands.

### Guests from Mozambique

On our ministers trip to Malawi last April she met Daniel and Enashue from Mozambique. Both Daniel and Enashue were in Scotland for 6 weeks gaining knowledge of the Church of Scotland through procedures, structures, accounting and parish work. Daniel and Enashue came to Forfar for two days with Barbara Ann and Billy opening up the manse to members to come and meet them on the Friday night. On Saturday they took a trip around Forfar and then into Dundee. They struggled in the freezing cold wind and informed us that Mozambique is at its coolest in June/July when the temperatures drops to a chilly 25 degrees Celsius! Throughout the weekend the two gentlemen were quizzing Barbara Ann on many points of parish ministry and even spoke to Mabel about church accounts on the Friday evening.



## Step Challenge

The church took part in a fund raiser for our renovations. The step challenge ticked a few boxes in the 'Care for Creation' theme. Many people started walking around the town to shop, rather than taking cars, walking to appointments and meeting friends. Therefore East and Old were caring for God's creation by cutting down on the carbon footprint and emissions in the air. Care for Creation also includes caring for ourselves and we did this by getting healthier through walking. The walking group organised a walk every Saturday in February to help us meet our target of **2,000,000 steps** in the month of February. Angus Spence bought and donated 25 pedometers for those who were unsure of the amount of steps. The 2,000,000 steps were smashed within the first week so the next challenge was set of 6,875,000 steps which is equivalent to 3,175 miles which is the distance an academic worked out that Jesus walked in his three years of ministry. During the last week of the step challenge the

number of steps reached was in excess of 9,000,000 steps. Well done everyone! So to that end the challenge has been raised again to walk **55,000,000 steps** which is equivalent to **25,000 miles** which is the distance around the equator approximately. We have asked Strathmore Primary School and Chimes Playgroup to help us out in this venture also. Many people, members and none members, have taken part and raised funds through sponsors. Many people also sponsored the church to raise money for the steps taken. We do not have a total at this moment but will let you know in the next edition.

## Minister's Talks

Our minister has been very busy in the last month or so by being a guest speaker at various events. Barbara Ann attended the Forfar Inner Wheel and gave a talk on her trip to Budapest last September regarding the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Scottish Missionary work in Hungary and commemorating the life of Jane Haining. The ladies of the Inner Wheel were very

## FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD

**McGonagall's Denner** What a great event this turned out to be!!! After a welcome by Mary Daun the convener of Friends and then a short story and background from Ron Scrimgeour which was very funny indeed the tea, coffee and shortbread were served first and there were a few puzzled looks but everyone tucked in and enjoyed it. Then the pudding was served - bread and butter pudding with ice-cream, followed by mince and tatties and veg and finally the last course being lentil soup. During the various courses some of McGonagall's poems were read out as were other Scottish poems. Everyone enjoyed their denner!!!

**Pointless and Pudding Night** takes place as this article is being written so you will hear about it in the next edition. The quiz game you are all familiar with and also on the night a large variety of puddings for people to enjoy and they don't need to stop at one pudding!!!



**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June An Italian Evening** food, drink and competitions!

Food and quizzes are always a big hit in East and Old so to that end we are holding a theme night - an Italian night, Italian food for three courses, Italian wine and Italian music and quiz. Make sure you book your place to avoid disappointment.

## Annual walk

Our annual walk takes place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August and we will be heading to the Dunkeld area at Birnam. Our dinner for that night will be at Strathmore Golf Club.

## East & Old

East & Old is a lovely church with a friendly congregation,  
There's a welcome there for anyone no matter what  
denomination.

But what a lot goes on in there, there's things to suit all ages  
From toddlers through to O.A.P's and various other stages.

The services are uplifting whether sung or said,  
The sermons never boring and don't forget the wine and bread.

And then we have the volunteers who see to this and that,  
Cutting grass, arranging flowers, making coffee by the gallon,  
The sidespeople and servers who will always have a chat.

And when the services are over the atmosphere's convivial,  
And conversations buzz around maybe serious or just trivial.

Of course, we all have sad times and it's nice that people care,  
We each of us have troubles which friends make less to bear.

Young and old join in as one, an unusual combination,  
We all learn from one another, it's a happy situation!

Most remember the folk from long ago who gave their money,  
time and expertise.

And worshipped here so faithfully, their God they wished to  
please.

There's so much that is happening I could go on at length,  
So with God's grace we'll carry on and go from strength to  
strength.

Supplied by Mike Smith, based on a Poem from Maureen Partridge about St Andrew's church in  
Crewe Cheshire.

welcoming and were interested in the story of Jane Haining. On the Sunday before the talk there was a special edition of the Antiques Road Show which featured some family members of Jane Haining and they took along a ring that she had owned which is now owned by the Church of Scotland. On one of Barbara Ann's slides the members saw Barbara Ann wearing the very same ring! A couple of weeks later our minister had three talks one day after the other. All three Guilds; Letham Guild, St Margaret's Guild and Dunoon Guild asked Barbara Ann to speak about her trip to Malawi. All went well at Letham and St Margaret's Guild however on her trip to Dunoon Barbara Ann got stuck at Auchterarder because of snow for 2 hours and 20 minutes. Barbara Ann eventually phoned the organiser to say that there was no way she would make it down in time for the Guild meeting. Needless to say Barbara Ann felt awful about this because it was a 2 hour talk and she was the main speaker, however eventually when Barbara Ann managed to get turned around the organiser telephoned her to say that the Guild had cancelled their meeting anyway! The date was re-arranged for the end of March.

## Souper Sunday



This event was organised by the education committee of the church which aims to raise awareness and money for the HIV/AIDS programme run by the Church of Scotland. The Sunday this took place was the last Sunday before Lent and the Sunday before Shrove Tuesday so the Groovy Gryphons asked if they could make everyone pancakes after the service also. A large number of people remained after the service for their soup and pancakes and a time of fellowship. The team also handed out red ribbons which is the logo for HIV to all people in the church that day. Thank you to everyone who was involved and for those who left donations of money. The cheque for over £200 was sent to the Church of Scotland HIV Fund.

## Time for me evening

We would like to thank **Pam Duthie** and **Carolyn Brown** for organising this very informative night and the one to one discussions with them on skin products, hair products and jewellery. Carolyn makes her own facial products and was giving everyone advice on different aspects of skin care and what suited their skin conditions. Pam spoke about some of the hair products she brought along and once again, on a one to one basis, spoke about the Stella and Dot Jewellery where the people there tried various jewellery pieces on to see what suited them. A great night was had by all who attended although numbers could have been slightly higher.



Many thanks to the Forfar Committee who organised this year's event in Benholm Nursing Home and Forfar Community Church. Margaret Robertson represents East and Old on the committee and a lovely and thought provoking service was

given which was written by the people of the Philippines .

## CHURCH DEDICATION

The week leading up to the opening – We are surprised that some of our members are still standing! Activity that week was nothing short of frantic!!! Unless you were there you will have no idea how much work has been put in by approximately 30 members and a few individuals, who if we had to pay them, would have earned a great deal of money. Thank you so much and you know who you are. Thank you to Busy Hands also for making the gifts that were available on the day. A small box with a picture of the church, a blessing card with the date of 12<sup>th</sup> March and a handmade cross and a candle. The candle represents Christ's light and we ask our members to take it out into the world and not to let Jesus' light stay behind closed doors. A huge thank you to **Major Mary Pickstone** who handmade the 350 crosses for the day!

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**Dedication of refurbished church sanctuary** – the whole edition of the Steeple Times could be given over to the build-up and

## AROUND THE GROUPS

### GUILD NEWS



The Guild session has now finished with our AGM on Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> March. To lighten the evening, Ann Scotland demonstrated flower arranging with 2 delightful displays which were then donated to members.

Rev Barbara Ann chaired the meeting and thanked members for their continued support for our Church's work, also for the mission projects across Scotland and in the wider world.

Office bearers continue as before. Committee members Shiela McTavish & Sally Shepherd stepped down and were thanked for their service, with Betty Millar and Wilma Smith taking their place.

The summer trip will be on Thur 8<sup>th</sup> June to Banchory/Deeside, leaving at 11am with High Tea at Panmure Arms in Edzell. There are a few spaces available yet for the bus.

Rumours of a block booking for GoApe zip slide at Crathes Castle and ordering of 10 gorilla suits are grossly exaggerated ! Remember, we are just finishing the year of Go in Joy !



**STEP CHALLENGE:** Has raised £2008.00 to date—fantastic effort keep it going.

**A MILE OF 10 PENCE PIECES!**

**WE'VE NOW COMPLETED 1221 YARDS AND RAISED A TOTAL OF £4458**

**Well done!**

**539 Yards to go, keep them coming, THANKYOU**



## TheBigKirkShop—Update

Income this year so far is up on last year and the custom of all visitors is much appreciated.

January was a quiet month, February slightly busier and March a busy month since we get a lot of visitors from the Caravan site.

We have lost two members of staff recently and this makes us short handed to run the shop. The holiday season is approaching so without some more volunteers we will have a difficult season ahead.

**Can you volunteer some hours to work in our shop?** Anything between 1 and 3 hours would be welcome. You can decide what you want to work on, the till, stock, sort donations, serve staff. We have a great team of people and you would be made most welcome.

Please contact:

Muriel Fairley on 01307 463936 OR

Elma Sim on 01307 465049

## FORFARIAN BUS

As you will know, our church has the use of the Forfarian on the first Sunday of each month to provide transport for many of our members. We usually also have the bus for communion dates.

Anyone requiring the bus please call Jean Alexander on 01307 463860 - Please leave a message with your name and phone number if there is no answer and Jean will always return your call.

The help of our volunteers is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU— *Jean Alexander*

then opening of the new sanctuary. So much work and preparation went into this day it is not surprising that many members were tired but still fired on all cylinders to enjoy this day. Thank you once again to the many people who helped in the opening from the order of services, to music, to the ladies who made the 'shorties' and to Bill McLaren and Karen Murray from McLaren's for making and donating our cake decorating it with images of the church. A very big thank you to **Mrs Vina McLaren** for agreeing to cut our ribbon and officially open the church sanctuary. Vina was an amazing 96 years of age at the opening then a few days later turned 97. Vina has been so supportive of the need for change in the church; as Vina has said to many people '**you have to move with the times.**'

We would like to thank Brian Smith of Wellwood Leslie Architects for their design and especially to George Martin Builders who have been excellent along with the sub-contractors. Our own building team a big thank you to **Bill Duthie**, **Doug Robertson**, **Jim Farquharson** for all the building work they were involved in along with **Doug Robertson**, **Mike Johnston** and **Bob Sim** for painting. A special thanks to Bill and **Irene Duthie** and for the

additional help of their family **Billy, Pam and Scott** who were also involved in their own building project at the time.

## Invited Guests

East and Old were delighted that a number of invited guests could come along on the day to join us in the celebrations. Mrs Vina McLaren who cut the ribbon opening the sanctuary, Mr Norman Atkinson, the deputy Lord Lieutenant, and his wife Noreen Atkinson, Councillor Colin Brown and his wife Jan, Councillor Ian McLaren and his wife May, Councillor Glennis Middleton and her husband Bill, Councillor Lynne Devine, Rev Graham Norrie, Rev Dougal Edwards and Mrs Edwards, Mr and Mrs Rod and Morag McCall from St Margaret's, Mr and Mrs Ray and Linda McLaren, Mrs Pat Brodrie, Mrs Maureen Black, Mrs Mabel Taylor and Carol Simpson, all from Alzheimer's Scotland, Mr Brian Smith from Wellwood Leslie, Mr Stewart McFarlane from Strathmore Funeral Directors, Mr and Mrs Rod and Morag McLaren from Bains Funeral Directors, Mr William Greig from Brechin, Mr and Mrs Ian and Morag Mitchell from Edinburgh. Because our minister is the current moderator of Angus Presbytery she could not invite herself along in that role she invited the past moderator

Rev Dougal Edwards to come along to represent Angus Presbytery and bring the greetings and best wishes of Presbytery to East and Old.

## Seeing the new Sanctuary and rooms

The church is open most days at some point for people to come along and view it but it looks its best with people in it especially on a Sunday morning – so we hope to see you there soon.



The Friday before the opening STV Dundee came out to film different aspects of the new sanctuary and interview our minister. The 15 second slot was shown on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 18 minutes into the news programme and gave East and Old super coverage. This came about when **Ian Stewart** one of our elders spoke to his niece **Lynn Rankin** who works for STV Dundee and told her the story. She took the information to her boss who thought it would be a good news story and it was. Thank you Ian and Lynn.

## THE COURIER

**Richard Watt** the local reporter from The Courier called and asked if he could send along a photographer on the Sunday morning of the opening to which we agreed. Richard was going to be at the service anyway because his son is in our Boys' Brigade Company who were in uniform for the day. Richard wrote up a good piece which was in The Courier on the Monday morning – thank you.



**Janet Thomson** wrote a large section in The Dispatch the week before the opening showing the progress of the building before the grand unveiling. Janet interviewed our minister on the day and then another great piece was in the next edition of The Dispatch – thank you Janet. If you go on line to the Dispatch or to their face Book page you would have seen another few stories with different pictures .

## BIG DAY OUT

Advance notice for you - **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May** will be the **Big Day Out** The presbytery of Angus hold this event every two years, normally in Arbroath. For a change Presbytery have asked East and Old to host the event this year. Please put the date in your diary now! It costs £10 for the day and includes keynote speakers, workshops and your lunch is included! There are registration forms available in the church or you can register online under 'Thebigdayout'. As this event is being held in our church we will be looking for stewards and a good turnout from East and Old members please.

**Keynote Speaker** - Rev Jim Stewart

**Sheena Orr** speaking on **Prison Chaplaincy**

**Pat Brodlie** speaking on **Dementia**

**Sarah Brown** speaking on **Carpentry Project**

**Rosie Addis** speaking on **Accessible Worship**

**Calum Murray** speaking about **Mental Health**

## MUSIC CAFÉ



The Music Cafe meets **every Monday , 2pm to 3.15pm**, helpers are there from **1.30pm**. We meet in the Church. The Music Cafe is for people suffering from Alzheimer's /Dementia and their carers. We sing a mixture of songs, including old favourites, Scottish, hymns and modern well known songs. We break for tea/coffee when people can enjoy a chat. Run by Pat Brodlie, one of our members, who is the Alzheimer Scotland contact for Angus. A very happy afternoon where the helpers prepare the teas/coffees & eats before the session starts & serve during the break, also help with finding songs in the folders for people who attend. **CAN YOU HELP?** Please contact **Jean Alexander** (01307-463860) or **Barbara Ann** (01307-248228) for more information.

## Tuesdays

Cosy Corner – 12 noon to 1pm in the church building (Jean Alexander)

## Wednesdays

Duke of Edinburgh Award Unit – 6pm to 7pm in the church building (Karen Liddle)

## Thursdays

Heavenly Bites – 11am to 1pm in the church building (Barbara Ann)

## Fridays

Friday Fling (every second Friday) – 2pm to 4pm in the OAP Hall (Jean Alexander)

**Tuesday to Saturday – THE SHOP.** Mornings 10am to 1pm or afternoon 1pm to 4pm. We are happy if you could cover even one or two hours . (Muriel Fairley)

**Kirk Session** – In the last year or so we have lost a number of elders so our ranks are depleted. The Kirk Session took the decision to look for new elders to come aboard and help steer and run the church. If you are approached then please give it prayerful consideration and if you feel you are unsure please speak to Barbara Ann. Elders do not necessarily have a district to visit but their time and talents can be used elsewhere. The way church used to be done is changing and is changing fast!

### FRIDAY FLING



We are looking for volunteers to help with our Friday Fling dancing group.

No great experience needed, if you can do a Gay Gordon , St Bernard's Waltz or a Hokey Cokey then you can help bring some joy to a person with dementia.

The dancing runs once a FORTNIGHT in the OAP Hall Chapel Street Forfar from 2pm to 4pm. Contact Jean Alexander on

**01307– 463860**



### MSP Liam Kerr

A few days before the opening our minister was contacted by the SCPO – the Scottish Parliament Office - saying that Liam Kerr had put a motion to the floor of the Scottish Parliament, congratulating East and Old on the renovation of the building and the work that they do in the community. Barbara Ann thought it was a hoax call and nearly hung up on Liam's assistant! They then arranged that Liam would call at the church the day after the opening to look around and speak to Barbara Ann and have a photograph taken. At the time of writing this piece 24 MSP's had signed the motion congratulating East and Old.



### Duke of Edinburgh Award Group Quiz Night

Sometimes it is difficult drumming support for our church events but this DofE quiz night sold out in just over a week – 80 tickets. Well done

everybody! What a fantastic night it was, seeing so many young people there was great, quite a different dynamic to church! Well done to **Karen Liddle** and **Glenda Robertson** and the DofE youths for organising this event. Now that they have a taste for this kind of thing we can see something else happening soon.

### Strathmore Primary School Strathie's Got Talent and Rock Challenge

The talent event took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the primary school and Barbara Ann was one of the judges. In first place was Declan and Kimberley with a magic act. In second place was Kara who performed a Cha Cha and in third place Raia who wrote and performed her own song while playing the ukulele. Although Barbara Ann said she was looking forward to this event she told us that the standard was very high and she felt under pressure when having to decide who the winner was! Children today are so talented in what they do and the school urges children to take part in activities and hobbies outside school. On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March Barbara Ann will be attending Rock Challenge to support Strathmore Primary in the hope they win this event. Barbara Ann

feels that the children were robbed two years ago when they did not win and I am sure many people will be shouting support for the children.

### **Betty Blue Eyes**

Our very own **Bruce Martin** starred in this production which took place in Kirriemuir on 21<sup>st</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> March. Fifteen people from East and Old went along to the show and were thoroughly entertained by the cast. If you hear of any shows or concerts let us know because the members of East and Old do like going out for an evening's entertainment.

### **Flowers in the Church**

Many thanks goes to Marlene Sim, Morag Milne and Irene Duthie for the wonderful display of flowers that were in the church and the sanctuary on the opening weekend. The flower team have told us that when they are putting display flowers at the front of the church they need to be big and bold because it is such a big space now! We would like to thank the people who came forward to help with the flower rota which means Marlene gives them the money to buy the flowers and they then buy the flowers and place them in the church on a Sunday morning. Some

of the volunteers place the flowers in vases while others arrange them. Are you good with flowers? We need to hear from you!!!

### **Friday Fling**

Although the numbers attending this event are small the people have a great time. However it can only operate and function if we have enough volunteers to man it and sadly the numbers have fallen away quite significantly recently – yes we know – people are getting older!!! Can you give 2 hours on a Friday afternoon every 8 weeks or so? It is not a big commitment and you don't need to be able to dance that well!

### **Lent Bible Studies**

Run by FACT these are taking place as usual every Thursday evening in East and Old at 7.30pm. The numbers have varied but an average of 12-15 people have been attending. The theme that has been selected this year is entitled 'Crossing Barriers' and it must be good because there has been a lot of discussion. The clergy from the different churches have been leading the discussions each week.

### **Lent Lunches**

Also a FACT event run in East and Old every Friday during Lent with



### **WE NEED YOU!**

This is a plea from the minister to our Community and members of East and Old who read this church magazine. The church relies on many people helping out in the many avenues of mission that the church is involved in. Members take vows when they join the church to give of their time, their talents and their money and our appeal to many people is to consider honouring these vows! We need you and we need you now!!! I know you are busy people and needless to say it is easier to get a busy person to do more than someone who does little. East and Old Church needs members and friends in the community to come forward and offer help rather than being coerced into it or waiting to be asked. We are not asking you to take charge of a committee or run something by yourself we need just a few hours of your time every so often. All of our missional groups that we run need volunteers – **ALL OF THEM**. Here is a list of the events that we undertake and the timings, hopefully you will listen to this plea and respond. For all of these on the list **Speak to Barbara Ann (248228) or the named person beside the activity.**

### **Mondays**

The Hub – 11.30am to 1.00pm in the church building (Margaret Myles)  
The Music Café – 2pm to 3.15pm in the church building (Jean Alexander)

## Forfar Parish Grouping

A number of years ago (at least 4) the Kirk Session of East and Old took the decision to start the process to disband this parish grouping. It never meets and the three Church of Scotland's in Forfar work well in conjunction with their ecumenical partners as well – they do not need another committee which only involves the Church of Scotland and excludes the others. Presbytery informed us that we needed a congregation vote also and this was done at the Stated Annual Meeting 4 years ago. Everyone agreed with the Kirk Session! The committee at presbytery level did nothing about this and have sat on it for years but once again the ministers in Forfar want this put to bed so have raised it again with presbytery. We have now been informed that a congregational vote needs to take place and all three churches must do it on the same day which they have set for **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. All members on that day will receive a voting slip with the wording the presbytery requires and you will vote yes or no on the slip. A member from presbytery will be on hand to make sure we don't cheat and all the i's are dotted and all the t's are crossed!!! We may put the voting slip in the order of service to make things easier on the day.

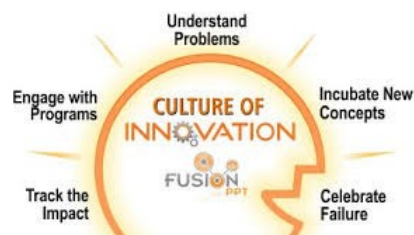
## 5 Yearly review

Every church in Scotland has a 5 year review which is carried out by presbytery and it is East and Old's turn again! The minister, session clerk and depute session clerk have already spent hours on filling out the paperwork that is required. In the next few month's members of presbytery will meet the minister, elders and interested members of the church to look at the views of people in the church, areas of strengths and also areas that cause them challenges. Unfortunately we do not have a date yet but it will be announced in church and also on our web page.

each Church taking a Friday to make and serve the soup. People are asked to pay a minimum donation of £3 per person. All the funds go to FACT's charity which this year is 'Seema's House'. This event is always popular with many people attending from all the churches.

## Manse Afternoon Teas

A few years ago Barbara Ann asked the pastoral care team to organise people by districts to attend the manse for afternoon tea. Those who are elderly, frail and don't get out and about much. This is now being repeated and we hope many of our members will get along. Transport is available for all the dates.



## Creating a culture of

**Invitation** As you read this edition a number of our elders will have just come back from a conference about 'a culture of invitation' and we hope to bring you some feedback from this event in the next edition. However we do feel that the big pull for this event is that it is being held in a function suite at Hampden Park!

## DID YOU KNOW?



The paper £5 notes are being withdrawn from circulation as the polymer £5 notes are introduced.

You can continue to use the paper £5 note until its **legal tender status is withdrawn on 5 May 2017.**



The new UK £1 coin will enter circulation in March 2017, and The Royal Mint is producing 1.5 billion of the new coins.

**The legal tender status of the round £1 coin will be withdrawn on 15th October 2017.** From this date shops will no longer accept these coins, but you will still be able to take them to your bank.

## Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning

We will update you on this event in the next edition as it takes place the weekend the magazine comes out. The Forfar Committee for Leprosy Mission now run two coffee mornings a year to help raise awareness and money for this worthwhile cause.

## East and Old Annual Stated Meeting

Notice has been given in the church for the last few weeks that the Stated Annual Meeting of the Church takes place on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April following the morning worship. A report of that meeting will appear in the next edition also.

### What's coming up & what to look out for



Holy Week is important and some people come to church on Palm Sunday and then they are not back until Easter Sunday which is a happy party time on both Sunday's and they miss out the true story of that final week of Christ's life. Holy Week starts on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April and on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of that week the church will be open from 7pm to 8pm for people to come and walk around the 'Stations of the Passion'. You can take as long as you like. At each station

there will something to look at, a bible reading and a prayer – it is to be a quiet and reflective time in the church.

## Maundy Thursday Service

Will take place at 7pm on 13th April, where we will be taking part in the Last Supper along with a meal – don't have your tea! The service starts at 7pm and the food will be first!

## Good Friday Service

Will take place at 7pm on 14th April. The day our Lord died!



**Easter Morning Services** There are two services as normal on Easter Day. 8am at the Lochside where people start to meet and walk along together from 7.45am. This short service is then followed by bacon rolls at St Margaret's. Our main service is of course at 11am where there will be the usual Easter Egg Hunt for the children – please note adults – for the children! Yes we do we realise you were only helping the children but what you really wanted to do was eat it yourself!

## Communion Sunday—April 30th 2017

Our minister wants to say thank you to the Kirk Session for agreeing to change the date of communion for April from the 23<sup>rd</sup> April to **30<sup>th</sup> April**. As you will be aware Barbara Ann's son gets married on 22<sup>nd</sup> April so she asked for the communion to be moved back one week which the Kirk Session readily agreed to. We will hold our normal **services at 11am and 6.30pm** and in recent years on the Sunday before the main communion we hold an afternoon communion where fellowship is shared afterwards with tea and cake. This will also need to take place on the **30<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm** because the week before – it is the wedding and the week before that is Easter Sunday!!! Numbers have fallen slightly over the last two years and we would like to know why that is. If you have not attended in the last two years or so we would be grateful for any feedback. Please speak to your elder or Barbara Ann.



Heavenly Bites has been suspended for a year due to the church renovations. The Church and School are very keen to get this going again. The primary sevens this year have really missed out so to make up for that Heavenly Bites will be running **every Thursday in May and June** so that all the children can attend at least twice. Please consider coming into the church on a Thursday for your lunch at 12.15pm where you will receive a warm and eager welcome from the children and lovely food.