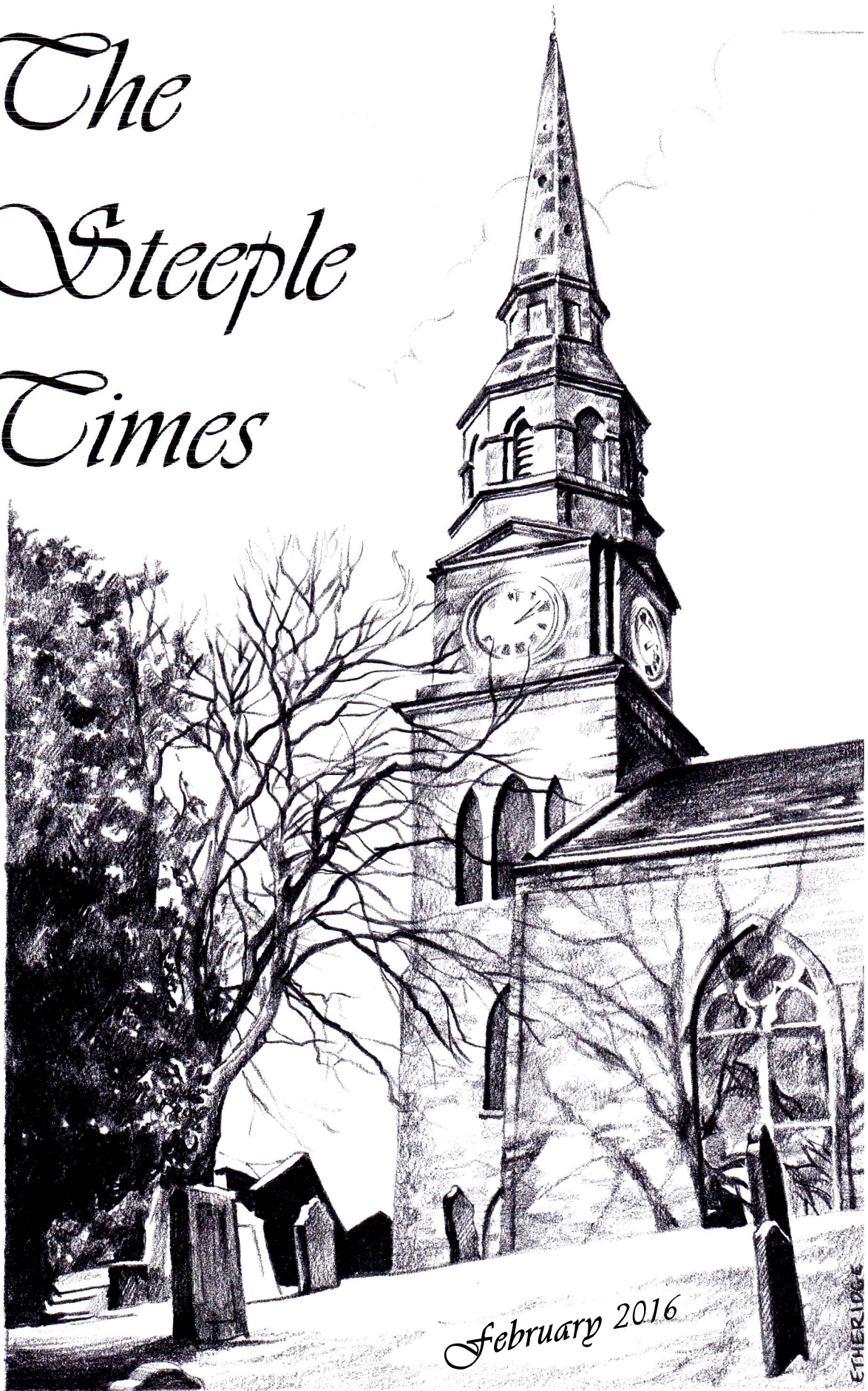


The Steeple Times



February 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

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: Barbara_ann17@yahoo.com

Web Site: www.thebigkirk.co.uk

Church E-mail: eando_office@yahoo.co.uk

Scottish Charity No.: SC004921

FROM THE MANSE

February 2016

Dear Friends

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to all the members and friends of East and Old although it feels like Christmas and New Year were about 3 months ago if not longer!!! But what an exciting January it has turned out to be with our 225 celebrations. The evening meal on the 16th was a super night (except for the heating breaking down!) with food, entertainment and great service which you will read more about in this issue. The following Saturday was the 225 Coffee Morning which was well attended and it is super to see and hear the buzz as people get the chance to sit and relax and chat in friendship and fellowship.

At the time of writing this letter I have just had a conversation on the telephone with the moderator of the Church of Scotland the Right Rev Dr Angus Morrison who will be preaching in the church on 31st January and in attendance will be his wife, dignitaries and officials from Angus, three of our church friends from Zuglo Church in Hungary, representatives of the other churches in Forfar, school and youth representatives and many more including family and friends of our members and of course the members are looking forward to welcoming back Rev Graham Norrie.

As your minister I do go on a bit about the bible being written for communities and how a faith community should interact with each other, with other people of faith, those who have none and with the community and world around us. In the month of January we have been very much working in this aspect of God's mission. Once again over the last 5 weeks or so my bible passages and sermons have focused on one subject – change! As I said in one of my sermons change is good – as long as it is not happening with you! We celebrate 225 years of the current building of East and Old but there again there has been lots of changes in the last 225 years and not just in the last 5 years!!! The steeple, bells and clock were added and when the organ was put in I am sure that many elders of the Kirk Session at the time would not have been happy with it going in – it meant disturbing and altering the shape of the sanctuary, an extension being built and a lot of upheaval. The stained glass windows were a new addition after that but in the days gone by the bigger the better was the philosophy which in today's climate means many old large buildings, which are a nightmare to heat and keep wind and water tight, are not functional for 21st Century worship and use. As you know our steering group has been working very hard to raise the funds for the new improvements to the church and we are nearly there but there is still a shortfall which they hope to address by seeking some more grants. Applying for the grants is a complicated business because of the restrictions that are involved but the main restriction we have come across is that we need planning permission in place before we submit our applications. We hope to have this within the next month. If all goes well the church will close on Monday 28th March for approximately 7 months with worship taking place in the Church Hall. The steering group plan to hold an evening in March to which all members are invited to give the updated news and information about the building plans and proposed closing down of the sanctuary. A date has been pencilled in for Thursday 3rd March at 7pm in the Church but this date will be confirmed nearer the time. Change, fresh expression, innovation, vision and faith are some of the key ingredients that keep a church alive and thriving and that is why East and Old is a vibrant, lively and active church which we hope and pray will still be standing and in use over the next 225 years!

Every blessing to you all
Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

SOROPTIMISTS

On Saturday 28th November our minister was the guest speaker at the Soroptimists Regional Meeting held in Perth. Barbara Ann had already spoken at the local Angus meeting months ago and on the recommendation of Lexi Smart was invited to speak at the regional meeting. Barbara Ann's theme for the talk was team work and community and that no one person or no one church can do it all – we are all very much part of a team. The Soroptimists raise awareness and money and advocate for many different organisations and situations and do a wonderful job. Barbara Ann said the members were lovely and asked some detailed questions which meant they had been listening and didn't fall asleep after the lovely lunch!

GRAND CHARITY AUCTION

On Saturday 28th November also the steering group held their Grand Charity Auction! What a night it was and was made more enjoyable in the company of the auctioneer Ian Christie from Glamis – how good is Ian at his job!!! Well done to Jim Stewart who came up with the idea and he and Alf Birse went around the local shops and companies gaining auction items and what a response we received from the local businesses so a massive thank you to all the businesses who contributed. Angus Spence helped on the evening by noting down the bidding numbers and prices and a big thank you to him also for the posters. Between the auction and the entry fee a wonderful total of £3082 was raised. Mabel was in her element counting and double checking and then making sure everybody paid!!! Unfortunately there are too many companies to name individually however some of the items went way over their true value – so thank you all who attended and bid on the items.

DUNDEE AND ANGUS COLLEGE – ARBROATH CAMPUS

On Wednesday 2nd December our minister was asked to come along and be interviewed (interrogated) by students at the college studying Social Sciences. With quite a bit of trepidation Barbara Ann entered a class of approximately 20 students and took the big seat at the front. Here are some of the questions that she was asked after her introduction as to who she was. Why do the good die young? Do people who commit suicide get into heaven? Where is heaven? Marx says religion was invented to control people and to keep them down – what do you think? Do you believe everything in the bible is true? What do you know about other religions? Are all people saved or only the ones who follow God's commands? Why do Church? Can you not worship at home? Do you only give money and help to other Christian Charities? And on and on it went for 70 minutes! Barbara Ann said it was very interesting, the students and staff were great and Barbara Ann finished off by saying that she is a pretty liberal thinking minister and that if they were to get another minister in who was on the opposite side of the spectrum some of their answers would be very different to hers and that is the joy of Presbyterianism! And how did Barbara Ann get involved in this – one of her Girls' Brigade colleagues is a lecturer in Dundee and friendly with the lecturer who was looking for a minister!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE

If our tree gets any bigger we will need to put a hole in the roof for it to stand upright! What a fantastic job the team did in putting up the tree. It takes hours of work for the tree to be decorated and put in its final place never mind the coming down again in January! A dedicated team come along and spend all morning putting the tree together with lots of pulleys and ropes and manoeuvring about! Well done Bill and Irene Duthie, Doug and Margaret Robertson, Jim Farquharson, Ian Brymer – we really do appreciate all the hard work!

CHURCH HALL CHRISTMAS TREE

This year we were donated a beautiful tree by the Deirdre Knight Centre. This tree came with all its lights and ornaments and was however just a little bit too big for the hall but Bill Duthie and Bob Sim came to the rescue and managed to alter it. The children at Chimes playgroup are delighted with it also. Thank you to the staff at the Deidre Knight Centre.

CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION



Once again what a great night and wonderful atmosphere with plenty of entries for both the junior section and the adult section. It really is amazing to see all the different ideas that people create with just one theme – Advent! Congratulations to 2nd Forfar BB who came in first and 2nd Forfar GB who came in second in the junior competition and for the adults first was The Guild and second The Green Team. Thank you to Isobel Ross our judge and the outreach committee especially Aileen McKenzie for organising this event, Bruce for the playing of the carols, Elizabeth McLeod and the team of helpers for refreshments and especially Bill Duthie for sorting, moving and arranging the church.

GIFT SERVICE

Angus Toy Appeal would like to say a huge big fat thank you to the members of East and Old who contributed to the toy appeal at Christmas. Every year they are astounded by the generosity of East and Old and are very, very grateful because sadly more and more children are in need in the climate that we live in today. Thank you once again to everyone.



RETIRING OFFERING ON 6TH DECEMBER

Jesus calls us to help our neighbours whether they be here at home or abroad and once again East and Old did just that. A retiring offering was held on Sunday 6th December for Seema's Project which is the FACT charity for 2015/2016. A total of £212.02 was raised and will be added to the total from the Salvation Army Band day and also the Lent Lunches which are about to start.

BB AND SCOUT POST OFFICE SORTING OFFICE AND DELIVERY



Once again the BB and Scouts did a wonderful job in the lead up to Christmas. Elma Milne is like a drill sergeant in the organising of the card system and Bill Duthie, Bill McLaren and Dave Bowman must cover miles picking up all the cards from the various post boxes. Over 40,000 cards were received, stamped, sorted and then delivered by the many, many volunteers from the BB and the Scouts and lots of church members also. The other side of the sorting office you do not see is the amount of tea, coffee and cakes that are consumed but getting a wee cuppa is fine payment for all the work done! Well done to everyone involved!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Once again we held our Church Christmas Concert in the lead up to Christmas. What a great night it turned out to be with lots of singing, storytelling, Highland dancing, Irish dancing, piano recitals and lots of fun actions as well. Thank you to the Lorraine Waddell School of Dance for bringing her girls and boys along. The money that was raised from the donations will be going to 'Let us build a house' in Nepal.

ACCORD



Talk about being tired out and sung out! Accord were very, very busy before Christmas and the two weeks before Christmas they performed 4 times in one week! Each season Accord change the music and songs they sing so that there is a great variety and people do not have to hear the same songs again and again. All the donations that Accord receive go into the DIF Fund. Accord were delighted to be able to help out at the 'Lippen Care' party this year. What will be their theme for the spring months do you think? We have heard they are thinking about weather or numbers!!!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The ladies now attend the Old Reid Park Bar on the 1st Wednesday of the month for their get together however one or two of the regulars can no longer make it on a Wednesday so that may be changing so keep your eye out for the day and dates. Over 20 people attended the Christmas meal at the Strathmore Arms and what a lovely night it was. The food, the drink, the service, the venue, the company were great and thanks to Barbara Ann for driving the minibus that night!

MEN'S NIGHT OUT



Not to be outdone the men are still attending the Queen Street Tavern on the last Thursday of the month. Watch this space because the Queen Street Tavern may be closing down soon and the men may need to change venue! The men attended the Castle Club for their Christmas meal and once again the food, the drink, the service, the venue, and the company were all excellent.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The people who attend the nine lessons and carols find this quieter and more reflective service much calmer for the soul. Different members of the congregation read the bible passages while Bruce played his fingers to the bone! It was also good that so many people stayed for tea and coffee afterwards.

ALEXANDER BAIN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

On the same day as the nativity service and the nine lessons and carols Barbara Ann conducted the memorial service at Alexander Bains. It was well attended and well received by the many people who turned up for this reflective service and memories of loved ones no longer with us. Alexander Bains put on a lovely buffet after the service and once again many people stayed behind to talk to one another.

CHIMES PLAYGROUP

The leaders and children of Chimes playgroup came to the church on Friday 18th December for their Christmas Concert. They were thrilled to see the Christmas Tree and the Stable and when they sang 'Away in the Manger' there were lots of ooh's and aah's from the audience. There were between 70 and 80 adults in the audience to see them and they did really well for such small people in such a large area. Barbara Ann visited Chimes the week of their concert to tell them the Nativity Story. The staff at Chimes do an excellent job with the children and it is great to see them making use of the church.

STRATHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL NATIVITY AND CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY

Our minister and a few members of the church attended the schools nativity service which was entitled 'Children of the World' where God's Angels took the news of baby Jesus to children all over the world.

We were delighted to be able to help the nativity out by supplying the school with the angel dresses from our stock of wedding dresses. The school came to the church on the last day of term for their Christmas service and were duly impressed with our Christmas Tree and Stable! The question that was asked the most was, 'how did you get the tree in to the church and how did you decorate it so high up?' Barbara Ann carefully explained how it all happened and missed out the bits that Health and Safety would not like! The children of Strathmore Primary are so well behaved and well-mannered and it was great to see them all in the church. The ladies from the Wee Blether popped in to watch the service too.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Our annual Christingle service took place on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm.



However beforehand – the day before – there were over 20 volunteers who turned up to make the Christingles and what fun it was. Many people rushed to the tables to do the jobs they preferred while others just helped out here, there and everywhere.

Nearly 400 oranges were bought, 2000 cocktail sticks, huge amounts of sultanas, marshmallows, jelly tots and reams of red ribbon! 1000 candles were bought which means we have enough for next year! Thank you to everyone who turned out to help – it really was appreciated! The service itself was well attended once again with just under 400 people present.

Bill had us all clued up about fire risks and precautions and once again Bruce playing his fingers to the bone. Barbara Ann once again gave a great service in a relaxed and informal way we can't believe she once again changed how we did the Twelve Days of Christmas. It was bad enough last year when we had to get up 3 times each but this year it was so much more! If your age ended on an odd number you had to stand up at every odd number and then the same for the evens. Everybody was exhausted!!! But what great fun! We did find out later though that John Fairley just stood up for the whole time as his legs couldn't take it!!!

Once again a huge thank you to Vanessa our cleaner who takes the time to come in every Christmas Eve after the service to tidy up, clean up and remove wax from the floor – thank you Vanessa.

The retiring offering amounted to £603 which means £301.50 will go to each of the charities selected – The Forfarian Bus and Alzheimer's Scotland (Forfar Branch)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE



What a wonderful way to start Christmas day by worshipping God on the birth of Jesus. This service is never the best attended in East and Old and most of the twenty or so folk who made the effort to come along brought along one of their gifts. It was super being able to wish a Merry Christmas to everyone on Christmas morning. Most of you will know that our minister does not like the cold and has mentioned on occasion that the church is sometimes 'Baltic!' Bill and Irene Duthie presented Barbara Ann with a gift which she duly opened – a thermal vest! We are told she takes it off, washes it and puts it back on!!! Barbara Ann would like to say thank you to the people who gave her gifts over the Christmas period.

AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Once again East and Old were delighted to host the choir. Irene Duthie and her team sorted out all the food and Bill very quickly dismantled the Stable so we had lots of performance area for the children. The children were very polite, friendly and cleared all their plates!!!



The concert itself was nothing short of marvellous; the energy, the smiles, the sound, the fun and the presentation. Including the ticket sales and donations on the night the choir took away just over £1500 plus lots of gift aid forms to claimed on as well.

BILL AND IRENE DUTHIE

There are so many people in the church do so many things for God's mission here in East and Old and in Forfar but a special thank you must go to Bill and Irene for the amount of work that they do.

Bill moves about chairs and tables every week in life on numerous occasions, comes up with new layouts and ideas and this Christmas and going into January he has been and will be super busy. At the drop of a hat Irene can organise food and drink and a team to help her as well. Thank you both so very, very much.

THE DREADED WEIGH IN!



Last Lent Esther Kidd came up with the idea for people to try to lose weight, gain weight or stay the same weight! It was £10 for the period of Lent and a donation box if you went up or down. The people who signed up for this continue to get weighed on the last Friday of every month and have kept it going. The team decided to have a Christmas meal together because they go for lunch after every weigh in anyway so it was off to Arthur Jack's just after Christmas and a lovely lunch and afternoon was enjoyed by all. How glad were we all that Esther did not bring the scales – she had walked in from Lunnanhead!!!

BOOK CLUB

The members of the book club attended the Strathmore Arms for their Christmas night out and thanks to Barbara Ann for driving the minibus that evening (only a few nights after the Ladies Night Out!) Over the meal the latest book was discussed 'The Bletchley Girls' which was given a mixed review by the group but certainly better than the last few they had read. The next few dates for the club are: 26th Jan at Isabel Adamson's (Book – Miss Garnet's Angel), 25th February at Lexi Smart's (Book – The Potter's Hand), 30th March at Barbara Ann's (Book – Give me this mountain), 25th April at Esther Kidd's (Book – We bought a zoo) and 31st May at Linda Spence's (Book – The reason I jump).



225 CELEBRATION MEAL



What a great evening this turned out to be. There are so many people to thank but most of the work was done by Bill and Irene Duthie, Elizabeth McLeod and Jean Alexander and of course Cameron's the fishmonger for the main meal (we even had Neil helping out – the power that a mother holds!) Thanks to ladies and gents for everything and to North Street Dairies for yet again supplying our dairy products – we really are very grateful for all you do for the church with milk, cream and butter. We also need to say a huge thank you to Pam Duthie who on the night had all the young servers and some friends working like clockwork and military precision so that everything went smoothly (the power that mother's hold!) Thanks to Marlene and Bob Sim for flowers and setting up the tables and staying behind to clear away and to Paul and Nicola Wilson who helped to set up also on the Friday and stayed to clear away at the end. Lexi Smart helped on the night, took her sister back home to Dundee and returned to the church at 11pm to help put things away. Irene, Bill, Jean A, Elizabeth and Hebbie McLeod and Lexi left the building at 11.45pm so that the church was ready for Sunday morning and then add into the mix our dedicated cleaner Vanessa who arrived later in the evening and started cleaning and vacuuming!

The entertainment on the night was excellent, the programme was varied as were the performers and their styles of music. Thank you to everyone who dressed up for this event – everybody looked so good! Overall the night was a big success and everyone left with a commemorative bookmark.

During the evening however it did get colder and colder and we discovered the next day that there was an electrical fault in the heating system and that is why the boiler would not fire up!

CHURCH ON 17TH JANUARY

What a shock we received when the morning after the 225 celebration meal we turned up for morning worship in a very, very cold church. Barbara Ann took the decision to move the service up to the Session Room where there was standing room only and very, very warm. Thank you to all the men who carried up seats to the session room and then back down again and how forward thinking were we getting the stair lift put in – it was put to good use on this Sunday!

225 COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning was a great success and raised an enormous sum in excess of £600.

Anna Mitchell and Liz Nicoll as usual made the pancakes. There were various stalls including garden vegetables, home baking, tombola and Doug Robertson brought along his wood turning goods for sale. Thanks to everyone for attending and helping.

225 MEMORIAL SERVICE

At the time of going to print this event will just be taking place and we look forward to giving you a fuller report in the next edition.

A MILE OF 10 PENCE PIECES!

**WE'VE NOW COMPLETED 917 YARDS AND RAISED A TOTAL
OF £3347**

Well done!

But a long way to go, keep them coming

THE 'U' IN JESUS

Before U were thought of, or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son
And each time U pray, you'll see it is true
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name
For U He was born; that is why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died
I t even takes U to spell crUcified.
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.
When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all—Just as I love U"
So many great people are spelled with a U
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
I t all depends now on what U will do
He'd like them to know - But it all starts with U.

SESSION CLERK—BOB KIDD

There's a well known saying that, 'Cometh the hour, cometh the man...' and this is very true when considering Bob Kidd's time as East & Old's Session Clerk. Bob took up office in November 2007 at the start of a period of vacancy. Although he was an experienced and respected Elder, nothing could have prepared Bob for this difficult time. However, he worked well and closely with several Interim Moderators and our Locum Minister, while constantly ensuring that Office Bearers and members of the congregation were kept fully informed about what was happening.

As well as being Session Clerk, Bob was involved in many practical projects to do with the smooth running of the church and served as Chairman of the Nominating Committee a tricky task, especially when it seemed that we were never going to get a Minister. Bob has done just about everything for E&O and it's almost impossible to distinguish what he has done as Session Clerk from everything else which he has done for us! He has added a professional touch to anything musical or dramatic; has used his creative and artistic flair for 'Busy Hands'; has devised many a fund raising quiz; has been one of the Media Team responsible for preparing the material to be shown via the monitors; has taken part in and sometimes led the Care Home services and the mid-week service; has acted as a very necessary buffer between the congregation and either Presbytery or '121'; has drawn up many monthly diary sheets as well as numerous agendas for Kirk Session and Conveners' Meetings and has penned countless letters on our behalf. Bob has also done all of the liaison with people in this country and abroad as we seek a new home for our renowned Organ.

One important area of responsibility, unseen by most members, has been that of record keeping – near the start of each year the roll has to be revised and attested and shortly after this all of the congregation's records such as the minute book, the communion roll, the property register and the Accounts need to be assembled for Presbytery inspection and approval. Not all congregations manage to do this by the appointed time but thanks to Bob's efforts E&O has always done so and this was the case even one year when Bob had just had an unforeseen hospital stay. Whether the task has been great or small, Bob has afforded each the same degree of diligence and attention to detail. Perhaps not surprising in someone who has worked as a teacher and as a driving instructor, one of Bob's most notable strengths has been that of communication: he has been able to get on with absolutely everyone and has always been thoughtful, approachable and good humoured while having the respect of young and old.

Our Minister is absolutely indispensable but we at E&O have been secure in the knowledge that if Barbara Ann were for some reason unavailable, Bob Kidd would be able to hold the fort.

We will miss your sure and steadfast leadership, Bob!

TREASURER—MABEL MARTIN

After many, many years of dedicated service in the name of Jesus, our treasurer Mabel Martin has decided it is time to step down as treasurer.

Mabel will be stepping down on 31st December 2016 and her hope and prayer is that someone will rise to this task and shadow her over this year so that they are not coming into the position from scratch.

The treasurer of the church does not need to be a member of the session or even a member of the church although that would be preferred.

If you or someone you know would consider this position then speak to Mabel or Barbara Ann please. A church can function without certain positions but not without a treasurer so please give this careful consideration and prayer.

WHAT'S COMING UP & WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER GROUP MEETINGS

ALL THURSDAY NIGHTS

11th 18th 25th February and 3rd, 10th and 17th March – Lent Bible Studies in the Church at 7.30pm

7th April, 12th May, 16th June, 22nd September, 20th October, 16th November
1st, 8th, 15th December – Advent Bible Studies



FAITH DISCUSSION MEETINGS

ALL MONDAY NIGHTS

8th February, 14th March, 11th April, 2nd May, 6th June, 5th September, 10th October, 7th November, 5th December

SOUPER SUNDAY ON 28TH FEBRUARY

The Education Committee in conjunction with the social committee will be running this event in the church on 28th February immediately after the church service. The money will be going to the Church of Scotland HIV programme and will be added to the money we collected on World Aids day on 1st December with our Red Ribbons. A minimum donation of £3 is asked for.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT



This starts on 29th February and organisations are being urged to hold a Fair Trade breakfast so that end East and Old Church will be holding their Fair Trade breakfast on Sunday 13th March at 9.30am in the church. All donations will be put towards 'Let us build a house'

DESSERT AFTERNOON IN THE CHURCH ON 5TH MARCH

Who does not like a dessert or a pudding – so Barbara Ann has come up with a fun way of raising some more funds? Come and try a variety of desserts that will be on offer along with your tea and coffee in the afternoon of the 5th March in the church. Tickets will be on sale at £5 and you can try as many desserts as you like. Barbara Ann hopes there will be between 15 and 20 desserts to try!



TWINNING NIGHT ON 16TH MARCH

The team who went to Hungary last October are organising a Hungarian Evening to tell the congregation of what happened on the trip, who they met and where the twinning will go from here. The evening will have a power point presentation, singing, dancing and lots of Hungarian food for you to try. So please put the date in your diary and come and join us.

EAST AND OLD STATED ANNUAL MEETING

Normally the SAM is held after morning worship at the end of March however this year the last Sunday is Easter Sunday and not appropriate and we need time for the accounts to be approved and printed so it cannot be any sooner! Therefore the SAM will take place on Easter Monday 28th March in the Session Room at 7pm and we hope many people will make the effort to come along.

FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD FRIENDS DIARY FOR 2016!

FRIENDS FISH SUPPER AND CHALLENGE NIGHT SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2016

This will be in the CHURCH HALL! and we hope you will be able to join us for a fun night.

BINGO TEA AT THE LEGION ON 8TH MARCH

Anna Mitchell very kindly gets us a date for this event and Friends help her to organise it and run as do the ladies at the British Legion. Put the date in your diary and if possible we are looking for donations for the prizes on the night. Would you be willing to donate a voucher for £5 or £10 pound to this event – any shop or store in Forfar would be great. What about a bale of towels, a hamper etc. Speak to Barbara Ann or any of the Friends team.

EASTER BONNET COMPETITION ON SUNDAY 27TH MARCH

We hope all the men and women of East and Old will enter into the spirit of Easter Sunday by making, buying or recycling a hat to make into an Easter Bonnet. There will be a prize on the day!

SHOWSTOPPER EVENING (ADAPTED FROM THE GREAT BRITISH BAKE OFF) - 7TH MAY - Details later

ANNUAL WALK - 6TH AUGUST—Details later

QUIZ NIGHT - 27TH AUGUST— details later

RENEWAL EVENING - 29TH OCTOBER— details later

AROUND THE GROUPS

THE GUILD



We had a really happy musical evening from members of Meigle Musicality. A very varied programme of light music enjoyed by all present with lots of audience participation. The singers do a limited number of such evenings in aid of a Cancer Charity.

We are about to have Dawn Mullody from Pitstop to give a talk on her visit to India. In February we are looking forward to hearing from a well known speaker on Pictish Stones—Normal Atkinson.

We then go from the distant past to the present day when the head teacher of Strathmore Primary School will tell us about the Role of the Head Teacher.

Another meeting in February is a training day in Lowson Church. We are again in Lowson Church for a project meeting.

All are welcome to our Coffee Morning on 19 March. After the Annual Business meeting on 23 March we will be entertained by Accord.

WALKING GROUP

The following walks will take place in February and March

20 February—Kingsbarns Circular Walk 3.5 miles

5 March - Newburgh Circular Walk 3.5 miles

Meet at The Myre 10am For more details contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228 or bjs@talktalk.net



2ND FORFAR BOYS BRIGADE

Our B.B. Hall has now returned to normal after becoming a Post Office for two weeks in December. This was once again a great fundraiser for Boys Brigade and Scouts and our thanks go to all who were involved in anyway. By sorting cards in the hall or delivering them out and about or by posting your own cards, you have helped make this a huge success.

After a visit from Santa at a joint party everyone looked forward to a few weeks holiday. Now we are back to our busy Sections working for badges and enjoying activities. Any Boy between age 5 to 12years old will be most welcome to join us

TWINNING UPDATE

Following our visit to Budapest in October, the 18 members who travelled there met to evaluate our trip. It was deemed a great success by all and we came up with some points to improve things for any future trips. This feedback was then passed on to committee members at the last meeting, where we looked at ways in which we can take the twinning forward. We have come up with lots of ideas which you will hear about in due course, but first we need to put a call out for new committee members! Anyone who has an interest in other cultures, international affairs or just sharing God's word with others and helping strengthen our link with Zuglo church can join in, you don't need to be a Board member or on any other committees to join us, everyone is welcome! We need YOU and your ideas! If you are interested, just let either Barbara Ann or Karen Liddle know and we can tell you more.

At our 225 Commemorative service on 31 January three members of Zuglo church joined us in the celebrations. They thoroughly enjoyed meeting you!

EDUCATION REPORT

Suggestions (filled in on postcards by members of the congregation) for the "What Counts" survey have been returned to the church offices in Edinburgh. These may be used to help format questions to be used in the survey "to understand the size and impact of congregations throughout Scotland" for which there will be a pilot this year.

Despite the wintery weather, members of the committee distributed tea, coffee and chocolate powder sachets at the Church gate along with miniature red stockings on Saturday mornings in December.

FILM CLUB

The dates and films for March and April are as follows:

Saturday 19 March at 2 pm

Fun with Dick and Jane starring Jim Carrey.

Saturday 16 April at 6 pm -

The Road starring Robert Duvall and Guy Pearce
From the book by Cormac McCarthy.

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

£111252

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Oct	10	Leslie Buchan	Finavon Court, Forfar	*
Nov	28	James Allison	55 Old Halkerton Road, Forfar	51
Dec	9	Margaret Bell	Storeyville, Kirriemuir	46
	22	Elizabeth Scott	1 Teuchatcroft, Forfar	*
Jan	4	Eileen Forbes	42 Jeanfield Road, Forfar	*
	5	Helen (Ella) Young	7 Lyinghills, Forfar	*
	6	Theo-James Groog	39 Dundee Loan	*
	7	Mary Fairweather	Bruach, Arbirlot	*
	9	Bette Mills	Clement Park Home, Dundee	*
	16	Maira Moore	23 Hanick Terrace	28

NEW MEMBERS—by Resolution of Kirk Session

Sandy Fraser	4 Goosecroft, Forfar
Edith Watson	2 Osprey Gardens, forfar

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Feb	7	Joan Petriw	Mar	13	Bruce Simpson
	14	Muriel Fairley		20	Jean Brymer
	21	Karin Murray		27	Pat Milne
	28	George Richardson	Apr	3	Helena Todd
Mar	6	Margaret Myles		10	Glenda Robertson

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

**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.

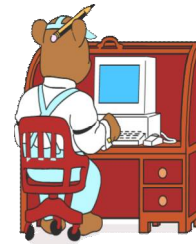
Next Issue of the Steeple Times

The deadline for submission of articles for the **April 2016** issue is

SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2016

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

elma.milne@virgin.net



Session Clerk	Vacant	
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307465043
Treasurer	Mabel Martin	01307 462713
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