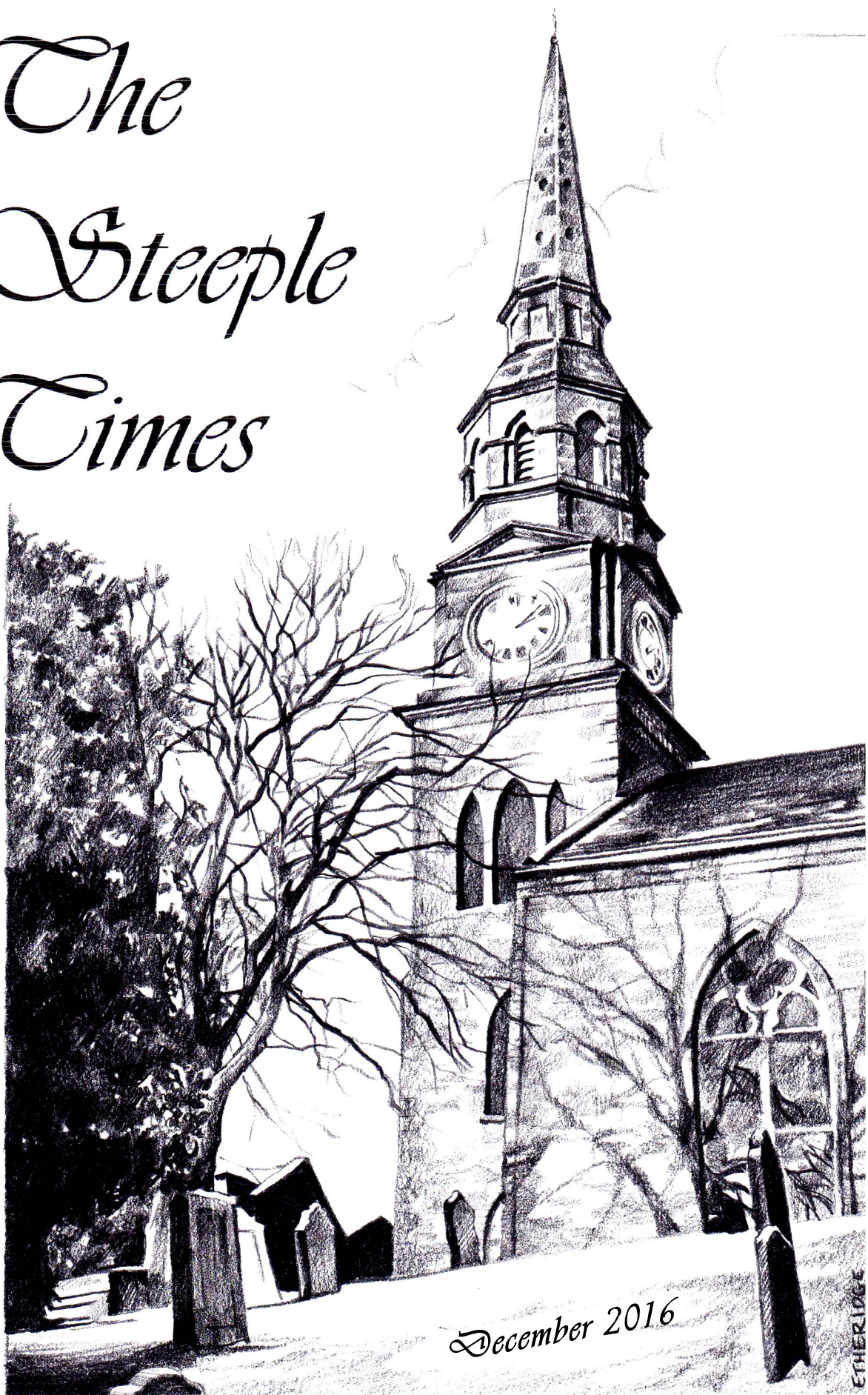


# *The Steeple Times*



*December 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: [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

## FROM THE MANSE

Hello once again my dear friends

Can you believe that it is nearly the end of another year? I must admit I am finding that time passes quicker and quicker every year and that got me thinking. As I am writing this letter for this edition of the Steeple Times I have just come back from the Remembrance Service at the church and also at the Cross. A time of remembering all those men and women from World War I until the present day who bravely served our country to give us the life that we lead today. The opposite of remembering is forgetting and I know that I forget many things in a course of a week and you will see me go into a blind panic when I cannot find my diary.

However this week in the news it has been stated that the disease known as Dementia has overtaken heart related disease for the first time. Memories can be good and bad but our hope is that we can learn from those memories. We remember Jesus' birth, his death his resurrection, we remember the Lord's Prayer, our favourite bible passages and hymns. We remember our families, holidays, work, and activities and on and on it goes. However in some people the connections that are made in their minds start to break down and memories start to fade and disappear. I thought I would share with you a poem written by the Poet Laureate Billy Collins who wrote this wonderful poem entitled 'Forgetfulness'

The name of the author is the first to go  
followed obediently by the title, the plot,  
the heart breaking conclusion, the entire novel  
which suddenly becomes one you have never read,  
never even heard of, as if, one by one,  
the memories you used to harbour  
decided to retire to the southern hemisphere of the brain,  
to a little fishing village where there are no phones.

Long ago you kissed the names of the nine Muses goodbye  
and watched the quadratic equation pack its bag,  
and even now as you memorize the order of the planets,  
something else is slipping away, a state flower perhaps,  
the address of an uncle, the capital of Paraguay.

Whatever it is you are struggling to remember,  
it is not poised on the tip of your tongue,  
not even lurking in some obscure corner of your spleen.

It has floated away down a dark mythological river  
whose name begins with an L as far as you can recall,  
well on your own way to oblivion where you will join those  
who have even forgotten how to swim and how to ride a bicycle.

No wonder you rise in the middle of the night  
to look up the date of a famous battle in a book on war.  
No wonder the moon in the window seems to have drifted  
out of a love poem that you used to know by heart.

Christmas and especially New Year are times of remembering and during this time of Advent and Christmas and going into 2017 I pray that you will not forget about the message of Christmas and the Resurrection throughout the whole coming year that Jesus came to bring love, joy, peace, hope and especially love and that through his death and resurrection brought forgiveness also. I hope and pray that this year this is something you can remember and not forget to put into action in your lives of faith. Let me finish by saying a big thank you to all the members of East and Old and the many friends we have who supported East and Old in the past year – THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a blessed 2017 when it comes.

*Barbara Ann*

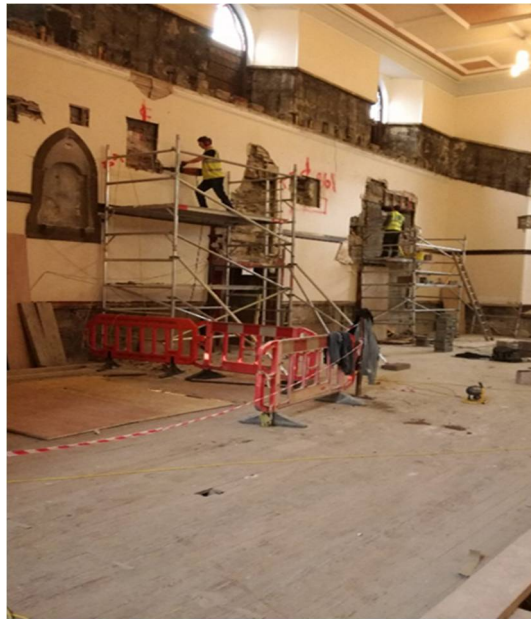


## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### **E&O Church Project:**

Take down and stripping out work is complete within the building and preparation works for a lift shaft will have begun. Good progress is being made and timber framing is being put in place, steel supports are in progress and selection of Audio visual and Projector Systems has progressed.

East Balcony removed (above) and  
New Support Steel Works (below)



### **Our Quantity Surveyors:**



Established in 1929, John M Duguid & Co was the first solely Quantity Surveying based firm in Dundee. The practice was renamed John Duguid Partnership in 1989 at which time the range of services provided was expanded. In 1996 Muir Summers, the Edinburgh and Dundee based firm of surveyors was incorporated into John Duguid Partnership.

## Our Grant Applications:

### **Laing Family Trusts**

have awarded us a grant towards the works. This is the third organisation to award a grant for the project. The other awards to date include:



### Alexander Moncur Trust

## OUR FUNDING:

We are still fundraising to fill a small shortfall in our funding :-

**Barbara Ann's Appeal** for support is still open for anyone who wishes to make a donation to the project. So far this appeal has generated nearly £40,000 from our generous supporters within the congregation and from kind donations from non-church members and we thank everyone very much. With a little more help we can achieve full funding within the next few months.

**CHURCH CEILIDH** – this was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October however the numbers were very low indeed. The people who attended were entertained by the Waddell School of Dance and the band were excellent. Accord, Bill Carr and Alf Birse entertained also and the stovies were great and enjoyed by everyone. We ran at a small profit but it would have been better if more people had attended.

### HARVEST SUNDAY

**16<sup>th</sup> October** – the Harvest Sunday service will now take place in mid-October just as the schools are going back after their Tattie Holidays. The display of fruit, veg and flowers was lovely as was the sheaf loaf that Bill McLaren made for us. Bill very kindly offered to teach Barbara Ann to make a sheaf loaf but she thought it better if she had company so with her was her sister-in-law Carol Dobbie and Elizabeth McLeod. It took two and half hours to prepare and they left the bake house as the dough went into the proving area. A big thank you to Bill for doing this!



The Salvation Army would like to say thank you very much for all the goods that were brought in on Harvest Sunday and it certainly has restocked their shelves for the time being.

**LEPROSY MISSION COFFEE MORNING** – as you will be aware Barbara Ann is the chair of the Leprosy Mission Forfar committee and she and the team who are representatives of most of the churches in Forfar would like to say a big thank you to all who helped and attended this event. Over £800 was raised on the day and East and Old showed up in large numbers to support it.

**COMMUNION SUNDAY** – we knew that space would be at a premium on Communion Sunday so the minister organised communion the week before the main communion which was very well attended as was the numbers at all three services on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Overall numbers were down yet again which is disappointing but we hope that the numbers will be much better in April when we celebrate communion in our refurbished sanctuary.



We know that as the years go past time changes as do customs but it is concerning to hear

that many of our elders never get across the doorstep of our parishioners. A large number of our members welcome their elders however some people keep them standing at the door to talk to them, some just take their cards or say hello and some do not even respond at all. We would be interested to hear why that is? Is it the day they call, the time they call or would you rather they didn't call at all? Can you let us know – we really are interested in hearing your viewpoint.

**ARCHIVES VISIT** – thank you to Aileen McKenzie and Heather Munro for arranging this super and informative 2 days and evening at the Restenneth Archive office. It was very interesting looking back on the past history of the church, the parish and the community of Forfar and it was amazing the records that the archive holds. The archive office welcomes anyone going in and more than happy help you locate any information you are looking for.

**WHAT'S ON IN FORFAR** – this was an event which was held in the Reid Hall at the beginning of November where we took a stall. Thank you to those people who manned the stall and to the Boys' Brigade boys and leaders who also helped. A big thanks to Bill Duthie for making up a large banner at very short notice!

A large number of organisations were present at the event and quite a number of people attended also. It is with heavy heart that we report that many would not even stop and talk us when they saw that it was the church that was being represented – it was just a wave of a dismissive hand. Do they not know anyone who is elderly and would like to come for lunch? Do they not know anyone who has Dementia and may need an activity to go to? Do they not know youths that might be interested in joining our Duke of Edinburgh Award programme? Do they not know anyone who would like to help us help Forfar with the litter pick up campaign? No – it was the church and they just ignored everything! What was also concerning was the amount of people who paused smiled and said I am a member of the other church and were not interested in anything East and Old had to offer which is strange since each of the churches in Forfar all offer something different. On the positive side many people did stop for a chat and took our leaflets and our Boys' Brigade Company now have 3 new boys because of the event – so it was well worth it. Barbara Ann hopes that if our members were to stop at any church stall they would find out what was going on and bring the information back to her because it may be useful to other people too. Each church should offer something different and it is good when we can share and support activities between us. next year we hope to take part once again.

**SPARKLING NIGHT AT THE MANSE** – what a great night this turned out to be with over 80 people turning up at the manse. The Kirk Session members put money together to buy the Fireworks and Sparklers and some of the ladies of the Kirk made the soup. The hot soup and Bridies were very welcome on a cold night. Thank you to the team for organising this event, setting up, sorting out, lighting the fireworks, cooking, and cleaning and clearing away.



**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – a very moving and uplifting service on Remembrance Sunday which was well attended by members and friends.

Thank you to Jim Nicol and Ian Brymer for laying the wreaths on behalf of the church and it was lovely to see our Boys' Brigade in uniform in church and laying a wreath also. Thanks to James Robertson for playing the pipes at The Tryst, Irene Duthie for decorating the hall and to Bill Duthie for coming up with a great way for the wreaths to be shown and held in place. The retiring offering of £316.63 will be split between Poppy Scotland and Erskine Hospital – thank you everyone.



**MISTLETOE MARKET** – once again the members and friends of East and Old came up trumps for our Mistletoe Market. Many creative ideas were put into action with a variety of beautiful gifts available and cake and candy were as popular as ever.



We raised approximately £1800 even though it was a smaller event than normal due the constraints of the hall size. Thank you everyone for your contribution in which ever shape that took.

Thank you to one of the members from Lowson Memorial who brought us homemade short-bread for our cake and candy stall.

**THE MUSIC CAFÉ** – the café continues as strong as ever with the dedicated volunteers and helpers. A special thanks must go to Pat Brodlie, Maureen Black, Margaret Anderson and Bruce Simpson who attend every week and the volunteers on the rota system. Everyone involved in the Music Café get so much from it and it has been a blessing to all involved.



**THE FRIDAY FLING** – continues every second Friday and at the moment the numbers are a bit low but the numbers do fluctuate quite a bit from one session to another. Many thanks to Stewart McKay (aka – The Music Man), Maureen Black and Mabel Taylor who turn up for every session and once again the volunteers on the rota system. Please help us out by volunteering at this event please.



**ROTA'S** – working out rota's for the various activities can be a bit of a nightmare so we would like to thank Jean Alexander for compiling the rota's for the Music Café, the Friday Fling and The Cosy Corner – is there no end to this lady's talents as Jean is also in charge of the counting house on a Sunday morning after church and fills in the donations into the book just about every Sunday.

**FLOWER CONVENOR** – our wonderful and dedicated Flower Convenor Marlene Sim is taking a step back from her role as the Flower Convenor. We would like to say a huge thank you to Marlene for the wonderful job she has done over the last many years. Nothing daunted Marlene when Barbara Ann came up with different ideas, themes and colours and Marlene took it all in her stride. Marlene also delivered many flowers over the years and we thank her for that. We want to say thank you to Irene Duthie, Morag Milne and Fiona Clacher for their help in the flower team also but we now need someone to come forward to take on the role as convenor and to guide and steer this very creative group. Marlene is happy to help anyone in any way she can so the person can settle down into the new role quickly and easily. Please speak to Barbara Ann or Marlene if you think you could help in any way?



**NOTICE BOARD** – The notice board on the church wall at the gate of the church in East High Street is also looked after by Marlene Sim and this noticeboard is the biggest advertisement we have because literally hundreds of people stop at it every week. Can you print words and pictures out on your computer or draw words, designs etc – then we urgently need to hear from you. The board gets changed once a month and help is available also. Once again we need YOU!



**ACCORD** – our musical entertainment group have been very busy in the past few months entertaining in and around the Angus area to Care Homes, Guilds, WRI's and a variety of clubs. They will be very busy in this month of December once again entertaining in a variety of places and are even going to Glasgow! January is a bit slower but they will still be on the go then as well – keep up the good work folk!



**BOOK CLUB** – the books over the last 7 months have been mostly good with the exception nearly everyone thought of ‘The Girl on the Train’ and ‘The Man in the High Castle’. Everybody except one (Lexi) disliked ‘The Girl on the Train’ – so much so that no one wanted to go and see the film when it was released! However a number of the members went to the cinema to see ‘The Light Between Oceans’ which the members read some months ago to which everyone agreed was a good book. The film was good but the book was much better! At the Christmas night out on 21<sup>st</sup> December the members will be picking their books for the next 6 months.



Does anyone have any good recommendations? Speak to Barbara Ann if you do.

**FIRE SAFETY** – East and Old Church and especially the Kirk session would like to say a big thank you to Stewart Davidson for completing a fire risk assessment on our church hall free of charge. This very thorough and large document costs a considerable amount of money for organisations and Stewart gave of his time and talent to complete this for us. There are some actions points for us to look at in the future which we will be considering soon.

**ST MARGARET’S CHURCH** – once again our thanks go to the minister and Kirk Session of St Margaret’s Church who are allowing us to use their sanctuary for funerals and school assemblies during our renovations.

**WORLD MISSION COUNCIL** – our minister is a member of the World Mission Council within the Church of Scotland and as such is involved in many different ways with this council. She attends the Local Development Committee meetings where she is the convenor, the World Mission Council meetings, the Business Committee

Barbara Ann travelled to Malawi in April this year and then to Budapest in September and then more recently she was asked to attend a Christian Aid Conference just outside London on their behalf also but this was in conjunction with being a parish minister.

Through the World Mission Council Barbara Ann plus Karen Liddle have been invited to Zurich next July to discuss an event that they hope East and Old will support in 2018. This is a planning meeting for a trip to Zurich which we hope many people from East and Old will take part in – but more to follow at a later date.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November Barbara Ann’s committee organised and ran a coffee morning at 121 to raise awareness of Worlds Aid’s Day which is on 1<sup>st</sup> December. Ten people from East and Old travelled down to 121, helped at the coffee morning by baking and serving on the day and then after they had finished spent time in Edinburgh doing some Christmas Shopping. The members of East and Old got a little tour of 121 which they found very interesting. Thank you to those ladies who baked but did not attend the event also.

The information and education that Barbara Ann has gained over this last year has been invaluable which she has also brought to us in the church. Barbara Ann serves on this council for another 18 months.

**ANGUS PRESBYTERY** – once again you will be aware that our minister is the Moderator of Angus Presbytery this session 2016/2017. As well as chairing the presbytery meetings Barbara Ann has been invited to a number of events also as moderator. Knox’s Church in Arbroath, St Andrew’s in Arbroath, Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden and next year she will be attending St Margaret’s here in Forfar. Barbara Ann did say that this is a positive aspect to the being moderator and yet another plus is that she does not sit on a presbytery committee other than the Business Committee during her moderators year! Did you know that presbytery use our premises 7 times a year for committee meetings?

## **CHIMES PLAYGROUP**

You may have read or heard about money being taken from the Church Hall during November - a four figure sum of money. The money belonged to Chimes Playgroup who had just completed a fundraiser and although many people are saying what are they doing with money like that in a hall cupboard - they are not to blame - it was the thief who stole it who is at fault. We want to reassure you that as a church we do not keep cash on our premises.

## **WHAT'S COMING UP &**

### **ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December



### **CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the Church

### **SALVATION ARMY BAND**

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December

### **MEN'S CHRISTMAS MEAL**

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December

### **NATIVITY SUNDAY**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 11am



### **NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm

**FORFAR'S BIG SING**

Sunday 18th December in St Margaret's 7pm

**LADIES CHRISTMAS MEAL**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

**GROOVY GRYPHON CHURCH  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Thursday 22nd December at 2pm

**CHRISTINGLE MAKING**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am

**CHRISTINGLE SERVICE**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in  
the **REID HALL**

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11am (shorter service))

**NEW YEARS DAY**

Sunday 1st January  
(shorter service and no early service)

**CHURCH COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday, 14 January at 10 am

### **McGONIGALL'S DENNER**

Sunday 22nd January after morning worship  
4 course meal £10

### **SOUPER SUNDAY for HIV awareness**

Sunday 26 January after service

**BIBLE STUDY** – 26 January, 9 February, 25 May, 22 June, 14 September, 19 October, 16 November.

**LENT BIBLE STUDY** - 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 March and 6 April

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES** – 30 November, 7, 14 and 21 December

**FAITH DISCUSSION** – 9 January, 27 February, 13 March, 10 April, 8 May, 5 June, 11 September, 9 October, 6 November, 4 Dec.

**KIRKRIGGS COURT**— 17 January, 7 February, 7 March, 11 April, 9 May, 6 June, 11 July, 15 August, 12 September, 10 October, 7 November, 12 December.

## **FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD**

The Friends of E&O held their annual renewal night on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and were entertained by the Angus and Strathspey Reel Society and Bill Carr and Alf Birse. It was a very successful night and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

Are you a member of Friends of East and Old? If not, why not? It costs £10 per annum or £150 life membership. Speak to any of the team: Mary Daun, Doug Findlay, Susan Forbes, Elizabeth McLeod, Helena Todd, Isobel Archibald and Sheena Benvie.

The Friends have organised a couple of events for next year already so look out for them:

- **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** immediately after morning worship 'McGonigall's Denner' and the cost is £10 for a four course meal but it is a meal with a difference. Tickets will be on sale in December and January.
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – The Pointless Game Night
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** – Italian Evening
- **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August** – Friends Annual Walk
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October** – Friends Renewal Night



## ART GROUP

There will be no Art Group in December. The next date is Thursday 12 January 2017.

New members will be most welcome.



Art Group Calendars for 2017 are still on sale — a nice Christmas Gift.

## GROOVY GRYPHONS

The members of the Groovy Gryphons have been enjoying quite an active time of it over the past few months. Their Summer outing at the end of August took the form of lunch with Barbara Ann at the Manse then a drive and walk up to Airlie Monument. It just so happened, that it was open doors weekend and the children armed with torches were able to climb the narrow inside staircase to the top of the monument. It was a slightly rainy day and the view was not its best but the children enjoyed the experience.



They have also held a Car Treasure Hunt to play their part in raising funds for the church improvements. This turned out to be a challenging but fun afternoon for all those who took part and tea and scones were served afterwards which allowed for lots of sharing of answers and stories of getting lost!

During October the children had an evening out to the Websters Theatre in Arbroath.

A member of the congregation had very thoughtfully and kindly gifted money in her will to the Groovy Gryphons and it was decided to use this to take the children to see Limelight's children's performance of the musical Joseph. The Groovy Gryphons had the opportunity to study the popular Old Testament story prior to going and the show lived up to its great reputation with lots of vibrancy and volume which had the children singing and clapping along. It was a great night for all those able to go and Barbara Ann, Joyce, Frances and myself are very appreciative of this kind gesture as it allows us the privilege to see the children's experience of faith growing in a variety of contexts.

The Groovy Gryphons are now working on plans for playing their part in all that goes on in the East and Old over the festive season. Ideas are being produced for decorations for the Community Christmas tree decorating competition and an all-age Christmas Party in the Church Hall on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. We want to see as many people there as possible to help eat all the jelly and ice cream and Santa's little helper will be appearing to get us all into the spirit of things. The children are also contributing and assisting with the manning of the chocolate and wine tombola at the Mistletoe Market and on top of all that they will be helping to distribute Christmas gifts to all our members who are housebound. They should also manage to squeeze in a contribution to the Christmas story with a Nativity performance on the 18<sup>th</sup> December!



"Christmas is for children. What better time could there be to honour and love our children than the time when the King of the Universe was himself a little child?" Author unknown

## 2ND FORFAR BOYS BRIGADE

School holidays are over and all boys are settling back into badge work and games.



The three sections enjoyed a Halloween Party together with fun, food and fancy dress.

The BB's were represented at the Mistletoe Market with a bottle stall. A visit to Tesco is planned for the big boys and a trip to the Mills Observatory is coming soon.

December will once again see the BB Halls turned into a Post Office for our Christmas card fundraising project — a very busy time ahead for everyone.

Boxes will be in the usual shops on 28 November and deliveries will be on the weekends of 10/11 and 17/18 December.

## THE GUILD

We were entertained at our autumn session starter in September with Church singing group Accord, followed by a mini-bridle supper! Other meetings during the session included: -

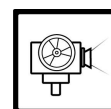
On 12<sup>th</sup> Oct Barbara Ann administered Communion and then talked on her recent visit to Budapest, celebrating 175 years of missionary work by the Church of Scotland in Hungary; we enjoyed Sheila Mann's talk on 26<sup>th</sup> Oct - the poems of Violet Jacob from House of Dun; on 9<sup>th</sup> Nov we were the hosts to St Margaret's and Lawson Guilds when Marjorie Clark spoke on Feed the Minds and their project - Breaking the Cycle of Female Genital Mutilation. She was warmly thanked for her moving presentation and the 3 Guilds signed declarations of commitment to break this barbaric practice; we were invited by Lawson Guild to a concert in their church on 16<sup>th</sup> Nov to mark Guild Week. The performers were Cantamus, a group from North Fife singing in aid of Seema's Project in India; to mark the end of National Guild Week, members of the committee led worship on Sun 20<sup>th</sup> Nov on the theme of *Go In Joy* including a DVD of the Moderator's address to the Guild National Gathering in September at the Caird Hall; and members were relieved to find that the Activity Night on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov was more games and discussion exercises than physical jerks.



We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party Meal and visit from Santa on 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.

## FILM CLUB

As December is such a busy month there will be no film show.



The date and film for January has not yet been decided. If you have a film which you would like to be shown contact Mary Daun on 464935.

### **Outreach Committee**

Our visits to the Archives in October were much enjoyed by members of the congregation.

The "Sparkling Night at the Manse" was well attended when a good display of fireworks was enjoyed along with refreshments and soup, bridies, tea and coffee.

The Christmas Tree Competition is on the 9th December in the Church Hall at 6.30pm, with organisations within the church and community taking part.

The list for the proposed "Young Women's Group" is still on the notice board at the Church Hall so please give it some thought. The idea being to spend a social get together one evening a month or whatever is decided upon.

### **Capability Home Boxes**

Please keep saving your loose change so that this Scottish Charity can continue it's good work in our communities.

The box for our donations is in the lobby at the hall or give your coins to Barbara Ann or Marlene Sim.

Check out the Capability website: [www.capability-scotland.org.uk](http://www.capability-scotland.org.uk)

## **Walking Group**

**17th December 2016—Rocks of Solitude**

**21st January 2017—Arbroath**

Meet at The Myre Car Park 10.00am. For more details contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228 or [bjs801@talktalk.net](mailto:bjs801@talktalk.net)

## **FIRE SAFETY**

### **The Twelve Days of Christmas**

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Christmas – check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standards.
- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Christmas – never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings. Don't leave them burning unattended.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Christmas – make sure your family and guests staying for the festive period know what to do in an emergency. Make a fire escape plan.
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – Decorations can burn easily – don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – never overload electrical sockets. Take special care with Christmas lights.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – most fires start in the kitchen – never leave a cooker unattended.
- On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – celebrate Christmas and New Year safely. The risk of accidents, especially in the kitchen is greater after alcohol is consumed
- On the 8<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – if you are planning to celebrate with fireworks, store them in a metal box, read the instructions, never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby.
- On the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – make sure you have a working smoke detector
- On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – check the battery in your smoke detector every week and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove the dust
- On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – make sure candles and cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- On the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Christmas – take a second to check on elderly relatives and neighbours at Christmas – make sure they are safe

**HAVE A VERY MERRY SAFE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**



## AND FROM THE ECO GROUP.....

1. On the First day of Christmas: buy recycled Christmas paper
2. On the Second day of Christmas: give a charity a hand - buy charity Christmas cards
3. On the Third day of Christmas: save the trees and send email cards via the computer to all of those tech savvy friends.
4. On the Fourth day of Christmas: have a Christmas clear out before all the new presents arrive —clothes and toys can be recycled via the charity shops .
5. On the Fifth day of Christmas: alternatively give last years now abandoned toys to a toy appeal for needy children.
6. On the Sixth day of Christmas: have a great atmospheric Christmas Eve — save on power and light your way by candlelight.
7. On the Seventh day of Christmas: God Bless You Every One.
8. On the Eighth day of Christmas: recycle your Christmas paper after unwrapping your presents on Christmas morning.
9. On the Ninth day of Christmas: left over Christmas food can be used to create great sandwiches or casseroles on Boxing Day.
10. On the Tenth day of Christmas: recycle the food that cannot be converted into other meals via your brown bin.
11. On the Eleventh day of Christmas: if you had a real tree this Christmas — recycle it via your compost heap or via your local recycle centre.
12. On the Twelfth day of Christmas: recycle your Christmas cards via your recycle bin when the Christmas season ends.

### THE BIG KIRK SHOP

The shop is doing well!

Total net sales for 2015 was £18,495.27

Current net sale for 2016 are

Quarter 1	£4855.85
Quarter 2	£5440.55
Quarter 3	£6383.58

**Total to date £16,679.98**

Well done everyone. Keep up the good work.

## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

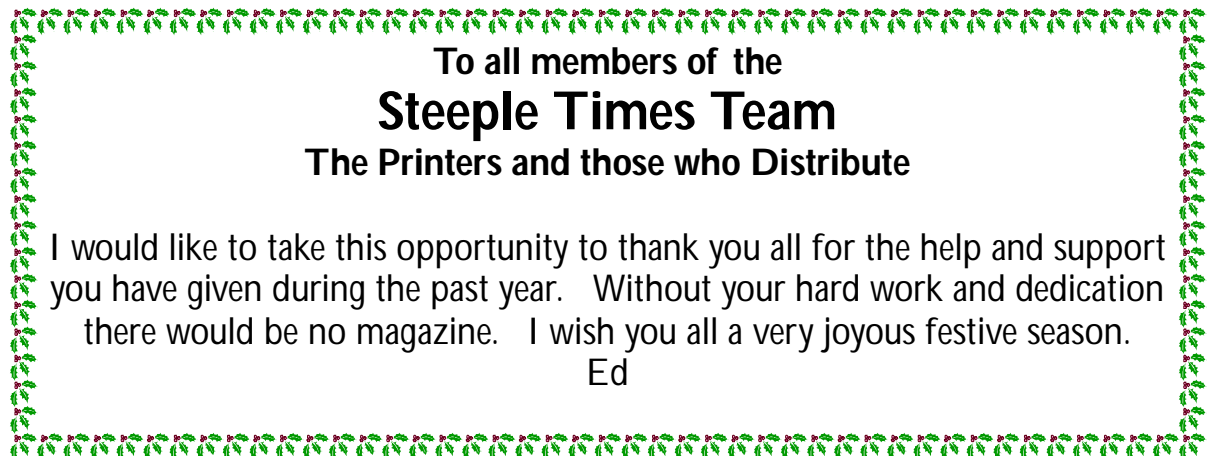
Sep	20	Mrs Nina Bell	39 Hillside Road, Forfar	20
	25	Mr Robert (Bert) Nicoll	1 Andrew Smyth Gardens, Forfar	42
Oct	26	Mr Alexander (Sandy)	54 Gowan Rigg	9

Anderson

Our minister also conducted 1 funeral for Letham, Dunnichen and Kirkden Church and 4 funerals for St Margaret's Church

### New Members

Mr Robert Watt	128 Restenneth Drive, Forfar	15
Mrs Anne Watt	128 Restenneth Drive, Forfar	15



### FLOWER GROUP

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Flower Calendar in 2016.

The flowers we deliver are really appreciated and of course the congregation enjoy the flowers on Sunday mornings.

The calendar for 2017 will be on the board as you enter the hall from 1st December. Please add your name.

## **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 **February 2017** issue is

**SUNDAY 15 JANUARY 2017**

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

**[ed@thebigkirk.co.uk](mailto:ed@thebigkirk.co.uk)**





Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307465043
Treasurer	Paula Stewart	From June
FWO Treasurers	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
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