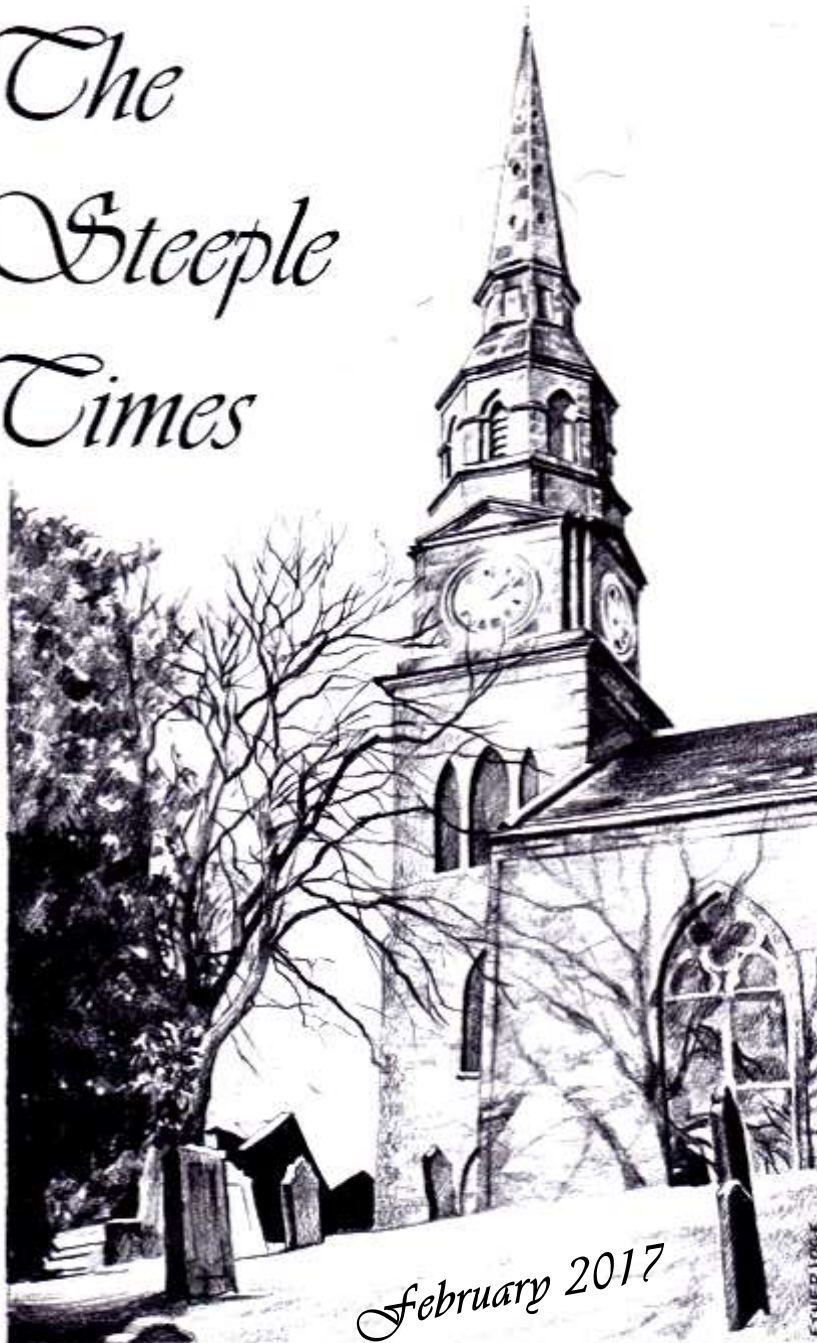


*The
Steeple
Times*



EAST AND OLD
PARISH CHURCH
FORFAR



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

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Scottish Charity No.: SC004921

FROM THE MANSE

February 2017

My dear friends

A happy and a peaceful New Year to you and your families. I am sure you will agree that it seems quite an age since we celebrated our Lord's birth and the beginning of a New Year! There was a lot of decision making and activities taken for East and Old in 2016 and this year is already looking exciting and gaining momentum and I hope and pray that many of you will take part in the various projects and activities that will be happening in 2017 and onwards. Our numbers attending the various worship services and outreach activities remained steady in 2016 despite us not having the use of our church building but hopefully by March we will be up and running again. This year I am asking you for something that will cost you nothing!!! If you are a person who attends church every Sunday I thank you and ask you to continue your praise and service to the Lord. If you are a person who attends once a month I am asking if you can try to attend twice a month. If you attend once every 6 - 8 weeks why not try attending twice in that space of time. If you come to church only at the communion services try another time also and if you never attend and are able to do so then why not come along at least once in 2017 - church has changed and has changed a lot over these last years but you won't know that if you haven't been in a long time. The door will always be open to you and no one will make a comment about you not being for a while.

I like to see the church with healthy numbers attending on a Sunday and many people say they can worship God at home and that is so true but you also need the community of the church around you, it helps your faith develop, allows time for companionship, fellowship and friendship but most importantly it helps you understand the word and mission of God in the 21st Century. I have heard many people say that today's society is all about 'I' and 'ME' but not in East and Old. Through God's command and following in the steps of Jesus we care for each other in East and Old, for our community, the nation and so many worldwide issues also, the Holy Spirit is alive and well in East and Old.

During the month of March we hope to hold a dedication

service of our new sanctuary and I pray that you will make an effort to come along and worship God in our newly refurbished sanctuary. In May we will be holding a welcome back to church month - yes MONTH!!! The Kirk Session understand that holding one back to church Sunday may not fit in with people's plans so the whole month of May is being given over to this concept. You will all receive a special invitation to attend church at some point during the month of May and we ask that you bring your invitation along with you.

Towards the end of 2017 due to a number of factors with ill health being to the forefront a number of key people in the church have had to step down from the roles that they were involved in. As minister and as a Kirk Session we have tried to fill some of these gaps but with little success. Elma Milne was our roll keeper, editor of the Steeple Times and duty elder advisor. We wish Elma well in her recovery and a very big thank you for the all the work she has done for East and Old and thank you to Angus Spence for taking on the role as editor for this edition of the Steeple Times. However, we still require people to take on the role of looking after the roll and organising the elder's duty - remember you do not need to be an elder to do this role but you do need to be able to input information into a computer. **CAN YOU HELP!!!** Marlene Sim had to step down as flower convenor and yet again no one has come forward to take on this role either. Flower ministry is a big part of East and Old's mission in our church and Marlene has done an outstanding job over these years and once again a big thank you to her. You do NOT need to be a flower arranger or do the same as Marlene did and as a church we are happy to have any flowers and that includes putting bunches of flowers in a vase for a Sunday morning. **CAN YOU HELP!!!**

The church has other ideas looming ahead for 2017 which you will read about in this edition of the Steeple Times so please think about your membership in the church and become more involved.

Once again I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2017 and blessings to you all.

Your minister and friend

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Guild Church Service

On the 20th November the Guild took morning worship. Some people said to Barbara Ann that they hoped she was enjoying her morning off however Ministers are always on tender hooks when they are not in charge of worship on a Sunday morning but Barbara Ann had no fear as the service went very well indeed. The service was varied with fun and **laughter expressing the Guild's theme of 'Joy' for this year and it was a joy to part of this worship service as it is with joy we worship God.** The Guild normally take the service this Sunday as it is the end of Guild week.

Music Café



The day after the Guild service a member of the communications department of the Church of Scotland came along to our music café to find out more about what we do there. Helen Silvas spoke to our minister, Maureen Black (not Pat Brodlie as she was on a course that day) and some of our members. After collecting some

information and taking some photographs Helen stayed for the rest of the afternoon. She has now written up a piece and 121 hope to put it out early this year on their web page, face book page and the media may pick up on it also. Thank you to everyone who spoke to Helen because it was all positive feedback!

Advent Bible Study

The advent bible studies this year followed a day by day theme that was created by Alternativity in conjunction with Spill the Beans. It covered quite a range of areas and the discussions were all based around Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from

the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call

him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Handbag and Bags Galore

Quite a number of people stayed on after the morning service at the beginning of December as the toys had to be organised to be collected and then the hall needed to be set up for Handbags



and Bags Galore which was Barbara Ann’s brain wave. Eight people stayed behind to set up and ate their lunch together and then the event started. There was a good turnout in the afternoon and Barbara Ann had 60 of her handbags on display of all different colours. We cannot say different styles because Barbara Ann has two things in common about her bags; they have handles and not straps and all her bags can take an A5 diary! A story was told about some of the bags and then the guest speaker for the day was Sandra Thomson from Dundee who gave her story of her time working in the Jute Industry and then the development of Jute bags. Sandra was extremely funny and a wonderful speaker and she sold many, many of her jute bags! Did you get one for Christmas!!! After the afternoon tea there were a couple of games. Barbara Ann laid out three handbags and people were to guess the dearest to the cheapest and the range was £99 to £5. Marlene Sim donated a handbag for the game called – ‘match what is in the minister’s handbag’. The winner who was closest to that was Edith Watson with Esther Kidd being only one item behind. The next game was like the Generation Game conveyor belt. Items were taken out of Barbara Ann’s larger bag and put into another and the person who remembered the most won the prize. Lastly there was a raffle with 3 handbags and numerous other items including chocolate handbags, sweets, wine etc. Thank you to all who donated items and the total raised was over £500. Thank you to those who baked, set up and served on the day also.

Christmas Toy Appeal

On the first Sunday in December we hold our annual toy appeal for the Angus Toy Appeal and once again the members of East and Old did not let the children of Angus down. Many thanks for the numerous gifts that were given and also to those folks who went home and brought theirs down later in the day because they forgot them in the morning and to the one person who ran out to Asda after the service and came back with a gift!

Christmas Tree Competition

Once again this event proved as popular as ever with many teams taking part and being judged by Councillor Colin



Brown. Well done to 2nd Forfar **Girls' Brigade for winning the junior section and to the Knit N' Natter for the senior section.** The **Knit N' Natter group have** donated their knitted Nativity Scene to the church – thank you very much indeed. A big thanks to Aileen and the Outreach Committee for organising this and to the people who once again helped with the food and drink.

Hall

Throughout all the events we hold in the church and the hall we must say a very big thank you to Bill Duthie for setting things up and clearing away and thank you to the many people who help on a Sunday to help clear away the chairs. We are also grateful to Vanessa Ferrie our cleaner who does a marvellous job for us and has helped Bill with setting up and clearing away also.

Salvation Army Band

On the second Sunday of December the Bellshill Salvation Army Band performed in Forfar with the proceeds going to the FACT charity of that year.

Seema's House has been the FACT charity for the last two years and will change in June 2017. Once again for those who attended they had a wonderful evening of entertainment.

Kirkriggs Court

Every month our minister holds a short service at Kirkriggs Court and normally Bruce our organist plays the keyboard there also. Anna Mitchell supplies the pancakes, cakes and treats and the ladies of Kirkriggs make the tea and coffee, however at this service in December Anna was in hospital

so Barbara Ann bought the pancakes, visited the OAP Coffee Morning on that Tuesday morning and bought homemade cakes and then she brought along her own baking that she had made the night before to supplement the goodies. At the end of the afternoon tea Pat from Kirkriggs presented Barbara Ann with a cheque for the church as a thank you for coming along to Kirkriggs Court every month. We would like to say THANK YOU to the residents of Kirkriggs Court for your donation.

Men's Christmas Night Out

The men of East and Old enjoyed a festive meal and night at the castle Club just before Christmas. We are told the banter was good and they had put the world to rights! How could you do that guys without the females being present!!! Thanks goes to Alf Birse for organising the evening.

Ladies Christmas Night Out

The ladies of East and Old of course always go out for a Christmas meal and as per usual visited the Strathmore Arms in Glamis. The staff, the venue and the food were lovely and the

company was even better. A great night was had by all but we missed Anna and Elma who normally come along to this event so when they are both out of hospital then we need to organise another meal out!!!

Chimes Playgroup

Barbara Ann visits Chimes on the last Wednesday of every month to tell the children some Bible Stories. The children are always keen to show Barbara Ann if they have learned anything new and in December they wanted to sing their new song. What a delight it was we are told to hear 'Away in a manger' sung by just under 20 children and they had put actions to the words also. The children then invited Barbara Ann to their Christmas Concert the following week where they performed this hymn along with some Christmas songs – they were great!!!

Nativity Service

What would we do without our children on Nativity Sunday and didn't they do really, really well this year. There was congregation participation where every time the word 'Hurrah' was said the congregation shouted it back and raised their arms at the same time. 'The story of Jesus'

birth was retold with the children speaking from memory and loud and clear also. Well done to the children and leaders of the Groovy Gryphons for a great nativity story. Barbara Ann also wants to say thank you for allowing her to be one of the three wise men and hopes you do not mind that she wore a tiara instead of a crown!

Nine Lessons and Carols

This service on the afternoon of the Nativity Service is a much quieter and more relaxed service with our minister not doing a thing. She gets to sit back and enjoy the story and history of the promised Messiah coming to fruition. The stories and hymns combine to tell the story of the Messiah from the beginning to our **Lord's birth as do the hymns that surround the readings.** Thank you to all who took part in the bible readings.

Forfar's Big Sing for Christian Aid

Thank you to our members who took part in this event and the refreshments afterwards were great. Numbers at this event were down on previous years but that may be due to the many colds and flu's that are going around and that it was a full week before Christmas.

Strathmore Primary School Christmas Concert

The following week was the school assembly which was held in **St Margaret's Church.** The children from the school are so talented and it was good to hear them tell the Christmas story and also to listen to them playing instruments and singing while doing sign language. The primary **one's and two's sang a new song** which might just make an appearance next Christmas in East and Old. At the end of the service the **primary seven's sang the song 'Fairytale in New York'** although they changed the words. At a certain point in the song the lyrics are:

'The boys of the NYPD choir
Were singing "Galway Bay"
And the bells were ringing out
For Christmas day'

And instead of that the children sang

'The kids from Strathie School
Were singing all the way
And the bells of East and Old
were ringing

For Christmas day'
THANK YOU very much
children for that lovely thought.
We are told that Barbara Ann has the words – so watch this space
everyone!!!

Groovy Gryphons Church Christmas Party

The members of the church were delighted to receive an invitation from the children to attend their Christmas party the Thursday before Christmas. The children turned up some with friends and a few members of the congregation came along also – it would have been nice if more people had come along to support the children. The games were great fun although it was the adults who were more competitive! The food and drinks went down a treat especially jelly and ice-cream! Thank you to everyone who contributed to the afternoon and a big thank you to Santa for the gifts he brought them that afternoon.

Christingle Making



Our annual Christingle making took less time than normal this year because we did not need to cut out the oranges. Thank you to Barbara Ann and Billy for getting 360 oranges, thousands of marshmallows, sultanas, jelly tots, cocktail sticks and reams of red tape! 20 people turned up to make the Christingles and as a treat we got to eat some of the left-overs

from the Groovy Gryphon's party!

Thank you to Bill Duthie for sticking cocktail sticks onto the battery operated tea lights –all 360 of them in his spare time!!! We were allowed into the Reid hall on the Friday morning to place the oranges in situation, put the tree up (from our church hall – thanks Jim Nicol and Matthew Scott), and put the bed in place! Oh yes – Bill Duthie had his bed in the church hall!!!! Now we know why he is never away from the place!! At the Reid Hall, at some point, were Barbara Ann, Bill, Jim Nicol, Jim Stewart, Matthew, Alf and Frances from the Groovy Gryphons. After the making of the Christingles a few people who were involved in the Nativity Story for the Christingle service had a quick run through and we mean quick because all went well!

Christingle Service

We were unsure if many people would come along to our Christingle Service because it was not in the church and in the Reid Hall instead, but thankfully our people turned out plus a few others and over 350 people were in attendance. Thank you to all the caretakers of the Reid Hall for their great work in helping us and especially Ally who worked on the

night. Leaving them a tub of celebrations just does not seem enough but then again we still have the bill to pay for the hall and the advertising outside it! Thanks must also go Janet Thomson for the articles that were written in the Dispatch and for Jim Nicol giving the information to them. The service was as lively as ever and still giving the Good News of Christ being born. Thank you to the dancers from Lorraine Waddell School of Dance for their piece which shows that we can glory to God through dance as well as singing. The Duthie family and I mean all the family – for all of them were involved in lighting the tea lights and giving out the Christingles along with the office bearers delivered a quick and efficient lighting programme. The Nativity sketch went very well and Susan Beattie stole the show with her grumpiness (which was intended folks) as the innkeeper but then little Stephanie Scotland came on stage and there were lots of ooh's and ah's! **The Family Fortunes** game was good except when the cheating started – not a good way to show the church in a good light – but it was fun! Thank you to everyone who took part in any aspect especially the clearing up at the end and getting the tree

back to the Church Hall for the Christmas day service – once again thank you Jim N and Matthew. At the end of the service Barbara Ann thought she could hear bells and sure enough who came on the stage but Santa Claus. He wished everyone a lovely Christmas and he even gave out treats as the children left the hall – thank you Santa because we know you were going to have a very busy night!

Christmas Day

Christmas day fell on a Sunday this year which meant many ministers felt they had an extra bit of a holiday – well Barbara Ann did. The turnout was slightly larger than had been expected with a wonderful atmosphere to celebrate **our Lord's birth and the hope of peace** in the months and years to come. Can you believe it – the service only lasted 40 minutes and that included the showing of the gifts! We will give you one guess who got a new handbag for their Christmas??????

New Year's Day

As with Christmas Day, **New Year's Day fell on a Sunday!** Again the service only lasted 40 minutes! Do you think it will continue the rest of the year!!! Only kidding Barbara Ann!!! More seats had to

be put out so well done to the members of East and Old for coming out on the 1st January to worship and praise our Lord.

Accord



Our entertainment group have been very busy over the last few months and as a group they have a great time together – even at the rehearsals when sometimes the sound and noise is just not right!!! **Accord have been to Guild’s, WRI’s, Hospitals, Sheltered Housing Complex’s, Nursing Homes and Care Homes.** The group pick a theme to run with and before Christmas it was Food and Colours and then of course the Christmas theme. If the group receive any donations then the money goes to the DIF Fund! Before Christmas, Accord travelled to Anniesland in Glasgow to **entertain a group of three Guild’s.** They laid on a soup and sandwich lunch before the singing started so that they could leave when they finished and miss the heavy traffic. They left that quick they left behind 3 mike stands but the

President of the Guild took a trip to Forfar the following week to return the stands and enjoyed a soup and sandwich lunch at the Manse.



Book Club

The book club met for a night out and a meal at the Strathmore Arms and to

discuss their latest book they had just read. We are delighted to say **that everybody enjoyed ‘The Crying Tree’.** **This is the next set of books that the club will be reading and they have decided that every six months or so they will read a ‘Classic’ and as you will see they have selected the book ‘Emma’.** **The book club would really like it if some men joined the club because it brings a different dimension to the books chosen and to the discussions.** Come along and join us the men of our area – we need you! (Now we won’t hear that often from the ladies in E&O!)

2017 Book Club Reading List:

27th February - Secret of the Sea House by Elizabeth Gifford at Margaret Scrimgeour's

30th March - Night Circus by Erin Morganstein at Sally Shepherd's (it has been suggested that you try and get this book in Hard Back format because of designs and colours and helps to understand the book)

26th April - Go set a watchman by Harper Lee at Jean Smith's

30th May - Emma by Jane Austin at Linda Spence's

26th June - Book Thief by Markus Zusak at Sheila McDougall's

25th July - The last act of love by Cathy Rentzenbrink at Esther's

30th August - Arthur by Mikael Lindnord at Sheena Benvie's

26th September – TBC at Marion Duncan's

Salvation Army Food Donations

The Salvation Army are as always very grateful for the food donations that we supply each and every week and they ask that you continue to support this very worthwhile cause. When you are out shopping can you afford to put an extra tin or packet in your basket for those who are less fortunate than ourselves? Here is a current list of the goods that the Salvation Army has requested if at all possible: small jars of pasta sauce, small jars of curry sauce, small packets of rice, small packets of pasta, UHT milk, tins of potatoes, peas, carrots and meals in a tin like stew, mince, chilli con carne etc.

WHAT'S COMING UP & WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

February is to be our 'Take Up and Step Up Challenge' to the congregation which will be led by our walking group. We hope as many people in the church will take part from the young to the elderly. We are still running our £1 million challenge to raise funds for the refurbishment of the church so in the month of February we will be undertaking the 2 million step challenge. At the end of each week we ask those who are taking part: people walking to shops, around the loch or the town, delivering the Steeple Times etc to either email or phone Billy Sweetin with the number of steps they have taken that week and all the names and steps taken will put onto a counting board. If your mobile phone does not have a step counter or you do not have a fit bit or a pedometer just let Billy know your normal route and then he will work out the average number of steps your route normally takes. The walking group will be undertaking a walk every Saturday in February and we are confident that 2 million steps will be reached. We will be linking this to funding for our renovations so we ask that you pick up a sponsor form or donate money to the church sponsor form for this venture. Barbara Ann has said to Billy that she will give him £100 sponsor money if he completes 100,000 steps himself – however after the past week while counting his steps to get an idea of the number steps involved Barbara Ann has reduced this £50 for every 100,000 steps Billy completes in February! The Sweetin family are involved in this venture too but remember Barbara Ann runs 5K three times a week, both their children attend the gym with both children walking a lot as a police officer and a nurse! We can see this venture being a bit competitive in the Sweetin household! The Groovy Gryphons and our Boy's Brigade Company will be involved too.

Did you know that someone worked out that in the three years of Jesus ministry he walked 3,125 miles? Therefore, after the 2 million

steps have been completed our minister would like us to match the distance that Jesus walked – 5,500,000 steps! There is no dead line for that at the moment you will be glad to hear! Watch out though Barbara Ann is talking about walking the length of the equator – 50,000,000 steps. We are instructed to Care for God’s Creation so walking to the shops instead of taking the car cuts down on emissions, Care for Creation includes taking care of ourselves and our fitness and it will help us raise funds – three in one – what a great deal that is!

During **February** our minister has **three talks; 21st, 22nd and 23rd February** in Letham, St Margaret’s and Dunoon respectively – what a busy lady she is going to be with her talks on Malawi and Jane Haining.

SOUPER SUNDAY

Souper Sunday was an idea by the Church of Scotland many years ago and is still running today to promote and support the work of the **HIV/AIDS charity**. Therefore on **Sunday 26th February** the worship service will be based on this subject followed by a SOUP lunch which is being organised by the Education Committee of the church. There will be a donation bowl for any donations for the soup and bread on the day. Please stay behind after the church service for some food and companionship and show East and Old’s support for this worthwhile campaign.

Tuesday 28th February in the **Church Hall at 7pm** is an evening organised by the church called **‘TIME FOR ME’** The cost is £7 per ticket with a maximum of 25 tickets being on sale. Pam Duthie and her friend Carolyn Brown will give one to one advice on hair styles and products and ‘Bow Naturals’ skin products along with Stella and Dot jewellery will be on display and available to buy. During the evening there will be tea/coffee/wine/juice, pancakes (now we wonder why?) and nibbles.

RENOVATION UPDATE

Over the last couple of weeks we have been showing on the screens in the hall photographs of how the renovation work has been progressing. When you see the photographs you realise why it is costing so much money! The builders have told us they expect to be finished by mid-February although we have added in a bit of extra time just in case! Once the builders move out our men and women will move in to get the church ready for the grand opening in March 2017 (said with a prayer, fingers and toes crossed!) No date has been set yet but look out for the information of the Dedication Service on the first Sunday the new sanctuary is in use. The decoration schedule has just been issued providing the specifications for floor coverings and wall / ceiling colour schemes. This is a major project milestone bringing us closer to a handover date.

LENT 2017

Lent is approaching fast with **Pancake Tuesday on 28th February** and **Ash Wednesday on 1st March**. That also means that FACT are holding their Lent Bible Studies and Lent lunches once again. All the Bible Studies and lunches will be held in East and Old.

Here are the dates for your diary:

Bible Study

Thursday 2nd Mar – Rev Dale London from Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden

Thursday 9th Mar – Rev Maggie Hunt from St Margaret's

Thursday 16th Mar – Rev Brian Mulraine from Community Church

Thursday 23rd Mar – Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin from East and Old

Thursday 30th Mar – Rev Karen Fenwick from Lawson Memorial

Thursday 6th Apr – Major Jim McCluskey from Salvation Army

Lent Lunches

Friday 3rd Mar – East and Old

Friday 10th Mar – St John's

Friday 17th Mar – Salvation Army and Community Church

Friday 24th Mar – Lowson Memorial

Friday 31st Mar – St Fergus

Friday 7th Apr – St Margaret's

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 3RD MARCH IN THE COMMUNITY CHURCH AT 7PM

Saturday 11th March in the evening - **Friends event** -
'THE POINTLESS GAME' at 7pm.

Guild Coffee Morning

Saturday 11th March at 10am Church Hall - Tickets £2

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st April in East and Old – tickets £2

Coffee Morning

Everyone Welcome



Stated Annual Meeting of East and Old Church.

Sunday 2nd April

Church Services during Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday - 13th April – service at 7pm

Good Friday - 14th April – service at 7pm

Easter Morning - 16th April – the loch side service at St Margaret's Inch starts at 8am in conjunction with the other churches in Forfar.

Communion Sunday

Should be the following Sunday 23rd April however Barbara Ann's son gets married on the 22nd April so the Kirk Session have agreed for the **communion service** to take place on **30th April at 11am, 2.30pm and 6.30pm**. The afternoon communion service will be followed with tea and cake.

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**

BIG DAY OUT 4

Advance notice for you - **Saturday 6th May** will be the **Big Day Out 4** – which is an all-day event facilitated by Angus Presbytery and hosted in East and Old from 9.30am to 4pm. There will be a number of speakers and workshops throughout the day and lunch is provided. If you have not been to the other three Big Day Out's then you must try to get to this one – it really is a worthwhile day out.

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 OAP Hall in Chapel Street, moving back into the Church once re-opened. 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.

KEEP SMILING IN 2017

A smile and a cheerful word can brighten someone's day ; it takes 42 muscles to frown but only 28 to smile. So;

Count your joys instead of your woes,
Count your friends instead of your foes,
Count your courage instead of your fears,
Count the laughs instead of your tears.
Count your health instead of your wealth,
Count on God instead of yourself,

And next time you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

THE WEDDING

All eyes were on the radiant bride as her father escorted her down the aisle.

They reached the waiting groom. The bride kissed her father and placed something in her hand.

The guests at the front responded with ripples of laughter. Even the minister smiled broadly.

As her father gave her away in marriage, the bride gave him back his credit card.

THANKS

FORFARIAN BUS

A very big thank-you to all the people who have come forward and volunteered to go on our Forfarian Escort list.

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. The help of our volunteers is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU— Jean Alexander

AROUND THE GROUPS

GUILD NEWS



We enjoyed our Christmas Party on Dec 14th with an excellent buffet from Alison Beattie's team, then games, carols and a quiz.

To start the New Year on Jan 11 Esther & Bob led a craft evening with greeting cards made by the ladies and cardboard modelling with the gents.

By the time you read this we will have had our Joy of Burns Evening on Jan 25, then we only have 4 full meetings; -

8th Feb - Mission Possible

22nd Feb - NASA Space Station

8th Mar - Joint Meeting with the other Guilds at St Margaret's

22nd March - AGM and Floral Night

Why not come along and join us ? You'll be given a warm welcome.

ART GROUP



The art group meets on Thursdays 1.30-4pm. New members are welcome. We do have some materials available if you are a beginner or returning to art after a long break.

The Art Group restarted on Thursday 12th January and meets in The Church Hall Chapel Street Forfar.

WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group will be taking part in the 2 million steps challenge that our minister has dreamed up and which you will have already read about.

The walking group have enjoyed a variety of walks over this last year with the company and the banter being one of the best bits. They have enjoyed some spectacular scenery and met various people on route as well as keeping fit - well they do stop for a coffee break and a snack that they have taken with them - and some it can be said are eating healthy while others - well not so much!!! At the end of their walk in December in the Edzell area the group were booked into The Tuck Inn and enjoyed a two and three course meal with the noise level getting higher and higher as they discussed their walk, church, world events and lots more besides! The group is open to all people and generally the group do not walk over 5 or 6 miles. It takes place on a Saturday morning and they usually meet at the Myre Car Park at 10am and travel in the minibus. It is a new year so why not start doing something new - come and join the group - they really are a friendly bunch!!

We will be undertaking local walks every Saturday in the Month of February, these walks will be easy 4 to 5 mile walks. Meet at the Myre Street Car Park 10:00am.

February 2017 Saturday dates:

4th

11th

18th

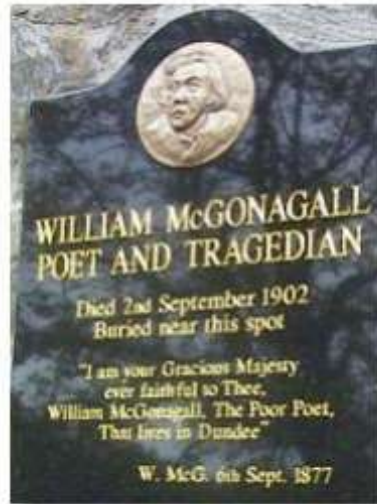
25th



There will be no walks in March as we will probably need a well earned rest.

For more details contact Billy Sweetin on 01307 248228 or bjs801@talktalk.net

FRIENDS OF EAST AND OLD



Friends of East and Old held a 'McGongall's Denner' during January after the morning worship service. It was a four course meal with a twist and the twist was that the meal was served in reverse order. First came the tea/coffee and tablet, then the desserts, then the main course and then the soup! There was some light entertainment and overall it was a good lunch however we don't think we liked getting our food in the wrong order – it just did not seem right!

On the **11th March at 7pm** Friends of East and Old are holding '**The Pointless Game**' which is based around the television programme but with a twist – so come along and find out what it is all about! Tickets are £5.

Look out for **Friday 2nd June** as Friends are holding an **Italian Evening** – food, drink and competitions!



December has been a busy month, over two weeks we sorted and delivered 31,500 Christmas cards.

Some days we had 30 people working away in the BB Hall. On each Friday, some sorters—parents and boys picked up the cards to be delivered.

Everything went like clockwork. We all tried very hard to get things right as we did not have our post mistress Elma to do this for us but the years of training got us through.

Thanks to all who helped in any way by posting, sorting or delivering. The sum of £7,879 split equally between Boys Brigade and Scouts is a fantastic fund raiser for both groups.

Just before Christmas, Santa came to the BB Hall for the Company Party and handed out parcels to all, then it was off for two weeks school holidays—Yippee !

During January, 5 Company Section boys helped out at the church Coffee Morning. They were a big help and so enjoyed sampling the pancakes.

Willing helpers are always welcome and they are hoping to help the Green Team with various tasks in due course.



FLOWER GROUP

The flower calendar for 2017 is now on the notice board in the hall. Please choose your date. Our flower group are looking forward to moving back into the church soon and 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.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Nov	22	Davidina (Ina) Menmuir	38 Manor Court, Forfar	6
Dec	7	Helen Archibald	19 Branda Ha, Forfar	16
	7	Sheila Cumming	Finavon Court, Forfar	*
	9	George Suttie	16 Roberts Street North, Forfar	*
		Henry (Harry) Murray	Finavon Court, Forfar	*
	20	Alistair Cooper	3-5 Manor Street, Forfar	*
	28	Helen Hoy	Jubilee Court, Letham	*
Jan	7	Duncan MacKenzie	Benholm Nursing Home, Forfar	47
	12	Georgina Norrie	St Davids Care Home, Forfar	
	13	Margaret Garrick	Benholm Nursing Home, Forfar	47
	14	Lena Todd	Abbey House Care Home, Kirriemuir	46
	20	Jim Warden	Burnside Care Home, Laurencekirk	53
	20	Kathleen Milne	Dunnichen Road, Kingsmuir	45
	20	Teresa Greig	16 Waterston Drive, Brechin	

MINISTRY OF FLOWERS

Dec	18	Flower Group
	25	Flower Group
Jan		Flower Group

THE BIG KIRK SHOP



EAST HIGH STREET FORFAR

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

find us on facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk/>



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

Please telephone Jean Alexander on
463860.

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

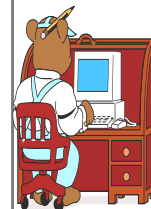
NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

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

SUNDAY 19TH MARCH 2017

Material can be given/sent to the Editor

or e-mail ed@thebigkirk.co.uk



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FWO Treasurers	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
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Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Property Convener & Lets	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
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	Elma Sim	01307 465049
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