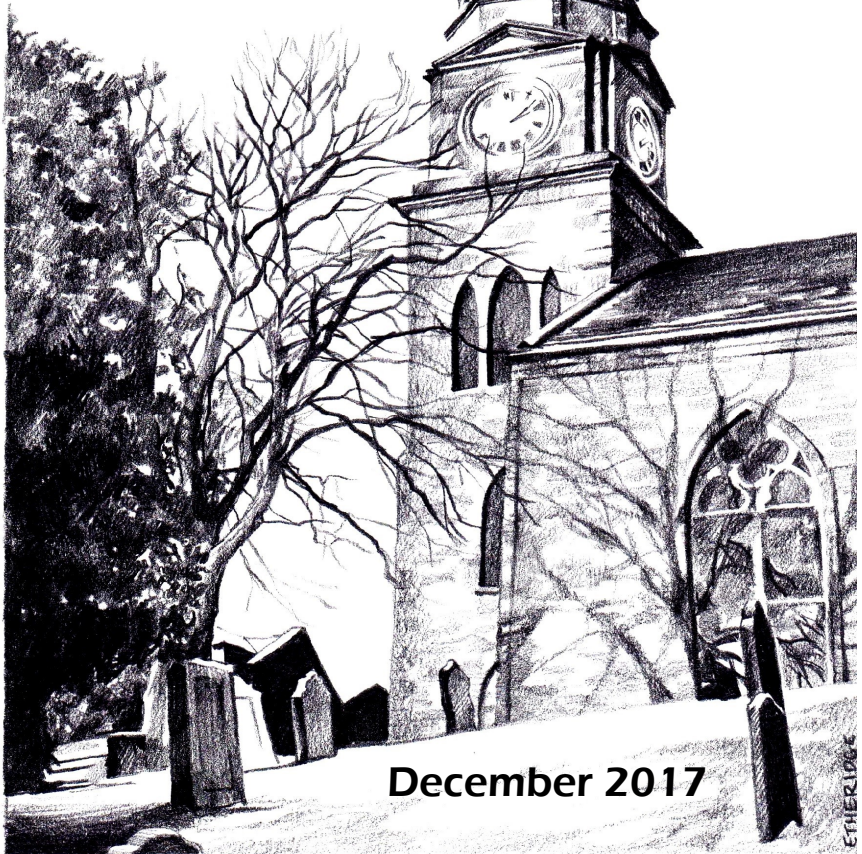


# The Steeple Times



December 2017



## **Services of Public Worship:**

- Every Sunday at 11:00am
- First Sunday of the month at 9:30am and 11:00am
- Second Sunday of the month at 9:30am for breakfast and 11:00am
- Last Sunday of the month at 6:30pm for a contemporary evening service
- Mid week Service every Wednesday at 12:10pm

## **Minister:**

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

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**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

Letter from the Manse

Hello my dear friends

Can you believe that we are heading to Christmas and a New Year yet again! This is my last letter to you in 2017 and what a year it has been! We started 2017 worshipping in our Church Halls as we waited patiently to gain entry into our newly refurbished church and what a delight it was! Members and friends of the church have been singing the praises of our new look sanctuary, reception area and social area. There was a huge amount of work put into the re-opening of the church and we are still finding bits and pieces eight months later that were put away for safe keeping. The heating system required a bit of tweaking to get it working right but that is now sorted and can I please ask that if you are warm – take your coats off! The sound system was our big headache (literally) and once again a lot of work has been done by members to alleviate this problem however the remedy involved spending a bit more money but I am delighted to say it is also now sorted! Over the last six months or so we have been experimenting with the layout of the sanctuary and the other areas within the church and have discovered that we have such versatile accommodation now that is suitable for so many activities. This was evident during the month of October with our New Look New Vision campaign and once again the thank you list is so long that I cannot name everyone but there was a great deal of hard work that went into this campaign. A number of members returned to church to see what was happening, many new faces were around at a lot of the events and our new building was a showcase winner! We have even hosted a meeting for the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland in our building which they have said is a good advert for churches today!

Talking of churches today – a number of our members

attended a conference recently and needless to say buildings were being discussed because in the near future the Church of Scotland is going to need to make some really big decisions regarding buildings and ministries! At present there are over 230 vacancies for ministers! The National Church is looking at church membership and buildings once again (this is called the Presbytery Plan) and unfortunately not all churches will survive the next round of cuts being looked at nationally. As we enter 2018 many of us will make New Year resolutions and start something afresh! Here in East and Old we have kept a considerable amount of the past within our building but we are also looking to the future too. I would like to say thank you to God for the vision bestowed on us, the Kirk Session for acting upon this vision and you the members for your support in looking to the future before it becomes too late. I ask that you keep East and Old Church and the National Church in your daily prayers and ask God for continued support in all our activities that we are involved in and if you are looking ahead into 2018 maybe one of your New Year resolutions will be to help the church in any of the three ways that follow:

the giving of your time,  
your talent and  
your money!

I wish you all a lovely Christmas time with family and friends and a very happy and peaceful New Year.

God Bless

*Barbara Ann*

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

### **New Look New Vision Campaign**

Where do we begin with our campaign! Well thank you to the people who designed, developed, sorted and delivered all the leaflets that went out in the month of September leading up to our event. The church was open every day with 2 or three events happening in the church. Open every week day from 5pm to 6pm with 15 new people coming through the door. Each Sunday had a theme linked to 'A journey of faith' – A time of wonder, love, nourishment and promise with all our members in church on the 29<sup>th</sup> renewing their vows and promises they made when joining the church. The children's event in the hall saw over 50 people in attendance with lots of fun and laughter and lots of food too! Our choir were in excellent form on their choir night and we enjoyed a varied programme with some tough name that hymn tunes! Our historical night was very, very popular, so much so that we have asked Bob Kidd to do another one as he had so much material that he did not manage to cover. The next day saw our street party event with bouncy castles, face painting, hamburgers hotdogs, games and the drum workshop! Numbers were very good and everyone had a great time especially at the drumming workshop and the bouncy castles! Thank you to our Guild who held a Guild night every Wednesday in October – four instead of two and every evening was well

attended with great speakers! The taste and flavour of East and Old was well supported by McLarens, Saddlers, Cameron's and North Street dairies along with our own members who excelled themselves in what they made for people to try and buy! Let's say that many people would need to cut down on what they ate over the following weekend! Our Boys' Brigade also held an event in their halls in the month of October with the boys and their families and many members of the church going along to see what was happening on the day and also taking part. The junior section of the BB nationally is 100 years old this year so we had a big birthday cake to enjoy also! Thank you to the Waddell School of Dance who came along to entertain us on 26<sup>th</sup> October. These children are nothing short of fabulous and entertained us with a variety of dances both traditional and contemporary- maybe they should be actors as they loved speaking into the mike! On the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month the flower committee hosted an afternoon tea followed by a wonderful floral demonstration in the church. Gloria was chatting away as she developed the arrangements with different themes and all the arrangements were raffled at the end a lovely relaxed afternoon. Thank you to the walking group also who undertook a walk each weekend and covered the north, south, east and west areas of the town where

they could see the steeple of the church from all sides around Forfar. Our final weekend of the New Look New Vision campaign was a whirlwind which started on the Friday night with our Ghost Walk with well over 100 people turning up for the event. So many people helped to make this event happen and once again attracted many people from the community. Look out for the next one! The following morning was our own church coffee morning with £600 being raised. How talented are our members with their baking!!! In the evening we held a classical concert which was very well attended. We raised £700 at this event and a huge thank you must go to Julie Stewart our professional flautist – if you didn't manage along you missed something very special indeed. Unbeknown to most of us Julie's CV covering who and where she has played is amazing and we were really blessed that she was able to come over from Germany to play for us. Thank you to Alison Hart who accompanied Julie and watch this space folks! Alison was so good I think a piano recital might be on the way. Another thanks also goes to Maggie Findlay the soprano singer who joined us also. Many of us have heard Maggie before and once again she was amazing. All these professionals were happy to give their time for nothing and we were very grateful but we couldn't give them nothing so they accepted a small donation and a lovely bouquet of flowers. The final fling was the

Fireworks Night at the Manse. Thank you to the elders and office bearers who donated the money to buy the fireworks which also paid for the Bridies on the night. Once again well over 100 people attended and enjoyed home-made soup, Bridies, shortbread and tea and coffee. Thanks to the team for organising this and for the donations on the night which amounted to £231. We informed the minister it was £230 because she would have wanted another £9 from somewhere to round the total off to a figure ending in a '0'.

**Communion** – our first communion service took place on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> October which was well attended and the majority of people stayed for afternoon tea also which was lovely. The following week saw the main communion taking place at 11am and 6.30pm and although both services were well attended our numbers were down overall between the three services. Could it be because the fourth Sunday of the month was not the last Sunday of the month? Watch out because that happens in April 2018! Communion is on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 not the last Sunday!

**Remembrance Sunday** – this year we were delighted to host the Town Parade with many invited guests and the town organisations present also. It was great to see the church full and the balcony in use also. The children in the church were a credit. Thank you to James Robertson for playing the

bagpipes at the beginning and end of the two minute silence and to Ian Brymer for laying the wreath at the World War I memorial window and Alf Birse for laying the wreath at the World War II memorial window. You will be glad to hear that the young man who fainted in the balcony is alright. The retiring offering amounted to £251.44 which will be split between Poppy Scotland and Erskine Hospital.

**Guild Week** – as part of Guild week our minister was happy to let the Guild take the service on 19<sup>th</sup> November which is the start of Guild week. The service was informative and interesting while all the time thanking and praising god for being in our lives. The theme this year was ‘Go in Love’ a sentiment we would all agree with. Thank you to the guild for the work they do.

**Breakfast Church** – the second Sunday of every month and both the breakfasts and the worship services have been very varied but all worthwhile. Sharing food and fellowship is a good way to start off a Sunday morning and then hearing the word of God sets us up for the rest of the day. Next year’s rota is looking a bit thin so why not put your name down for supplying the breakfast or leading the worship.

**Evening Services** – are held on the last Sunday of the month and have been well attended but more support would be better. Most people enjoy an evening meal before the service while

others come along for the start of the service at 6.30pm. Thank you to Bruce, Elizabeth and Margaret for supplying the music and also to Accord who played at the first evening service. The services are varied from a songs of praise to a service dedicated to human trafficking where the invited speaker was from the International Justice Mission. A retiring offering was taken at this event and the speaker went away with £375. Remember – no Evening service on 31<sup>st</sup> December – we will leave you to guess why!!!

**Care Home Services** – East and Old continue to serve our community by holding worship services in the care homes. FACT have a rota in which 5 churches in Forfar lead worship in each care home once a month and sometimes we need to do two a month – 5 churches to 6 care homes and our minister is grateful to Margaret Anderson and Elizabeth McLeod who help out with the music at these events. Our minister also holds a worship service at Kirkriggs Court every month and she is grateful to Bruce Simpson for playing the keyboard and to Anne Millar and Mabel Martin for supplying the goodies to eat.

**Book Club** – meets every month to discuss a book that the group has read over that month. Most of the books in this current selection have been good with only the odd exception but those in the book club enjoy reading books that they would normally pick up and read. Over the year each person

usually gets the chance to recommend a book for the group to read. The December book is 'Cartes Postales' by Victoria Hislop and in January the group will be reading 'The Lewis Man' and 'The Chessman' by Peter May (we have already read the first book in this trilogy and everybody liked it).

**Christian Aid Coffee Morning** – took place in East and Old at the end of September and was attended by all the churches in Forfar. Over £500 was raised with the proceeds going to Christian Aid and next year the coffee morning will be in St John's Church on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018 as they are taking the coffee mornings around the churches.

**Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning** – was held in our church and there was a great turnout from members of the churches in Forfar and the local community. Each church contributed in different ways and a marvellous total of over £700 was raised.

**Faith Discussion Group** – meet every month and pick a theme that they feel is relevant at the time. Over the last few months the group have discussed the cost of living in pounds and pence and the cost of living as a Christian in this world today. Another topic was how we live as Christians when dealing with difficult people because difficult people can be anybody we don't like or don't agree with or people with health problems and on and on the list goes!

**Bible Study Group** – meet every month and over the last few months have discussed a variety of passages and what they mean to us in our day to day living. However, in November the Bible Study group went to a Road Show being run by the Church of Scotland in Dundee and the discussion was regarding the Church of Scotland in coming years – what our strengths are, as well as the challenges we face. There will be further roadshows in the months ahead in other areas of Scotland and the information will be compiled and sorted through for a final decision to be made and what areas we need to look at. Once that is complete and the General Assembly has passed it they will look at how to implement any change.

**Wish List** – thank you to those people who have taken cards from the wish list boards to pay for additional needs of the church and to offer their time and talents on work that needs done in and around the church. We have new volunteers for the Friday Fling and Music Café, people have offered to shampoo carpets and help with decorations. The minibus has been cleaned up of the rust and we now have bought over 70 new chairs for the session area, highchairs for the social area, play mats for the baby blether and paper and paint for the choir room to name a few. We have added a few more requests to the board and this will keep changing so please have a look at both boards each week as you never know



what you can do to further God's work. We are needing a new carpet in the choir room (we would like the same one that is in the social area and hall to continue into choir room) which will cost £600. On the wish list we have split this into 4 cards asking for £150 x 4 people. To date we have £300 for this – can you or you and some friends help with the other 2 cards at £150 each? We need a new stick mike for the sound system and that costs £200 – any takers? The Kirk Session have agreed that the church could benefit from a defibrillator however they cost £1000 – maybe you and others can hold an afternoon tea to help offset this cost? There are lots of other bits and pieces on the board so please take a look? Our flower group is urgently looking for more volunteers – can you help? We need people on the tea rota and people to make breakfast at the breakfast church and also an evening meal at the evening services – can you help?

**Strathmore Primary School** – our minister as you know is the chaplain to Strathmore Primary School and has been in the school most weeks since mid-October. Barbara Ann said the children are really great, listen well at assembly and are always eager to help out in any way they can. Quite a number of the school children turned up at the various events that we ran over the month of October and as we approach the festive season the children are already getting excited. The school are coming along to the church for their Christmas service on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 9.45am and

you are welcome to attend this event which is loud, lively and exciting!

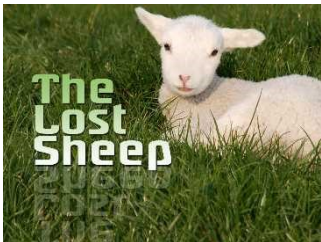
**Heavenly Bites** – is once again up and running and the primary 7 children arrive on the first Thursday of the month to prepare, make and serve the food and then clear away the dishes and wash them. The children love coming to the church to do this as do the helpers and we are grateful to the ladies who offer to come and help. If you are free on the first Thursday of the month please come along for your lunch at 12.15pm and you will be given a very warm welcome by the children.

**Chimes Playgroup** – our minister visits Chimes Playgroup on the last Wednesday of the month to tell the children a bible story and listen to what they are telling her. They know that Barbara Ann works in the big building called the church at the top of the path from their playgroup and some even think Barbara Ann lives there too! One of the best aspects that Barbara Ann enjoys about visiting the Playgroup is that they learn a new song every month and perform it to Barbara Ann and normally it is a children's hymn or chorus which is lovely to hear. Barbara Ann would like to thank the staff at Chimes for allowing her to visit the children every month: Sandra, Leona, Claire and Lynn. We are delighted to be able to host Chimes Christmas Concert on 15<sup>th</sup> December so if you are around come and see them in the church at 11am.

**Accord** Our entertainment group that has so much fun together. Nine members have been performing here and there over this last year and have a number of 'gigs' leading up to Christmas and into January. If you know of anyone who is looking for some light entertainment with a bit of fun let us know – we have even travelled as far as Glasgow!!! Would you like to join us? We are always on the lookout for new members – so don't be shy just let us know – you won't need to do a solo unless you want too!

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

Christmas and New Year – that is what is coming up!!! But before that ...



**Find the Lost Sheep .....**

This is a competition for all children in Forfar to take part in. The children will be given a quiz sheet to fill in which asks them to find 44 lost sheep from the church. Each sheep is numbered and has a name and has found its way into the shops in East High Street, West High Street and Castle Street. We only have 16 days to find the 44 sheep so

they can be returned home to the church in time for Christmas Eve!!! If some of the older children (adults) would like to take part you are more than welcome but you don't win any of the prizes – just the knowledge that you completed it!!!



**Angus Toy Appeal**

our toy appeal takes place on the first Sunday of December every year and this year is no exception and will be taking place just as the magazines are being delivered. The Angus

Toy Appeal are very

grateful for our donations and each year the list of referrals that they receive just appears to keep growing. But how fortunate are we that we can buy an extra gift to hand over while all the while receiving lots of gifts ourselves at Christmas. If you are not able to get out to buy a gift then why not donate some money to them?

**Christmas Tree Competition**

This annual event takes place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the church and we look forward to seeing all the creative work that will have gone into decorating the trees. We are hoping our Kirk Session tree will do well this year and remember there are two awards – one for the children and one for the adults! You are welcome to come along for some carol singing and mulled wine – the sweets are for the children!!!

**Salvation Army Band** each year we are so blessed to have the Bellshill Salvation Army band in Forfar and this year they will be performing at **Lowson Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm.** They donate all their giving for the day to the FACT charity which this year is the 'Inspiration Orchestra'. At the end of morning worship that day as usual we will have a retiring offering in aid of the FACT charity the 'Inspiration Orchestra'.

**Forfar Academy** hold a Nine Lessons and carols every year and take it around the churches. This year we are delighted to be able to host this event in East and Old on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** starting at 7pm. Forfar Academy pupils are so talented with their orchestra, bands, singers and readers – it is a night you do not want to miss!

**Christian Aid Big Sing** once again St Margaret's will be hosting the Christian Aid Big Sing on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.** Come along and join in with singing Christmas Carols and listening to some stories and reflections and share in some fellowship at the end and enjoy your mince pies and shortbread!

**Men's Christmas Night Out** **Armstrongs on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.** All men of the Kirk are invited to this meal so if you have not been before and would like to go along then put your name on the sign-up sheet in the social area.

**Ladies Christmas Night Out** – at the **Drovers Inn on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** and we hope as many ladies of the Kirk will join us on that night. Even if you have not been to a ladies night out before you are more than welcome to come along just let Barbara Ann know as we need to book the table.

**Nine Lessons and Carols** – normally we hold this event on the Sunday afternoon before Christmas but since that falls on Christmas Eve this year that is not so suitable. Therefore we are holding this event on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** in the church to which everyone is invited. The Nine Lessons take us through the story of Christ's coming from the book of Genesis through to the book of John in nine small bible readings with carols to sing in between linking to the bible passage. It is a quieter and more reflective service that gets you away from all the buzz and rushing about in the Christmas period. After the service we enjoy some relaxing time together over mince pies and mulled wine and of course tea and coffee!



**Christingle Making**  
can you believe it is that time of year again!!! Put the dates in your diaries please folks for **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 10am in the social area of the church.** 350 oranges need to look like Christingles with nearly 1500 cocktail

sticks being used and even more marshmallows and jelly tots and metres and metres of red tape!!! The candles are already in the cupboard waiting to be fixed to the oranges!

**Nativity Service** – we all look forward to the Nativity service that the Groovy Gryphons put on each year. Last year the children and leaders did a great job and we are excited about what they will be doing this year. We all know the basic story line but there are so many imaginative ways of putting that story across.

**Christingle Service** – last year the Christingle service was well attended even though the venue had changed to the Reid Hall. Please pass the word around we are back at home in the church and looking forward to welcoming everyone on **Christmas Eve at 6.30pm.** Our minister keeps coming up with different ideas and we wonder what will happen this year!!!

**Christmas Day** – this is one of our less well attended services but such a special day to worship God and be with our friends in church before the rest of the day's festivities. **Our service is at 11am** as normal and we ask children and adults alike to bring along a gift that they have received for Christmas!

## **January 2018**

January next year is a month where we can all recharge our batteries and think

ahead to the rest of the year. The usual activities will be on: Wee Blether, Cosy Corner, Knit N' Natter, Music Café, Friday Fling, Art Group, Baby Blether, Mid-week services, prayer group, bible study, faith discussion, Guild, walking group etc but no other big events are planned except for a coffee morning and a Friends Scottish evening which you will read about later in this edition.

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January** – our minister will not be with us that day as she has been invited to perform the baptism of a child who is a family friend in her home church in Houston. Both services that day will be conducted by Heather Gourlay who has been with us in the church since September looking to see what type of ministry God is calling her to.

**Nepal Coffee Morning** – will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January in the church. Some of you will be aware that our minister and Irene Duthie have been selected by the national church to go on this trip to Nepal to represent the church. Both Barbara Ann and Irene need to pay £1200 each for the trip and as the church who is sending them we would like to raise some funds to help them. Please come along and support this coffee morning!

**Twinning News** – we are excited that in March 2018, 27 members both adults and children from our twinned church Zuglo Church will be visiting us here in Forfar. The purpose of the trip is in witness to God through music as all 27

members are part of the Zuglo Church Choir. Thank you to all who have offered to host our guests and we will be looking at a variety of ways to help fundraise for this trip and for the next trip you will read about below this. Zuglo choir who sound near professional level will be performing a concert in our church on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March (please put the date in your diary now!) and will also be singing at our morning worship on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. They will also be performing at St Matthew's Church in Perth on the Saturday evening and St Andrew's Church in Arbroath on the Sunday evening before leaving us on the Monday morning.

In the month of May we will be hosting approximately 25 members of Zurich reformed church and we will be looking for hosts for this event also. This visit will concentrate on the reformation and especially John Knox so there will be trips to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Arbroath to name a few.

During the month of July 24 of our members and 32 members of Zuglo church will be travelling to Zurich to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Huldrych Zwingli the Swiss reformer. There is still time if you would like to add your name to go on this trip!

**Dates for your diary – 2018**

**Faith Discussion Group** – 8<sup>th</sup> January, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Bible Study** – 25<sup>th</sup> January, Lent BS – 15<sup>th</sup> February (Rev Barbara Ann), 22<sup>nd</sup> February (Rev Karen), 1<sup>st</sup> March (Rev Maggie), 8<sup>th</sup> March (Rev Brian), 15<sup>th</sup> March (Rev Dale), 22<sup>nd</sup> March (Mjr Jim), 26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, Advent BS – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 20<sup>th</sup> December

**Kirkriggs Court**

16 <sup>th</sup> January	20 <sup>th</sup> February
13 <sup>th</sup> March	3 <sup>rd</sup> April
8 <sup>th</sup> May	5 <sup>th</sup> June
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	7 <sup>th</sup> August
4 <sup>th</sup> September	2 <sup>nd</sup> October
6 <sup>th</sup> November	4 <sup>th</sup> December

**Communion Sundays**

22<sup>nd</sup> April at 11am and 6.30pm  
 29<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm (afternoon communion with afternoon tea)  
 21<sup>st</sup> October at 2.30pm (afternoon communion with afternoon tea)  
 28<sup>th</sup> October at 11am and 6.30pm

**Harvest Sunday** – 30<sup>th</sup> September

**Maundy Thursday** - 29<sup>th</sup> March

**Good Friday** - 30<sup>th</sup> March

**Easter Sunday** -1<sup>st</sup> April

# IMAGES FROM OCTOBER / NOVEMBER New Look New Vision Campaign



Forfar Instrumental Band 27/10/17



Street Party 14/10/17



Street Party 14/10/17



Children's Fun Day 13/10/17



Children's Fun Day 13/10/17



Children's Fun Day 13/10/17



Ghost Walk 3/11/17







Walking Group



Fireworks Evening 5/11/17



Open Days October



Evening Concert 4/11/17



International Justice Mission



Scottish Evening 26/10/17



Evening Concert 4/11/17



Taste & Flavour of East & Old 20/10/17

## **New Ideas**

Our minister is always on the lookout for new ideas to interact with the community but sometimes we do not always know what the community needs. Is there an area that you feel the church could be involved with? Some of our ideas for next year are as follows: an evening once a month for ladies who are in the 20 to 45 approx age group, a time for people who are single or widowed to get together and instead of running a summer holiday club we are hoping to run events on school in-service days as we see a greater need in that area. Is there a need to run a bakery or cooking class – ask people out with the church please as the art of baking and making low cost family meals from scratch is getting lost. Anything else you can think off? Get in touch with Barbara Ann!!!

## **Friends of East and Old**

Bingo Tea at the Legion – this event took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October and we are very grateful to everyone who supplied sandwiches and biscuits on the evening. Thank you to those who attend the bingo at the legion every Tuesday and support so many charities through this. A big thanks go to the ladies of the legion who helped us, Ian Harris our bingo caller and all our members and friends who attended the event and supplied gifts and raffle prizes. We raised a total of £520

**Renewal Night** – took place at the end of October with many friends re-joining the Friends of East and Old and thank

you to our Life-long members also. If you missed the evening to renew your subscription just speak to Mary Daun or Isobel Archibald and they will take your £10 from you and if not a member will quickly get you signed up! A great evening of entertainment with the Forfar instrumental band and a lovely supper – pies from Cameron's. A total of £805 was raised on the night including renewals.

**Handbag Party** – something different as a fundraiser and a great event.

Handbags, scarves, gloves and purses – something for everyone. A big thank you to all who attended the event and also to those buying the lovely goods. We received 10% from the takings which came to £135 and a total for the evening including ticket money and raffle money came to £631. Watch this space we are bringing them back next year!

**Scottish Evening** – Burns-less Night!

Our next event is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January in the church. A Scottish themed evening with poetry, singing, quizzes and a three course meal! No haggis in sight! Tickets £10 will be on sale in December.

**Walking Group**

We were delighted to take part in the New Look New Vision Campaign by completing walks around the north, south, east and west areas of Forfar. Our numbers remain good and warmly invite others to join us whether you are



members of the church or not. As we walk along the paths and roads we naturally put the world to right and have lots of fun doing so. Our remaining two walks for this year are on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December and Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December and for both walks meet at the Myre Street Car Park at 10am. For the first walk bring a packed lunch/snack and for the second walk we will be going to Stroma's for

our Christmas Lunch after the walk! If we walk a bit quicker we will lose more calories which means we can eat more at the lunch!!!

From January to March we undertake one walk a month rather than two so put the dates in your diary –

**20<sup>th</sup> January**

**17<sup>th</sup> February**

**24<sup>th</sup> March**

## Guild Report



**Sep 17** Members attended their Dedication service in Church.

**Sep 27 Silver Screen:** For our opening meeting Andy Paterson took us on a TV memory trip from the 50's to the present day with a brilliant slide/quiz show in aid of McMillan Cancer.

**Oct 4 Soroptimists:** We welcomed our session clerk Lexi, Region Programme Action Chair for Scotland North, explaining the Soroptimist movement, in particular their efforts to stamp out trafficking of women and girls throughout the world.

**Oct 11 Communion:** Rev Barbara Ann Sweetin conducted an informal Sacrament of Communion followed by an illustrated talk on her recent visit to Zurich with Karen Liddle, laying the groundwork for E & Old's trip there next summer.

**Oct 18 Problem Solving:** We were treated to a motivational talk by cognitive therapist Dawn Walton, explaining through puppets and group activity how we learn behaviour and interaction with others through conscious and subconscious influences.

**Oct 25 Scottish Tapestry:** Mary Daun and Valona Gouck, two of the Angus Stitchers who contributed to one of the panels, gave a slide presentation on The Tapestry now transferred from Verdant Works to Galashiels. Members agreed with Committee proposal to meet from now on in the Social Area.

**Oct 29** Thanks to members who provided and served steak and chicken pie suppers for the pre-Sunday evening service meal.

**Nov 8 Street Pastors:** The coordinator & treasurer of the Arbroath Group explained the work of The Pastors helping those in need on Saturday nights. They showed us the equipment they carried (first aid, water, flip flops, space blankets) and described the help their team give. They thanked the Joint Forfar Guilds for their donation that night of £111 which adds to the national figure of over £95,000 generated across Guilds in Scotland since 2015.

**Nov 19 Guild Week.** The 11am service on the theme Go in Love was led by the Conveners, helped by other members.



### Dates ahead:

**13th Dec the Christmas Party** will be held in the Hall with an outside catering buffet meal.

**2018 Jan 10 Members Night** - activities on the theme.

Jan 24 Rev Brian Ramsay is the speaker on his 'Desert Island Books'.  
Men & women, whether Church members or not, are always welcome at Guild meetings.

### Ode To The Guild

On Wednesday night we like to meet  
The East and Old in Chapel Street  
We say a prayer and sing a hymn  
Then listen tae the speaker's theme  
A cup o' tea and a tasty cake  
O' whit fine tae sit and speak  
And think about what's going on  
A' roond the place in Farfar toon.

**Jeanette Milne**



The Boys enjoyed a Halloween Party on Nov 3rd where we saw many weird and spooky costumes. Games and dooking for apples was a big hit as usual.

Company Section boys are attending 3-week learning course at Forfar Fire Station. Action involving water and sirens sounds just the thing for them to enjoy. Lots to be learned and fun to be had along the way. We really do appreciate the time, knowledge and commitment the Fire Service offers our young people.



By the time you are reading this issue the RED BOXES will be in the shops awaiting your Christmas cards(1st Dec onwards)

Delivery weekends are -

**9th/10th December**

**16th/17th December**

Last posting day ->

**THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

Anyone interested in helping to sort cards in the B.B. Hall or deliver a street or small district would be made most welcome.

More helpers always welcome.

Please phone Irene Duthie 465895



## ART GROUP

We have no art group in December and will restart on January 18th.

**Art Group Calendars** are for sale in The Big Kirk Shop or at Church for **£5** each, great value for these exclusive calendars.



## Green Team hints for Christmas!

1. Use your grey bin to recycle cans, bottles (plastic and glass), jars, cardboard and clean food containers.
2. Use your small brown bin for raw vegetables and fruit peelings if you do not have a compost heap. And for all your left over Christmas Food that cannot be frozen or used to make other meals.

3. Use the recycling centres for large items and electrical goods etc. including batteries, large boxes and wrappings from those Christmas gifts!

4. Buy recycled Christmas paper

5. Clothes and toys can be recycled via the charity shops. Alternatively wrap the toys and give them to the Church as part of the Christmas Toy Appeal for needy children.



**The Media Team** have been very busy since the re-opening of the church in March and have been battling to diagnose major sound issues with our audio system. Sadly one of our key systems in the renovations seriously let us down, as did the system supplier. Since early November we have had a stable system and we are confident that the major troubles are over. If you have any problems with hearing in the church please do let us know.

Out with the audio problems the team have been involved with design and publishing of a range of flags, banners, flyers and posters revolving around the New Look New Vision Campaign.

The Media Team are responsible for the weekly presentations you see on the

screens, the information notices on the screens in Social Space and Reception and all the audio systems and microphones that are used for various events throughout the church.

The Media Team produce and edit the Steeple Times and a small sub-team collate and staple the magazine together.

The Media Team design and produce all manner of flyers and advertising printed materials for the church throughout the year.

If you have an interest in sound systems, computers or design and print then maybe you would like to help us with our various responsibilities,. If you are interested then get in touch.

## Renovations Update



**What ! More renovations !** We are fast approaching 1 year in our newly renovated Sanctuary, Reception area and Social Space, however, above these spaces are two brand new flexible spaces and a link to the existing Session House that is just waiting to be fitted out and put into good use.

Our Phase 1 is complete and a Phase 2 is ready to be planned. In the upper floors we aim to develop a new 'Activity Space' above the Social space, this room will have a multi-purpose floor fitted to allow sports and more energetic activity to take place. The space will also have full sound and vision capability. Above the reception a flexible one or two room space will be created with movable doors to create two distinct spaces or one complete space and each option will have an appropriate sound system available. To reach all these spaces a new lift will be installed in the corridor area off the reception and finally Barbara Ann will also get a fully fitted Vestry as part of the Phase 2 works. All fantastically exciting and the Steering Group look forward to receiving some pricing from our contractors in early December.

The final part of the upper floors will be a link created between old and new and this will connect the Session House to the upper levels by both lift access and stair access through from the landing at the top of the existing Session House stairs. To accommodate the 'needs' of all the space users, a new

toilet block will be built at the rear of the Session House.

There are various options being investigated to fund our next stage and a small sub-team has been formed to work specifically on grant applications for this phase. The team of 4 will review and revise applications to make sure we meet all the criteria in the applications to give us the very best chance of success.

If you have any suggestions on sources of grant funding then please let us know by emailing [ed@thebigkirk.co.uk](mailto:ed@thebigkirk.co.uk)



**Angus Independent Advocacy**  
here for you

Angus Independent Advocacy (AIA) supports local vulnerable people within the Angus community to have their voice heard, wishes represented and their rights safeguarded. AIA matches the person with an advocate that could support them with their current issues.

Below are some of the issues we have supported people with:

- attending meetings – social work, housing, benefits, citizen advice, welfare rights, etc
- social isolation

- safeguarding the rights of people who have no-one independent in their life
- housing issues
- Adult Protection
- Self Directed Support
- Guardianship/Power of Attorney/ Adult with Incapacity
- accessing and instructing a solicitor
- planning for discharge from hospital or care
- medical/health care issues
- case conferences and reviews
- support to access services or community resources
- understanding and filling out forms
- development of interests
- Child Protection
- education
- support to access financial information
- employment
- disputes with others and complaints.

We are guided by the person wanting the support. We do not give advice, but help the person explore their options and make their own decisions about what they want to do.

**Phone:** 01241 434413

**Text:** 07724 814437

**Angus Independent Advocacy**

60 High Street

Arbroath

Angus DD11 1AW



## MUSIC CAFÉ

The Music Cafe meets **every Monday , 2pm to 3.15pm**, helpers are there from **1.30pm**. We meet in the Church Social Space. 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.

## TheBigKirkShop

Charity Shop - wide range of 2nd user goods for sale - East High Street - FOR-

## 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**



## **FLOWER GROUP**



The Flower Calendar for 2018 will be in the church foyer from early December. Please choose your date. We ask for a minimum £20 donation which provides the church flowers and a percentage goes to the fund which delivers flowers to those in need of a little cheer.

The team who buy and arrange the Sunday Flowers are doing a great job but we could do with more volunteers.

## **WANTED**

If you have an interest in flowers and plants, why don't you join the team of ladies who place the blooms in church each Sunday. The group also change over the silk arrangements every couple of months - an ideal way to try your hand at flower arranging without killing the blooms.

If you would like to find out more please contact

Marlene 07712315885 or Irene 465895

Thank you to all who contributed to the flower fund in 2017 which brought cheer to so many people and to the team who made it all possible.

## **MINISTRY OF FLOWERS**

**(There are no names for Dec as we use silk Christmas material that stays in for all of advent.) Marlene 466616**

December: Flower Group decorate for Advent



## CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### DEATHS

Sept	22	Brian Richards	Benholm Nursing Home, Forfar
	22	Violet Cooper	125 Glen Clova Terrace, Forfar
	22	Anna McIntosh	Windyedge Cottage, Forfar
Oct	10	Sophia Hudghton	30 Old Halkerton Road, Forfar
	11	Thomas Cormie (TC)	Finavon Nursing Home
	17	William Brown (Bill)	Benholm Care Home, Forfar
	18	George Prophet	13 Roseburn Gardens, Dundee
	29	Kathleen Parsons (Pat)	15 Don Street, Forfar
Nov	15	Johanna McGregor (Nan)	Windyedge Cottage, Forfar

### Scattering of Ashes

Charles Liddle

### BAPTISM

Oct 8 Jemimah Jean Allardice



**NEED A VENUE FOR CONFERENCES MEETINGS ETC?**

**THEN LOOK NO FURTHER**

## **FORFAR EAST & OLD HAS IT ALL**

**MULTI MEDIA FACILITIES WITH MULTI SCREEN PROJECTORS,  
SOUND SYSTEM AND HI SPEED 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 **FEBRUARY 2018** issue is

**SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 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	01307 465043
Treasurer	Paula Stewart	01307 641700
FWO Treasurers	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
Gift Aid Convener	Mabel & Bruce Martin	01307 462713
Editor of Steeple Times	Angus Spence	01307 465644
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 and Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organisers	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
	Elma Sim	01307 465049
Prayer Group	Margaret Robertson	01307 463613
2nd Forfar Company of The Boy's Brigade	Irene Duthie	01307 465895
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Mary Daun	01307 464935
Protection of Vulnerable Groups	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228