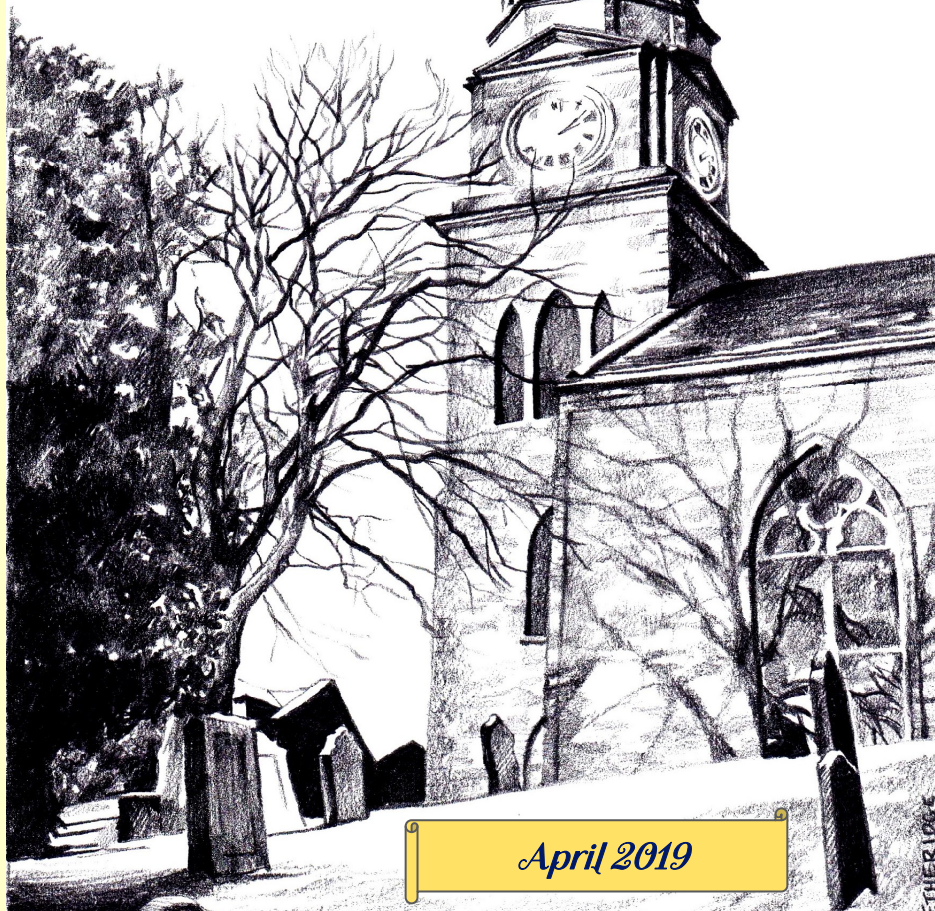


*The
Steeple
Times*



April 2019

ETHERIDGE



Services of Public Worship:

† **Every Sunday at 11:00am**

† ***Additional services:***

⇒ First Sunday of the month: Informal Communion
at 9:30am

† **Midweek Service every Wednesday at 12:10pm**

Minister:

The Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin B.D.

The Manse

Lour Road

Forfar DD8 2BB

Tel: 01307 248228

E-mail: **bsweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk**

Church website: www.thebigkirk.co.uk

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

Scottish Charity No: SC004921

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Hello my dear friends!

We are now in the period of Lent and that means that FACT (Forfar Action of Churches) is once again coming together for the Lent Bible Studies and Lent Lunches. The Lent Bible Studies are being held every Thursday in different Churches with the clergy member of that Church leading the discussions. All the Lent Soup Lunches are being held in our own Church every Friday with different Churches supplying the soups each Friday (remember minimum suggested donation is now £4). I really like the period of Lent – a time of preparation and examining oneself in light of living a Christian lifestyle. Many of you have hopefully started taking something up or giving something up for the 40 days of Lent but remember it has to be something challenging – it is not meant to be easy. This year I am trying to perform a random act of kindness (RAK) or RACK (random act of Christian kindness) everyday throughout Lent and so far so good – chocolates to the staff at Strathmore Primary to say thank you for the job they do, giving someone £1 for their car park ticket, holding the door open for a lady with a pram, giving positive encouragement and support to someone, listening at the end of a phone call – some of the things I have completed so far. I am hoping that this RACK will be taken up by you our members and friends not only during Lent but as much as possible in your day to day living. A RACK can be a smile to cheer someone up but more importantly it can be a prayer for the person or for a situation. As I write this letter today 15th March 2019 (Catriona our editor gives us tight deadlines to adhere to!) I awoke to the news of the mass killing in New Zealand. My RACK was completed within 30 minutes of waking up by stopping to pray for those affected in New Zealand; the families of those who have lost loved ones, the injured, the emergency services, the healthcare professionals, the witnesses and the people of New Zealand who are in a state of shock.

Quite a number of people who do not believe in God really start to question who God is at this time and why God allows these tragedies to

happen and many Christians and members of our congregation ask the same question, and whilst not trying to over simplify my answer to you it has to be said that God has given us freewill to make our own decisions, to know right from wrong, good from bad. The people who were responsible made wrong decisions, they took the wrong path but as people of faith we are here to support, strengthen and love our neighbours in New Zealand in any way we can and being so far away it means we must pray for all involved – not just a one off prayer but keep remembering them in our prayers for the time being. And I know many of you will find it hard to do what I am about to ask you – I want you to pray for the people who committed this terrible act; that they will see what they did was wrong, that they made a bad choice and that whatever or wherever their thoughts and ideas have taken them that they receive the help that is needed.

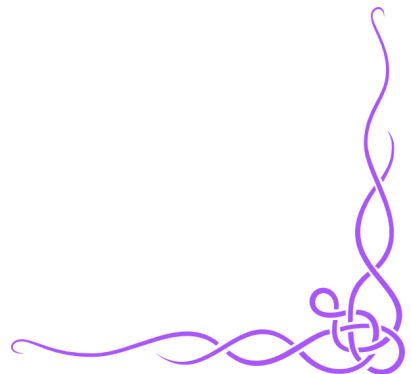
The Lent Bible studies started on 7th March and was led by myself on the topic of 'The Mystery of God' and week one was about good and bad choices, good and bad decisions, good and bad situations and it has proved to be a very worthwhile discussion. The Bible Study was busy with 35 people from the different Churches in Forfar with different views and ideas on God and varied theologies – I would enjoy more of these times together when the Churches can come together to study God's word but also to work together on projects in the community of Forfar.

The way 'Church' is run today in the 21st Century will need to change in order for the Churches to survive – it won't be a quick change but change it must – so watch this space.

*As always I keep you the members,
your families and the friends of East and
Old in my prayers each and every week.
God Bless.*

Your Minister and friend

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Julie Stewart in Concert – once again Julie was a star performer even though she was feeling pretty poorly on the evening of the concert but being the professional she is the show carried on. Over 170 people attend this concert and everyone left feeling uplifted.



As our Minister has said in the past – Julie can make her flute talk! Maggie Finlay once again was excellent and we look forward to seeing her on 22nd March as part of the Carnoustie Singers. Don Finlay and Alison Hart were the accompanists and our Minister is hoping they will come back and do a recital themselves. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the organising and running of the event.

Les Miserable Musical – some of the Church members went to Edinburgh in our minibus to see this fantastic musical. A wonderful night was had by all, and on stage with the actors was a lady performing sign language and we mean performing sign language. She was so graceful, elegant and unobtrusive and she certainly complimented the performance on stage that night. Did you know that our Minister has now seen this musical 19 times on the stage!

Lucy's Blue Day by Chris Duke – East and Old Church were delighted to be able to support the launch of this children's book. The author Chris lives in Forfar and needed support to get the book launched so the Kirk Session agreed that half of the retiring offering at the Christingle service should go this worthwhile cause. In addition the Church asked our members and friends to pre-order some books and if buying one for themselves could they also buy one for Strathmore Primary School. I am delighted to say that we handed over 14 books to the school in February – thank you everyone.



Worship Team – the team met in February to discuss what types of worship we could offer to our members in the Church and to our many friends in the community. The team also looked at the dates of our Minister’s holidays and how this would be covered. A few new ideas came forth some of which will come to fruition very soon and these are;

17th April at 7:00pm our service will be led by Bob Kidd on the **Bible Building** where Bob will be looking at various bible verses on our windows and furniture in the Church, giving the history of the items and explaining the bible passage. On the **9th June at 6:30pm** a worship service asking **Why? Why? Why?**

Friday 21st June is the longest day so on that day we will be having a supper in the Church, then going on a walk and wearing our red shoe laces to promote awareness of HIV and then back to the Church for a **Sundown service**. Times are still to be arranged but approx. 9:00pm for supper, 10:00pm for walking and the service at 11:00pm.

For something different why not come along to the **‘Picnic and Praise at the Priory’** on the afternoon of **Sunday 21st July at 3:00pm** at Restenneth Priory. More details to follow in the next edition.

World Day of Prayer – this event took place on 1st March in St John’s Church Hall and we would like to thank Mary Pickstone who is our World Day of Prayer rep on the local committee for being part of that group on our behalf. The afternoon service in St David’s and the evening service in St John’s were good, and thank you to another of our members Elizabeth McLeod for playing the piano.



Baby First Aid Training – this was a new venture which the Church Baby Blether Group organised at the beginning of



March. First Aid is slightly different in babies and young children and four people attended this course which was run by First Stop Safety Training and all participants found it very educational and beneficial. Thank you to Paula for organising this.

Vina McLaren – it was just over two years ago now that our new renovated sanctuary was opened by Vina McLaren and we would like to take this opportunity to wish Vina a very happy 99th Birthday which was on 17th March.

Church Officer and Property Convener – as you know Bill stepped down as Church officer and property convener on Sunday 24th March. We wish Bill a lovely extended holiday in Australia with Irene. On his return, Bill will take up his duties of meeting and greeting people on a Sunday morning and covering funerals. He will also still be part of the building team as we start to look at phase 2 of the renovations. We welcome into the role of Church Officer and cleaner Vanessa Ferrie who will be aided by Doug Findlay. Our Treasurer, Paula Stewart will now also be the property convener contact - thank you so much for taking on these roles.



Name Plaques

The name plaques that many people in the Church paid for have now been attached to the chairs - why not come in and take a look. We are about to order the next batch so if you would like the name of a loved one or your own name on a chair just fill in the sheet in the reception area or let Barbara Ann know. The cost is £25.

Lent Bible Studies – the Lent Bible studies have been going well and when you receive this edition only one more bible study remains which is on Thursday 11th April in Forfar Community Church.



Lent Soup Lunches – the Lent Lunches have been super once again with all the money raised going to the Inspiration Orchestra which is the FACT charity for the second year running. Once again only one more soup day remains after receiving this edition which is on Friday 12th April in East and Old which will be run by Forfar Community Church.



Grossmunster Cathedral – Zurich Our Minister has been asked to preach on 24th March at the Grossmunster Cathedral in Zurich as part of the Reformation 500 – ‘The Second Helvetic Confession: Reformation in the Zwingli Year with his successor Henry Bullinger’. Barbara Ann we hope everything went well and we are glad that you speak to us in Church on a Sunday using everyday language!

Strathmore Primary School – J Rock Challenge

Half of the retiring offering from the Christingle service went to J Rock Challenge for Strathmore primary. Unfortunately the company who puts these productions on had some financial difficulties and required the money in advance with no guarantee the show would go on, so quite rightly the school pulled out of it but are now performing their show in the Campus on the same evening 27th March as a lot of hard work, energy and money has been put into it up to this point. The show takes place as this edition goes to print so more information to follow.

Coffee and Scream Morning –

Once again another event is taking place as this edition goes for printing and we look forward to reporting back on what happened at the coffee and scream morning! Remember you can still donate money after the event and thank you to those who have donated already and sponsored the men of the Kirk. Thank you in advance

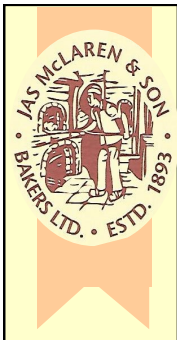
to Dave Bowman,
Dave Duncan,
Johnny Forbes and
Mike Johnston for
the head shaves;



Jim Stewart, Billy Sweetin and Johnny Forbes for the waxing and Graham Scattergood for the beard shave. Also in advance, thanks to Ray McLaren for volunteering his time even though he is now retired, and to our treasurer Paula for the waxing and allowing some of us to help in the waxing!



Twinning and Book Club – as you are aware our Church is twinned with Zuglo Church in Hungary so to add to what we are already doing as they suggested that our book club read a Hungarian book which has been translated into English which is on their schools reading lists for pupils – ‘The Paul Street Boys’ by Ferenc Molnar. Everyone in the book club enjoyed the book and could understand why it is still read in the Hungarian schools today even though the book was first published in 1907. The lowest mark out of 10 given by the members was 8 – ‘a good read’ so thank you to our friends in Hungary for suggesting this.



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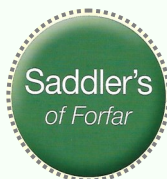
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Aldbar WRI – Mary Daun one of our elders invited our Minister and Bob Kidd to be part of 4 person panel for ‘A matter of opinion’. Unfortunately there was a clash of dates for Bob so Ian Stewart, another of our elders, took his place. We thought you would like to know the questions they were asked!

- ◆ *In light of the Scottish Governments proposal to ban smacking, what are appropriate alternatives for discipline?*
- ◆ *What kind of books do you like to read, and what would you never read?*
- ◆ *With the increase in the use of ready meals and the rise in obesity, should basic cookery be taught in schools from nursery upwards?*
- ◆ *Do you think Burns Suppers are past their sell by date?*
- ◆ *Edinburgh City Council are giving school children permission to take a day off school to protest about climate change. Is this right and what issue would make you take part in a protest?*
- ◆ *If you could be a cartoon character which would you choose – and what do you think of your fellow panellist’s choices?*

I think many of us would have liked to hear the answers to some of those questions.

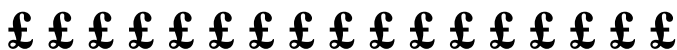
Electric Piano – our electric piano that we use for many events alas gave up the ghost and died on us.

Unfortunately because it is such an old model they no longer make parts for it and we needed to dispose of it. Fortunately we have a music fund in the Church which covered the purchase of a new electric piano which cost just over £1000. We are once again singing happily.



Hot water heater in kitchen – this well used heater has also given up the ghost and is too expensive to repair so thank you to one of our members who is giving us £800 to buy a new one.

Donations – our Minister would like to say thank you to those members who out of the blue have presented her with cheques for the Church improvements or when things break down. Many of these people wish no recognition but Barbara Ann says you know who you are and thank you very much. The same ‘thank you’ goes to those people who also offer to help out in the Church in so many ways by using their time and talents which are such a blessing to our Church, community and in furthering God’s mission.



Lottery Funding – when applying for grants and funding it is slightly easier when you talk about a project rather than a big renovation programme. We are delighted that the Lottery Funding have awarded us £1800 to put towards a new sound system and loop system in our social area. We hope this work will be carried out in the next month and thank you to Angus Spence for all the form filling.

Lift – we have approached a company and asked them to install our lift that is needed in phase two. Before they can quote us fully we need to build the lift shaft which the men in the Church are about to tackle. The cost of the lift is approx. £35,000 which will go to the hall upstairs and also into the session room. So that we can finish off the session room and adhere to the council conditions we need to install further toilets, at least 5, so to that end we are asking members to look at the wish list and possibly consider buying a wash hand basin, toilet, cubicle, mirror etc. because more money will be needed to increase the water supply into the Church.

Wish List – by the time you receive this edition of the Steeple Times the wish board will once again be up and running and we hope you feel you will be able to contribute to something on it. If you have any queries just let us know or speak to your elder or Barbara Ann. The wish board will have things for you to buy but also things that do not cost money but only a little time and effort.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR!

Strathmore Primary School Easter assembly – on Friday 5th April the children and staff from the school will once again be in the Church for their Easter Assembly and we look forward to welcoming them.



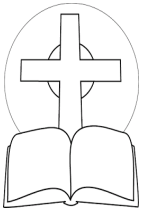
May Balfour – on Saturday 6th April our eldest member in the Church will celebrate her 100th Birthday and East and Old Church are delighted that her family have asked to use our social area and allowed us to be part of this special celebration. Our Minister is really excited to have one of her members turning 100 years of age as both Lawson Memorial and St Margaret's have achieved this milestone already. We wish May a wonderful day! A big thank you to the Friends of East and Old and the social committee for helping out on the day to make it as special as possible for May.

Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning – 13th April – we hope you will put this date in your diary and come along to the coffee morning to raise awareness and money for the 'Leprosy Mission' which is such a good cause to support and the progress with this disease is coming on leaps and bounds.



Stated Annual Meeting – our SAM will take place during morning worship on 14th April which is Palm Sunday. The report will be woven throughout the worship service and questions can be raised (if you have any) after the morning worship.

Afternoon Communion – our afternoon communion service is growing more each time we hold it so once again, all are invited to communion on the afternoon of 14th April and then to stay for afternoon tea. Remember your communion cards! **This service is a week earlier than normal since the following week is Easter Sunday.**



Holy Week – once again during Holy week we will be holding services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00pm and in addition to this we will also have a service on the Wednesday at 7:00pm which will be led by Bob Kidd as previously mentioned in the worship team report.

Easter Sunday – remember we hold a service at 8:00am at St Margaret’s Inch at the Lochside followed by breakfast at St Margaret’s and then our own 11:00am service where the children will once again go on an Egg Hunt! If there is ever a day to be in Church this is it!



Communion – Sunday 28th April is our main communion services where the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will take place. **The services are at 11:00am and 6:30pm** and all are welcome; members and friends!

Big Day Out – 11th May – this event is run every two years by Angus Presbytery and will once again take place in East and Old Church on the above date. The theme is ‘renewing’ and the keynote speaker



is one of the Ministers who spoke out a great deal at last year’s General Assembly about our radical plans in the Church not being radical enough. There are a variety of speakers talking about pioneering ministry and

contemporary worship. The cost is £10 for the full day including lunch. Leaflets with more information and the workshops can be found in the Church.



Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May – advance notice that in this edition of the Steeple Times is your Christian Aid envelope which we hope you will put something in and return to the Church via the offering plate/give to your elder or the Minister or pop it into The Big Kirk Shop. East and Old Church are a very giving Church and we thank you, our members and friends for all you do for others who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Friends of East and Old

Winter BBQ – this event was held on a very cold winter night in January but proved to be a big success. The burgers and sausages were great once we got them cooked because we did not realise that the gas in the canisters for the BBQ froze at a certain temperature! However other resources were found and the night carried on with people chatting, eating, drinking and also playing outdoor games! Roll on next winter.



Easter Sunday – at our last meeting of Friends of East and Old the committee agreed to donate £3500 to the Church funds. This is an annual event with the cheque being presented at the Easter service and amount varies depending on what fund raisers have taken place.

American Night – this is going to be such a good night so put the date in your diary – **Friday 31st May** – eating, drinking, singing, dancing and quizzing. How about burgers, sausages, doughnuts, cream soda, cola, fries, cookie dough, hot fudge sundae, apple pie for food and drink and then line dancing and square dancing to follow? How many points are on the Statue of Liberty headpiece? How many stars are on the American flag? Tickets are £10 – come along and join us.



Groovy Gryphons - After hearing the story of the feeding of the 5000, the children learned all about different types of bread.

They all enjoyed painting a slice of bread with food colouring before toasting it, these were left in the social area after the service for all the congregation to admire. Extra bread was available for toasting with jam, peanut butter and chocolate spread after the lesson.



On Sunday 10th March the children and leaders made pancakes and set up the tables in the social area, and served them along with the teas and coffees.

Bags of pancakes were also available at the door for a donation, just over £200 was raised which will go towards the children's summer trip.

FRIENDS R' US – this friendly group set up for widows, widowers and single people in April 2018 is growing from month to month.

We meet on the **second Tuesday of each month in the Church Social Area at 2:00pm.**

We have had a varied list of visits to places of interest, walks cinema etc. during each month. In December we had a very interesting talk on “scams”, a very enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Plough Inn, Forfar on 14th and we are now looking forward to meeting and getting out and about in 2019.



Anyone interested in joining the group will be made most welcome.

TUESDAY LUNCHES !

Have you heard about our Church Lunches?

We've been running our Lunches **every Tuesday, 12noon to 1:00pm**, for several years now, offering a choice of two home-made soups (one Vegetarian option) which is served with crusty bread, this is followed by tasty sandwiches (including vegetarian), tea/coffee and biscuits. The soups and sandwiches are prepared and served by our friendly volunteers.

No fixed charge – all we ask is a donation, for example £3 per person, or more if you wish to give more.

This happens every week apart from Christmas and New Year. Why not come along, on your own or with a friend – you don't have to be a member of East & Old to enjoy the lunch, all are welcome.

If you interested in helping as a volunteer on the lunches please contact either Barbara Ann or Jean Alexander (463860), it's a great way to meet new people and make friends.



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GUILD REPORT

Hooray it's the holidays !

As we come to the end of another successful Guild Year we thank the committee, Guild members and all those who have supported our various events.

Our Scots Night in January included a very well thought out 5 min talk on Burns by Margaret Scrimgeour, music from John Young & Alf Birse, quizzes & mini bridies.

In February Amanda Kopel BEM gave a moving account of her late husband Frank's illness and death in 2014 and her fight in his memory to get free personal care for under-65's in Scotland on the statute book by April 1st this year; Frank's Law. After many questions from members she was warmly thanked and congratulated for her speech from the heart, her courage, resourcefulness and tact in a long and (hopefully) soon-to-be-successful campaign. The second meeting that month we were visited by Trading Standards and Angus Care & Repair representatives. Claire McPartlin advised on doorstep fraud and telephone nuisance calls and scams. Members were particularly interested in her call-blocker equipment. Scott Malcolm informed everyone about house safety checks and home adaptations carried out by Care & Repair, avoiding falls and the dangers of faulty electrical wiring, plugs & sockets.

Our spring Coffee & Pancake Morning was in March. Thanks to all customers who came and enjoyed the tea & coffee, bought cake & candy and tried the raffle, also the Guild team who organised the event, including Joyce Archibald who made the delicious pancakes.

By the time you read this a new committee will have been chosen at the AGM and we wish them every success in the future.

P.S. There may be some spaces available on our Summer trip to Pitlochry in July. Keep watching the noticeboard.

Esther & Bob

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The Music Cafe meets **every Monday** , from
2:00pm 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 and 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.

DATES FOR THE WALKING GROUP



Saturday 27th April

Saturday 4th May

Used Stamp Appeal

It is now 50 years since the used stamp appeal started. During 2018 it raised £2433 for the Hungarian Reformed Church of Transcarpathia. This is to support young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

The 2019 used stamp appeal will support the Chidogi Women's Centre in Blantyre, Malawi who give skills training to address challenges faced by women.

It aims to improve their status and increase their chances of employment.

*Thank you to all those who have donated used stamps
- please keep them coming -*





DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER ?

Then 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.

If you shop online then click on
**[http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/
forfareastoldparish/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/forfareastoldparish/)**

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/](http://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/church-information/easyfundraising/)**

Members & friends have raised over £1800 (so far) for the Improvement Fund using this app — keep clicking!



CHURCH BUS - On the first Sunday of each month we offer a service to members who have difficulty getting to church - they are picked up at their homes from 10:00am onwards and transported to the 11:00am Service, then taken home afterwards. We have an escort on the bus to assist passengers on & off. Anyone wishing to use this service should contact Jean Alexander on Forfar 463860, or Barbara Ann.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Jan	17	Ina Sharp		
	20	Madge Prophet	St Margaret's Park, Forfar	<12>
Feb	5	Marjory Robertson	Lochbank Manor, Forfar	<30>
	15	Annie Sturrock	Strathmore Court, Forfar	<15>
	26	Maimie Faulkner	Benholm Care Home, Forfar	<40>



MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



7 APR	Helena Todd	5 MAY	Bob Beedie
14	Sheena Benvie	12	J & M Herron
21	Mr & Mrs Webster	19	Doug & Mgt Robertson
28	Allison McLaren	26	J Gair & C Milne

*Please pass your donations to Catriona Milne,
Irene Duthie or pop your money in an envelope and hand
it in to Jennifer at PRIMA –Thank you*

Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Treasurer & ■ Gift Aid Convener ■ Property Convener 	Paula Stewart	07715596465
FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Editor of Steeple Times ■ Flower Group Admin 	Catriona Milne	07962065936
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer	Vanesa Ferrie Doug Findlay	01307 461111 01307 466417
Groovy Gryphons	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Guild Contact ■ Life and Work 	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
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

NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

The deadline for submission of articles for
the **JUNE 2019** issue is

15TH MAY 2019

Material can be given /sent to the Editor
or e-mail **ed@thebigkirk.co.uk**