# The Steeple Times

August 2019

24



# Services of Public Worship:

- Every Sunday at 11:00am
- ✤ <u>Additional services</u>:
  - $\Rightarrow$  First Sunday of the month: Informal Communion at 9:30am
- ✤ Midweek Service every Wednesday at 12:10pm

<u>Minister:</u>

4

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

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# LETTER FROM THE MANSE

# My dear friends

I hope and pray that you are finding the summer months a relaxing time and a time in which you can re-charge your batteries. However I know that in some cases it takes a little while longer for these batteries to fully re-charge! The average age of our membership in East and Old is going up year by year simply because our members are getting older and there are less and less younger people in the church. In Luke 2:25-32 it reads: <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,

- you may now dismiss<sup>[a]</sup> your servant in peace.
- <sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen your salvation,
- <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
- <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
  - and the glory of your people Israel."

What does getting older mean today? Aching bones, joints and muscles, pill popping, getting up in the night for the loo? What about when you see the younger generations wasting money, behaving badly? What about new technology – are you up to date? Are you "hands on" with your grandchildren and great grandchildren? Will our memories start to go? Well for me getting older brings with it so much happiness and joy and I have witnessed this in East and Old Church first hand. Our members bring to the church and to the church family a wealth of life experience through their work skills, hobbies and family commitments. I hear many heart-breaking stories but also many funny and happy stories and all of these make up the lives we live. Sometimes when I am with some of our older members I can't believe the age they are. You would think some of our members in their 80's are actually in their 60's! Getting older does not mean vegetating in front of the television. We recently held a birthday party for May Balfour to help celebrate her 100th birthday and at the Royal visit on 1st July May, who is now over 100 years of age, had the whole crowd including the Earl and Countess of Forfar laughing! She was on top form as she interacted with the Royal couple. When I visit May at her home, she can tell me more about what is going on in Forfar than I can tell her! The stories that May can recall and tell those around her are super! Vina McLaren is our next eldest member at 99 years of age and Vina brings such charm to those around her as she retells her stories and shares her experiences from the past. Many of our members truly inspire me and for that I thank you. Later in this edition you will read once again about the idea of a family/ youth worker because we need to have a balance of ages in the church to continue God's mission for the next generations. In the passage above Simeon waited patiently and I believe we have now done that and we need to take urgent action to further God's mission and strengthen the church.

The time for climbing Ben Nevis may be over for many of us (especially me since I hate walking up hills!) but the time for giving witness to the Kingdom of God never is.

Every blessing to you all, your minister and friend

Barbara Ann



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

# hy, Why, Why Worship Service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June



This worship service tackled the many why, why questions we have in our everyday lives. Why does God allow earthquakes, floods etc? Why did my love die? Why doesn't God answer my prayers? In amongst this there were also everyday questions such as why do we cry when we are sad and happy? Susan Forbes who was leading the service with our minister had many more questions which she asked the congregation to try and answer. We hope that some of the other inventive

worship services at different times of day, evening and night will encourage more people to attend who cannot manage a Sunday morning. Those who did attend this event found it educational and thought provoking in the understanding of their own faith.

### rskine Guild visit to Forfar on Wednesday 12th June

We were delighted to host the men and women of Erskine Guild in the church for their lunch on their annual Guild trip. They stopped in Forfar for an hour before lunch, came into the church for lunch and then travelled to Dundee for the rest of their trip. Our members really enjoyed meeting our new friends from Erskine and for our minister reconnecting with many friends from days gone by. Thank you the ladies and men of the church who supplied food and helped to serve and clear up and a big thank you to Erskine Guild for the £150 donation! Also thank you to all the visitors who bought jam!

### C ummer Solstice Service on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June

The worship team are trying to come up with different styles of worship at alternative times of the day and this service was very well received. Supper which consisted of rolls with bacon or sausage and tea and biscuits afterwards



was at 9:00pm. Everyone then went on a walk at 10:00pm wearing their red laces (in support of Church of Scotland HIV programme) to watch the sunset which was magnificent – they could not have asked for a better evening or better sunset. It was back to the church for the service at 11:00pm which centred around the HIV virus and Aids. Between the donations on the night and the retiring offering the week before, we sent a cheque to this worthwhile programme for £210. Thank you everyone.

# Church Coffee Morning on Saturday 6th July

At the beginning of June our treasurer informed the minister that the general account was a little bit low so in next to no time a coffee morning was arranged and what a great morning it turned out to be. Lots of people attended and enjoyed their pancakes and bought some lovely home-baking. A magnificent total of **£750 was raised** – well done to everyone involved.



## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July admitting an ordained elder to East and Old Church - Mr William (Willie) Hunter



We were delighted that Willie Hunter from Wellbraehead decided to join East and Old. Willie felt it was time to move to a church closer to home and decided that God was calling him to join us here. Added to that, Willie was happy to take up his role as elder here also and Willie we are delighted that you joined us but be prepared for a busy life in the church.





At the time of writing this article the church was just about to hold a **Picnic and Praise at the Priory - more details in the next edition.** However we would like to thank Heather at Angus Archives (one of our members) for opening up the archives for anyone to have a look around and for allowing our folk to use the toilet facilities.

# WHAT' TO LOOK OUT FOR!

riday 9<sup>th</sup> August tea/coffee & doughnuts outside the church gates from 10:00 - 11:00am and then 2:00 - 3:00pm with our Outward and

**Forward team.** The team have organized this event and are hoping to chat to local people and tourists as they pass by the church gates. On offer will be tea, coffee and doughnuts and a leaflet designed by the media team is to be handed out also.





Saturday and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August is the CRUK Relay for Life in aid of Cancer Research held in Kirriemuir

Once again East and Old are entering their **Steeple Chasers** team into this event with Isabel Farquharson

being our team captain. There is a sponsor sheet available in the social area so that we can sponsor the team as a whole or if you want to donate online use the following web address:

### https://relay.cancerresearchuk.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/ General?team\_id=13180&pg=team&fr\_id=1878

They would love to see you on the day if you want to pop along and support them and join in with the walking.

# riday 16<sup>th</sup> August



Everyone who attended the last concert the Inspiration Orchestra put on were overwhelmed with emotion and left feeling truly inspired. The performers are physically and mentally disabled but you would not know this when you see them play in the orchestra. We hope you will find the time to come along on the

night for some wonderful music and a cup of tea afterwards.

There will be a retiring offering at the end of the evening for the orchestra.





**P**osh Afternoon Tea with Prosecco—Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August The steering group are holding this event to raise funds for phase 2 of the church building. Tickets are £10 and include

Prosecco or grape juice along with your tea, coffee and variety of goodies. There will be a few surprises on the day so bring a few extra pounds with you!

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August - Groovy Gryphons leaders and the children and their families for lunch at the Manse - To start of the new session, our minister is inviting the Groovy Gryphon children, their families and leaders to lunch in the Manse after the service – how she is going to manage that we have no idea but knowing our minister it will just happen! We hope you enjoy your lunch and wish we were coming too.

**B**aptismal Family Brunch in the Church Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August from 10:30am to 12:30pm - The Outward and Forward team came up with the idea of inviting back to the church all the children and their families that our minister has baptised in the last eight and half years. To that end a family brunch has been organized with a variety of activities on offer during their time together. We hope many of the families will take up the offer and come along to join us.

C aturday 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September is Open Doors Weekend

This event is a great way to see the church building as it currently is and as it was with many old artefacts being on display - no, not the members!

Were you baptised in the Old Parish or the East Parish? - then come and have a look at our baptismal records. Have you ever wondered about the story of the church bells, the clock and



even the steeple? What about the Gryphon at the top of the Church? Come along and find out!

**Art Exhibition in the Church Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** is on, our Art Group has an art exhibition and it is going to be wonderful. A few of us have been given a sneak preview of some of the work that is finished and some still being painted – what a treat!







# C unday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Dedication Service of Groovy Gryphons, Boys' Brigade and the Guild We are delighted in East and Old that we have children in the Groovy Gryphons, boys and leaders in our Boys' Brigade and men and women of our Guild and at this service our minister will be dedicating them and their organisations to God and thanking God for the opportunities given to them and the work they do in God's name.

Please come along and support our organisations.

# aturday 21<sup>st</sup> September

## Christian Aid Coffee Morning in St John's Church



Each year Christian Aid holds a coffee morning in September. We would like to thank Kathleen Ritchie and Isabel Farguharson for being our reps on this committee and the work they do. Tickets will be on sale in the church and you can also pay at the door.

# onday 23<sup>rd</sup> September- the Music Cafe's 400<sup>th</sup> Meeting with invited guests

We are so excited that our Music Café is still going strong and in September we recognise and celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Music Café. We would like to invite all previous helpers and current helpers on this day along with any past participants who came along with their family member or friend. At the time of writing this, the Provost of Angus has already accepted our invitation to attend and we are waiting to hear from the others invited.





### hursday 26<sup>th</sup> September Bible Buildings Worship Service - Part 2

A few months ago Bob Kidd led our worship service based around certain parts of our buildings which have bible passages attached to them. This was a very popular service which Bob has agreed to lead again on other parts of the church building and furniture. The service starts at 7:00pm.

### - 12 -

# **C** unday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Harvest Sunday followed by Lunch

We should feel so blessed and privileged that we at East and Old

can firstly hold a Harvest service and secondly that we have more than enough food and drink for the lives that we live while others go hungry and thirsty every day.

Here in Forfar there is a need for food donations which as a church we give to Lowson Memorial Church for their food delivery programme. To that end we ask once again that

you bring in a bag of groceries for harvest – tinned meat, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, cereals, long life milk, readymade pasta that you just need to add water/milk, teabags, coffee, chocolate, biscuits – anything that can keep for a while. Once again the children will come around during the first hymn to collect your bag of groceries.

# GUILD REPORT

M embers & guests enjoyed their summer trip to Pitlochry in early July. We set off at 10:00am, and there was a bit of free time for a snack in the town, then onto the Festival Theatre to see the production of Blonde Bombshells followed by high tea at the Red House Hotel in Coupar Angus on the way home. The weather stayed

bright and dry, the roads via Dunkeld were not too busy, the bus was comfortable and the play was very entertaining - we hope everyone enjoyed a good day out. This was all organised by Bob and Esther Kidd and we would like to thank them for all the hard work that they put into this and all of the effort they have given as joint convenors over the past years, and I'm sure that they wish the new committee every success.

The Guild are having a 'Coffee Afternoon' welcoming all on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September followed by our 'Dedication Service' in the church on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Our '**Opening Social' will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7:15pm** with entertainment by – *Garry Low and Friends* – followed by a light supper, so if you would like to come and see what the Guild is all about why not join us for an evening of enjoyment and fellowship.







he boys and leaders have had a very busy time on the lead up to the summer holidays.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June we set off for our Summer Camp at Glen Doll. The boys walked up Corrie Fee on the Saturday; on Sunday the Anchor Boys and their parents came for a lunch of burger rolls followed by ice-cream – great fun for everyone.

The following Sunday we all came to church to see Hadyn Dear receive his Queens Badge – this is the highest award a boy can gain in the Boys Brigade -

Congratulations to Hadyn on his achievement.

We had a stall at the Forfar Gala Day. Throwing sponges at Kevin, one of our officers, was great fun and it made a bit of money which will be donated to the Forfar Christmas Lights Fund.

Our final event before our holidays was meeting the new Earl of Forfar. He was very interested in the Boys Brigade and chatted to the boys at the start of their walkabout – a lovely experience for everyone.

Now we are all having a well-earned break. We restart again on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August at 6:00pm.





# The Earl and Countess of Forfar Visit ~ Monday 1st July 2019

Whether you like the Royal Family or not there was a great buzz about the place when the new Earl and Countess of Forfar came to town.



The Earl spoke to our Boys' Brigade boys and leaders outside Jarvis' and then later in the afternoon they visited our shop and met the shop staff and shortly afterwards were introduced to our minister and Mrs May Balfour with many of the church members in the area also.







May, Jack and Arwen Myles presented the Earl and Countess with posies of flowers. They chatted with the shop staff asking about donations and how long we have been open for. They asked our minister about the church, renovations and activities but May stole the show and they spent quite a bit of time chatting to her.



Just after they left us they spoke to Jennifer Gair of Prima next door who is also one of our members as Jennifer recently won the Scottish Finals for the Best Gift Shop in Scotland – congratulations Jennifer! The Royal couple were lovely, well informed and for the ladies out there – Sophie's shoes were lovely.





Groovy Griffins - the children and leaders took part in their end of term service, which happened to coincide with Father's Day.

We learned a little about three of our church members experiences of fatherhood; Dave Duncan, Bob Kidd and Iain Stewart. Funny stories about Girls World shampoo, toy sheep and extra pocket money made us all laugh.

The children picked some of their favourite hymns for the service and helped write some prayers too. At the end of the service they were all presented with a book, unfortunately Stephanie couldn't be there on the day, however her Auntie Karen accepted her book on her behalf.



We will all miss the children over the summer months, and look forward to welcoming them **back on Sunday 18th August**.

Perhaps your son or daughter or your grandson/daughter would like to join us, please come along any Sunday - it would be great to see you.

Joyce, Frances, Matthew and Karen



# Family / Youth Worker

The Kirk Session have agreed that it is a good idea to look into employing a family/youth worker however that would mean we would need to finance this position ourselves.

In the church we constantly hear about the lack of people under fifty and children so the vision of the church in the next few years is to look at this and employing a specialist in this area is the way forward.

> We are hoping for and praying for 40 people to consider giving £50 per month for a three year term or if you think you could afford more - £100 per month or if it is less - £25 a month but with £25 a month we will need 80 people to donate money. Two members of the church have come

forward with a one off donation rather than pay monthly – there are many options and we hope you will consider signing up to this exciting opportunity. Just speak to Barbara Ann or Paula our treasurer. No money is required at the moment as we need to find all the money first before we can employ someone or even start the advertising process. Our minister asks that you keep this venture in your prayers.







# Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning

Our minister is the chair of this committee and Esther Kidd is the church rep so it is good to show support to this charity by attending their coffee morning. **Tickets are priced £3** and there will be a baking stall, gift stall, Leprosy Mission stall and raffle. It is being held in East and Old Church and we look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

# **S** unday 20<sup>th</sup> October - Afternoon Communion at 2:30pm followed by Afternoon Tea.



The numbers at this service increase every year and we hope to see as many of you again if not more to our afternoon communion followed by afternoon tea! Transport is available - you just need to contact your elder, Jean Alexander or the minister if you require transport.

S aturday 26<sup>th</sup> October / Sunday 27th October Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour otherwise you will not be at church at the correct time the following morning!



Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Communion services at 11:00am and 6:30pm (*Retiring offering in aid of Fabric Fund*)

Our minister likes to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion and she has informed us that she has written a new liturgy for this communion and is looking forward to sharing it with you. Remember to bring your communion cards and come to worship God with fellow people of faith.

# **S** unday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 6:30pm - Big Sing for Remembrance (*Retiring Collection in aid of Normandy Memorial Trust*)

This new idea from our minister has sparked a great deal of interest in the church and outwith. A number of people and organisations have already agreed to perform at this event; Maggie Finlay, Strathmore Primary, Accord and we are waiting on responses from another few people and organisations. There will be invited guests and we look forward to welcoming members of Forfar British Legion. **Put the date in your diary now!** 





Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Sunday with worship service starting at 10:45am. (Retiring offering in aid of Poppy Scotland and Erskine Hospital) This is just a reminder to everyone that our service of Remembrance takes place on the above date with the service starting at 10:45am followed by a town service at The Cross afterwards.

# Walking Group Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August with Friends Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September



### ust for you!

J We hope you enjoy eating the Smarties that you have been given along with your Steeple Times this month and

we hope that you would consider filling them with £1 coins over the next couple of months. If they are filled to the top and protruding slightly which means you will need to sellotape the top down the tube will hold 40 x £1 coins making it £40 donation to the church. No matter how much you manage to put in the Smarties tubes, we would be delighted for any donation. This fun way of raising money is to raise capital to finish off Phase 2 of our church building. Over the next few months our lift will be going in at a cost of approximately £25,000 and once that is in we hope to get upstairs completed. Thank you in advance for your donations and remember if you pay tax – let us know so we can reclaim tax on your donation.

# risp Wrappers

• Our church has signed up with Walkers crisps to recycle used crisp packets - but not only Walker





packets - any crisp packets.

There are containers in the church and The Big Kirk Shop at the moment and we

hope to put containers in a variety of places around the town including the schools if we get permission. **Start keeping you empty packets now and bring them in**. Once the empty packets have been collected they will be cleaned, shredded and turned into small plastic pellets which will then be converted into useful plastic items, such as benches and fence posts.





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### merican Night

What a great night! Everybody enjoyed their food and had a blast! The music quiz was a little bit difficult but the American States and Capitals quiz was nearly impossible! There was lots of chatting and singing and even standing for the American National anthem. We have been asked to hold another themed evening and it will be a French evening; horse, snails and garlic!

What a combination! Only kidding! Thank you to everyone who came along and a big thank you to the members of the Friends Committee who supply most of the food and drink out of their own pockets so that more money can be raised.

**F**riends Annual Walk will be taking place just as these magazines are being delivered so more information to follow in the next edition but we are once again looking forward to our annual walk which will be in the Letham area followed by high tea at the Castle Club.



# riends Annual Renewal Night - Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 7:00pm renewal and 7:30pm entertainment.

The renewal evening gives people the chance to renew their Friends membership or join up to the Friends for £10 per year.

The entertainment on the night is excellent and this year it will be Finmill who are a guitar group. The evening is **open to all** whether you are a member of Friends of East and Old or not, or a member of the church or not and the refreshments afterwards are delicious - come along and join us.

**S**t. Andrews Night on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November You will not want to miss this night as we celebrate being Scottish and our patron saint 'St. Andrew'. We hope you will wear something blue on the night.



Art Group - as mentioned earlier, our Art Exhibition will be held in the church from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September (10:00am to 4:00pm each day.) There will be a large number of pictures up for sale and all are welcome to visit.

The group are producing a calendar for 2020. Barbara Ann, Lexi Smart and Jim Nicol selected the pictures from those put forward from the artists and this is now ready to go to the printers. **Calendars should be** 



### on sale at the exhibition.

If you're interested in joining the Art Group - we meet on a Thursday 1:30 - 4:00pm. If you're not sure it's for you, come for a visit - about 3:00pm is good as we break for coffee giving you a chance to meet /chat with the group. There are no meetings from Thursday  $11^{th}$  July to Thursday  $15^{th}$ August.

**orfar Instrumental Band** – The Brass Band has recently moved premises and are now holding their weekly practise sessions and lessons within the Church.

The Band was formed in 1896 and was one of the founding members of The Scottish Brass Band Association. Taking part annually in the Scottish Brass Band Championships, the band are a competing 4<sup>th</sup> Section Brass Band, comprising of 30 members of varying ages and ability but most importantly a love of the music!

Being a Community Band the Brass Band are available to play at all

events within the town and surrounding areas. Recent events the Band have taken part in include performances at Magdalen Green in Dundee, Church events, Music Festivals and they also the most recent highlight was playing for the New Earl and Countess of Forfar.



Weekly practise sessions are every Tuesday evening from 7:15pm to 9:30pm and are led by Musical Director Terry Jackson. Playing a variety of styles from classic traditional marches right through to more modern favourites such as Bohemian Rhapsody.

The Band also provides free music tuition lessons to members of the community who have a desire to play Brass. Music and instruments can be provided - all that is needed from you is the enthusiasm! If any members of the church (young or old) wish to learn, please contact the band at **forfarband@gmail.com** for further information.



# **DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM ?**

Every Tuesday we serve lunches in the Social Area at church between 12 noon and 1:00pm, we offer a choice of two home-made soups (one vegetarian) with crusty bread, followed by tasty sandwiches, tea/coffee and biscuits.

The food is prepared and served by volunteers.

No fixed price – all we ask is a donation, e.g. £3 per person or more if you wish to give extra.

Why not come along – on your own or with a friend, you will be made most welcome.

The lunches are open to all – not just members of East & Old.

We are looking for more volunteers, if you are interested in finding out more please contact Barbara Ann or Jean Alexander (463860). Everyone is very friendly; it's a great way of meeting people and making friends. GO ON - give it a try!



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**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

May	23	Lindsay Gray	< 20 >
	25	David Talbot	< 39 >
	26	Ella Tyndall	< 18 >
June	8	Charlotte Myles	
	25	John Fairley	< 31 >
	26	Gerard Nolan	

# RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

June 2 Susan and Graham Robertson

# BAPTISMS

- May 5 Elliott Gordon McQueen
- June 2 Aaron Stuart Copland
- July 21 Kaitlyn Mary Anne Rennie



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Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk	Margaret Scrimgeour	01307 469145
Church Secretary	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
<ul><li>Treasurer</li><li>Gift Aid Convener</li><li>Property Convener</li></ul>	Paula Stewart	07715596465
FWO Treasurer	Jean Alexander	01307 463860
<ul><li>Editor of Steeple Times</li><li>Flower Group Admin</li></ul>	Catriona Milne	07962065936
Organist & Choirmaster	Bruce Simpson	01307 468179
Church Officer	Vanessa Ferrie	01307 461111
Groovy Gryphons	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
<ul> <li>Guild Contact</li> </ul>	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
<ul> <li>Life and Work</li> </ul>	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
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228

