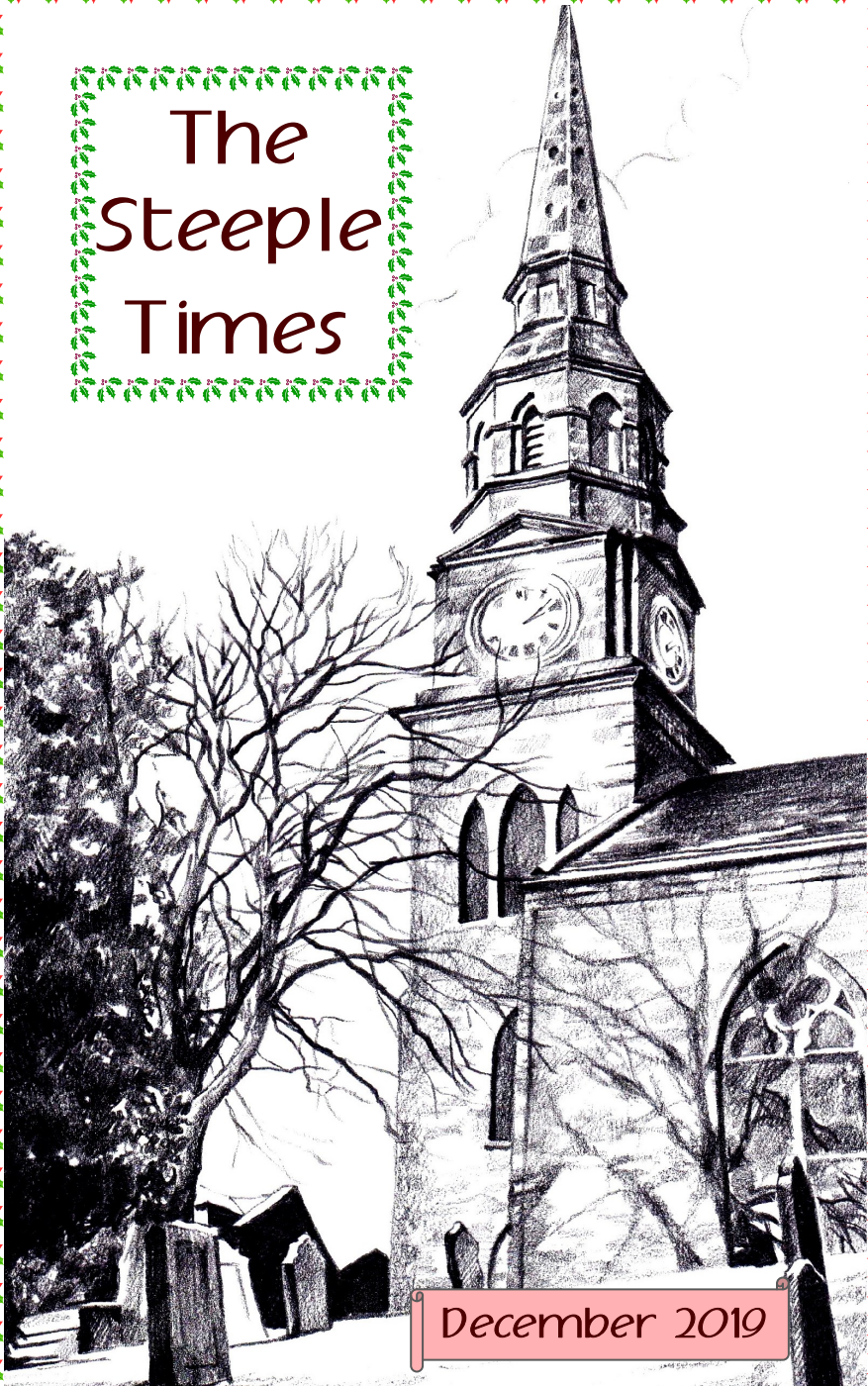


The
Steeple
Times



December 2019



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

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LETTER FROM THE MANSE

My dear friends

I simply cannot believe it is nearing the end of 2019! It only feels like a few months ago we were bringing in the Bells at the Cross and at the party in the Church! What a year we have had in 2019 – busy, busy, busy and being your minister I wouldn't have it any other way. At the end of the year I normally sit back, take stock and reflect on what we have done as a church for our members, for the community and for the world and once again it is a huge amount and you the members and friends of East and Old deserve a little clap on your back – so go on – do that now! Put your hand on your back and give it a tap! Congratulations! When I say busy it does not necessarily mean working at 100 mph it also means every activity we are involved in with the church from sitting quietly in the prayer group, to meditating, to walking with the walking group or taking part in the Relay for Life and everything in between. There are three big success stories that I want to remind you of in this last year. The 'Friends R' Us' group which is for widows, widowers and single people has been a great hit with numbers up to about 25 people. Our Music Café for people with Dementia and their Carers celebrated their 400th meeting – over 8 years now! And lastly our family trips and away days where we are now connecting with many people outside the church community and it has already paid dividends with some of these people helping out at church events and also attending some of our fund raising events. As I am sitting writing this part of the letter more and more of what we do in East and Old keeps jumping into my mind

but are we being busy in the right way; are we reaching more and more of unchurched people and people who have not yet come to know Jesus in their lives! I believe we are to a certain point. We try to offer many avenues to our members and friends to get to know and to get closer to God through our words, deeds and actions but on closer inspection and reflection we are missing out in one area. I really thought that we had something to offer everyone who came looking at our church to get to know God but a mum who attended our day trips emailed me and said she was impressed with what we were doing and wanted to know what the church ran that she or her daughter, separately or together could consider coming along too. The lady was in her early thirties and her daughter 11 years of age. My answer was church, Groovy Gryphons and the cooking and baking classes – I couldn't think of anything else because the mum worked during the day! We know this age group of adults and children are missing in our church and in many churches in Scotland and over the years the activities for this age group have also stopped. So this will be our focus as we look ahead into 2020 both for myself and the Kirk Session but we need your help too. Talk about the good work in East and Old, offer to help in our numerous avenues for missional work and be on the lookout for new ideas to attract new people and younger people. If you come across anything please speak to me.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2020!

Your friend and minister

Barbara Ann



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Music Café 400th Meeting - What a wonderful event this turned out to be with the clients and the carers and most of the current helpers in attendance. Past helpers and carers also enjoyed this important meeting. Invited guests were; Lord Lieutenant Pat Sawers, Provost Ronnie Proctor, Councillor Lynne Devine, Moderator of Angus Presbytery Rev Mike Goss. Huge thanks go to Pat Brodlie and Maureen Black for their fantastic work at the café and to Margaret Anderson and Bruce Simpson the pianists. Pat Brodlie informed us that the first music cafe was held on 3rd October 2011. Since the Music Café started we have held 400 sessions, sung around 6,400 items with about 12,500 people living with dementia attending, assisted by approximately 2,400 volunteering supporters. Wow! Wow! Wow!



Christian Aid Coffee Morning - This annual event was relatively well supported by the churches in Forfar however if you think of the numbers of people who are church members in all the churches in Forfar you would have expected more people to be present. A lovely morning was enjoyed by everyone and a chance to catch up for a natter and raise funds for such a good cause. Thanks to Isabel Farquharson for being our rep on this committee and the work she does.

Leprosy Mission Coffee Morning
There are two Leprosy Mission Coffee mornings every year and are always so attended with a great amount of money raised. In October over £800 was raised which will be sent to Leprosy Mission Scotland. Thank you to Esther Kidd for representing our church on this committee and for the work she is involved in.





The children from Strathmore Primary School really enjoy coming along to the church on the third Thursday of every month. Sadly though the numbers attending the café are going down and on most occasions there are more pupils than guests at the café. Can we please ask you to consider coming along on the third Thursday of every month during school term but not in December as the school programme is very, very busy. You will be made to feel very welcome and enjoy a two course lunch – all just for a donation.

Communion Services

Sunday 20th at 2:30pm – thank you to everyone who came along to these ever increasing and popular service. It is a more traditional service with the lovely tempting afternoon tea afterwards. Thank you to the team who made the food and baking and helped to serve.

Sunday 27th at 11:00am – it was lovely to see a busy church at this service and a big thank you for the donations to the fabric fund. This fund is separate from the DIF Fund and pays for the normal repairs and workings in the church through the year.



Sunday 27th at 6:30pm – a more reflective type of service in the evening and a chance to see those who sometimes struggle to get to church in the morning. Even with a number of only 50 people the singing was great.

Our minister would like to say thank you to everyone involved in the communion services as there is a lot of preparation and stress on the day for them and it doesn't help when she changes how things are done that morning – you would think they would be used to it by now!

First Sunday of the month Communions - Sometimes these services have 50 to 60 people at them which is very good. These services are shorter, quieter and more reflective and always finish with celebrating the sacrament of communion which the attendees appreciate.

Big Sing for Remembrance
What a fantastic evening and if you were not there then you really missed a special occasion. This was another wonderful idea from our minister and nearly all the churches in Forfar took part along with a number of organisations and individuals. There were war songs, hymns, letters written by servicemen, stories and at the end of the evening our Boys Brigade performed the Drumhead Service which was very good and the boys and officers looked so smart, well behaved and respectful. Thanks to Bob Kidd for organising the Drumhead Service and for getting all the names of the war dead into the book of remembrance from all the churches. A big thank you to Maggie Findlay for her rendition of **'Bring him home'** which moved many people to tears. The retiring offering of a magnificent sum of £800 is being sent to the Normandy Memorial Fund where a wall is being built with engraved names of all who died at Normandy, including those from the local area. One of the families in our church – the Donaldson family will have their uncle's name of Andrew Robb on the wall when it is complete.



Remembrance Sunday
Our service started at 10:45am and there were a good number of people present all wearing their red poppies. Thanks goes to our minister for the tribute to our fallen and current servicemen and to James Robertson for playing the bagpipes leading up to and after the two minute silence. The wreaths this year were laid by Jim Nicol and Ron Johnstone at the WWI and WWII windows and Irene Duthie laid the wreath on behalf of the Boys' Brigade. Most people then headed down to The Cross for the 12:30pm service which was led by all the clergy in Forfar and members of the British Legion.



Cooking and Baking Classes

These new classes have been going well with spaces filling up nicely. So far, we have had Irene Duthie teaching how to make Stovies and Barbara Ann taught the participants how to make Pavlova and meringues. Next up was Bob Kidd making herb crusted salmon and other fish dishes and then Esther's baking class was scones. Our minister really wanted to learn to make scones and not the bricks she says she makes (Mabel Martin taught her but the end results are nothing like the delicious scones that Mabel makes).



However, Barbara Ann could not make the day that Esther was teaching so she invited herself to Esther's house for morning coffee and a one-to-one class ensued! We look forward to trying out your scones Barbara Ann. Look out for Elizabeth McLeod teaching home-made sausage rolls and lasagne in December and Susan Forbes will make a yule log.

Family Trip to the Glasgow Science Centre



We received funding from Angus Presbytery to run more day trips for families in Forfar and surrounding areas. At the end of the October break it was a day trip to the Glasgow Science Centre which was a great event and enjoyed by 77 people. Once again Angus Council helped with vouchers for the packed lunches and Tesco prepared 77 individual packed lunches and supplied everyone a free water bottle. Thank you to Paula Stewart our treasurer for all her hard work in organising this event. The feedback from the participants was excellent. To that end we will be



running a trip during the February break and Easter break with two trips in the

summer. February – Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh; April – Active Kids in Stanley; July – Landmark at Carrbridge; August – Auchingarrich Wildlife Centre.



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The Al-Mohammad family originally from Syria

Quite a number of people from the church met the Syrian family Thaer (dad), Manar (mum), Shahd (9), Sham (6) and Fajar (8 months), when they came to stay at the Manse with Barbara Ann and Billy in mid-October. Their holiday was part of a pilot scheme being run in conjunction with the Church of Scotland and some councils and in this case Aberdeenshire Council. The family are Muslim and the only restrictions throughout the stay was Halal food was to be eaten, no pork and avoid doing things at prayer time (approximately 5 times a day). This all worked in very well throughout the holiday. Paula Stewart our treasurer and her children Jack and Arwen helped during the visit in so many ways by supplying children's toys and car seats and also playing with the children. Bob Kidd joined us on a trip and others including our Echo Teens attended the manse on Saturday night to get to know the family and try some Syrian home-made food! Yummy! Thaer and Manar were so very grateful for everything that Barbara Ann and Billy did for them and organised along with Paula. A walk around Forfar and the Loch, Brechin Castle Outdoor Park, dinner at Chapter & Verse and Glasgow Science Centre with the church bus trip. The family then attended worship at the Glasgow Mosque and later met Barbara Ann and Billy at a restaurant where they had a lovely Syrian Meal with wonderful food and by this time the family knew that Barbara Ann could not eat anything spicy! On the Saturday it was off to Perth swimming pool which was a big, big hit and Thaer and Billy baby sat Fajar while everyone including Paula and her children went swimming and down the chutes. On their return to Forfar it was off to Tiffins (most meat is Halal) for more fabulous food and to Broughty Ferry for ice-cream even though it was cold outside! The children's eyes were as wide as saucers when they saw the choices of ice-cream that were on offer. The problem arose when Barbara Ann was trying to explain what tablet, bubble gum and numerous other flavoured ice-creams tasted like with the queue getting bigger and bigger behind them!



After arriving back at the manse later than expected the guests showed up and ended up setting the table while Thaer and Manar cooked a wonderful two-course meal. Thanks to Sue Proctor for the dessert! During the evening the manse lounge became a no-go area for the adults – they were barred while all the children happily played together. On Sunday morning the whole family attended worship in our church and without any warning our minister asked them to speak. Thaer explained that they left Syria very early – just after the fighting started. They moved to Lebanon and Thaer got a job as a waiter. However before they left Syria Thaer was an Arabic Literature teacher and Manar an Art Teacher but for various reasons they couldn't teach in Lebanon. After 4 years with over 5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, their economy was being affected and the locals started turning against the Syrians making it necessary for them to get out of Lebanon so the family went to the UN offices and were eventually offered the UK but they did not know where until arriving in Inverurie where they have been living for 18 months and have settled in well. The two older children are fluent in Arabic and English and it is so funny to watch the children correct what their parents are saying. Thaer is at college because he cannot get a job in Britain until he has an intermediate English Certificate but he is fluent in speaking English and



Manar recently sat a basic English test and passed with flying colours. Before sitting down after they had spoken to the church members and friends, they said that they felt that Barbara Ann and Billy were now part of their family and they had had a wonderful time and so many new experiences in the 5 short days.

At the end of October when Billy, Barbara Ann and her sister Sandra were driving back from Elgin they had arranged to pop into Inverurie to see the family and were warmly welcomed and fed until they could eat no more – as soon as the food was served Manar said – NO SPICE! It was a lovely time they spent together.

Holiday Club Fund

The Kirk Session decided they would also like to help some children during the holiday period in October to attend classes that were running with other organisations. They decided to spend £120 for 6 children to attend fun activities. However this proved to be very difficult to put into action even with the help of the school. Two children received £20 each to attend a week long course but we were left with £80. One of our members actually donated the money for this to our minister rather than using church funds and agreed that the other £80 could be spent on the Syrian family that were staying with the minister.

New member and elder to be admitted

We are delighted to welcome to the church and to serve as an elder Mrs Ann Keith of Nursery Street. Ann was a member of a church in Dundee and now works in this area and has moved here. As well as being an elder Ann is currently a serving officer in Girls' Brigade in Dundee which has pleased our minister no end.

Two new members

We also welcome Mr and Mrs Allan to our membership from Turfbeg. We hope that Kenneth and Yvonne settle in well to our church family. Remember if there is someone in the church on a Sunday or at any event that you do not know or recognise or have forgotten their name – go and say hello.



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.

Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens - It's been a busy few months for the children and teenagers both in and out of the church. During the school holidays in October we went on a trip up to Pitlochry to The Enchanted Forest. There is a different theme every year and to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the moon landing the theme for 2019 was space related, the kids and leaders had a great time. Matthew took a few photos and produced a slide show which was shown to the congregation a few weeks later during the Sunday service.

On the 3rd of November the children and leaders lead the worship service, the bible reading chosen for the day was Revelation 21: 1-14, The New Jerusalem. The Echo Teens took turns to read the passage to the congregation, hearing about a new Heaven, a new Earth, a new Jerusalem, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. The passage told of the brilliance of the new Jerusalem and the teenagers shared stories of cities they had visited and also those they would like to visit because of their

brilliance. A few members of the congregation were asked up to share their favourite cities too. The children's service wouldn't be the same



without a game to play, a game of cat and mouse through a maze made up of members of the congregation. Members of the baptismal party had great fun joining in the game with us.

The Groovy Gryphons and Echo Teens were keen to help out with the "Wish List" for the upstairs renovations and in order to raise funds they have organised a Sunday lunch after the service on Sunday 1st December. I know you will stay behind on this day and show the children/teenagers your support.

December is here again, another year has passed and we are looking forward to celebrating Christmas, and you all know what that means - **NATIVITY**. Save the date in your diary **Sunday 22nd December** - we look forward to seeing you there.

Joyce, Frances, Matthew and Karen

Unscramble the letters to find the words in
the **CHRISTMAS ANAGRAM**



BENNORW		ABLEST	
GHINNSARST		AEGMMR	
DEEHPRSS		AILMNS	
ACEEFINNNRS		EJSSU	
AIINTTVY		TASNA	
AEGLNS		IEWSENM	

Word List — ANGELS, ANIMALS, FRANKINCENSE, JESUS,
MANGER, NATIVITY, NEWBORN, SANTA, SHEPHERDS,
SHINING STAR, STABLE



Sale of our Church Hall

Our church hall in Chapel Street is now up for sale at Wardhaughs. Information as to why we are selling the building is on our website but we have also printed it here for you.

In July 2016 we embarked on our [Million Pound Challenge](#) to implement our Vision for East & Old Parish Church into the 21st Century.



This transformed our ground level of the church building into a flexible multi-purpose space available to all. The first phase also prepared our upper floor for additional rooms and connection with our existing Session House.

The cost of Phase One works was some £775,000 with the bulk of the funds provided by our congregation both past and present, with top up grants from various sources and local donations.

[Phase Two works](#) were priced following completion of Phase One around March 2017. The costs involved were once again significant and with insufficient funds available to commit to a single contractor, the Kirk Session decided to move forward in stages as funding became available. Our congregation, members and local supporters continue to be amazing and we have raised sufficient funds to proceed to the installation of the lift to the first floor - this is currently in progress.

To complete our works and utilise the new upper levels we have identified surplus assets that will raise funds for Phase Two works and for our wider community work into the future. Our Chapel Street Hall is one of those assets that is now surplus to our requirements as we are creating a single building with multi-functional rooms that will meet all our needs into the future.



The financial overheads of supporting multiple buildings is significant and not viable in the long term.

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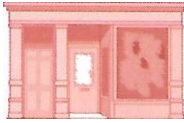
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toilet twinning

Following the article in the last 'Steeple Times' the Kirk Session took the decision that since we were putting in new toilets it would be a good idea to support others through the Toilet Twinning scheme. We have bought a toilet block so our church toilets are twinned with a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and we also bought a block of toilets for a school which we then linked to Strathmore Primary School and that block of toilets is in Bolero in Malawi.

Concerns – if you have any concerns about what is happening in the church, the road the session are taking, decisions that have been made, you are welcome to write to the Kirk session and it will be brought up at the next meeting. Speaking directly to individual members of the church whether elders or not, unfortunately will not get you the explanations or answers you require and leads to rumours being spread. Nothing in East and Old is a closed shop and we are more than happy to explain any decisions to anyone and remember you are more than welcome to come along to any Kirk Session meeting.



Minibus Drivers – we are always on the lookout for more drivers for the minibus for church events. You need to be over 21 and have a D1 on your licence. If you would consider being one of our volunteer drivers please contact Billy Sweetin.



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.

AS WE GO TO PRINT

Christmas Outdoor Market on Saturday 30th November

Forfar Action Network arranged a Christmas Market in Castle Street and East and Old have taken a stall. So as we go to print this event will be happening and we'll be selling a few items but the main reason for being there is to be seen by the local community and give away angels to spread the Good News and free tea and coffee along with goodies for the children. More details in the next edition.

Gift Service - This takes place every year on the first Sunday of December and we hope once again that the



members of East and Old rally around to help children aged from 0 to 18 years old with new toys and gifts.

Church Coffee Morning - Saturday 7th December

Hopefully you'll receive this magazine before it takes place but we're hoping for a good turnout to have a chance to sit, chat and chill before the Christmas rush. Please come along and support us - enjoy a warm mince pie and buy some home-baking to enjoy at a later time.



Community Christmas Party - 7th December

The same day as the Christmas Coffee morning we will be holding our Christmas Community party **from 1:30pm to 4:00pm in the church.** There will be people teaching children and adult's circus skills, African Drumming, Hoop Dance movements, a soft play area for the younger children, glitter paints and face paints along with lots and lots of party food. There even might be a guest appearance from Mickey and Minnie Mouse!

Church Pantomime Trip – Saturday 14th December

The church is teaming up with the Groovy Gryphons and the Echo Teens to attend this event on the above date. We may still have a couple of spaces, so if interested please contact Barbara Ann to find out. **The bus will leave from the church at 12:45pm.**



Christmas Card Delivery - Over the next few weeks the red Christmas Card boxes will be out at the locations listed below. **The cost for each card is 25p.**

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- * Robert Watt Butchers
- * Ali's Newsagent (Castle St)
- * 1st Shop 2 Stop (Easterbank)
- * SPAR (Academy St)
- * R S McColl
- * Poundstretcher (Castle St)
- * The Big Kirk Shop
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- * Sheltered Housing complexes

Deliveries are scheduled for 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th December.

Please note that the **LAST POSTING DATE is THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER**

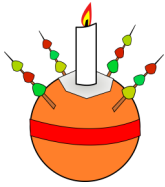
The Real Live Nativity Tour - This event will be in the church grounds on two nights - **Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th December from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.** Wander along the route which tells the real Christmas Story, join in with carol singing, children and adults can



look for various clues along the way and receive a gift at the end and meet our real live farmyard animals. After that, head into the church for your hot soup and breads. This event is free but if you would like to leave a donation we never say no!

Carol Singing at the Cross with FACT - The churches in Forfar are getting together for a few events over the Christmas period with the Salvation Army Band, the Big Sing and our Advent Bible Studies starting every week from the end of November in the community church. Added to this we will also be carol singing at The Cross on **Saturday 21st December at 11:00am for 30 mins.** Come and sing along with us or come and watch and you will even receive a nice warm mince pie.





Christingle Making - Our Christingle making morning is a real happy get together with many members of the church turning out to help make the 350 Christingles! There is a routine and conveyor belt system which normally works really well. If you would like to come along and join us it will be on **Monday 23rd December at 10:00am in the church** – tea and coffee are supplied!

Christingle Service - Our interactive and fun Christingle Service takes place as usual on **Christmas Eve at 6:30pm** and we look forward to seeing all our familiar faces and new ones also. We wait in anticipation to find out what Barbara Ann will have us involved in on the night. This year the two local charities we will be supporting in our retiring offering will be Phoenix Gymnastic Club and Deirdre Knight Day Centre.

Christmas Day Service After the busy time leading up to Christmas Day, this quieter service where we can show off our gifts and takes place at **11:00am** where we welcome Jesus once again with grateful hearts.



Normally we hold our Nine Lessons and Carols in the lead up to Christmas but many people miss out on this service so this year it will be held at morning worship on **Sunday 29th December**.



Advance notice of Lent dates			
Lent Bible Study			Lent Lunches ALL in East and Old
▪ Thurs 27th	February	East and Old	▪ Friday 28th February
▪ Thurs 5th	March	St Fergus	▪ Friday 6th March
▪ Thurs 12th	March	Lowson Memorial	▪ Friday 13th March
▪ Thurs 19th	March	Forfar Community Church	▪ Friday 20th March
▪ Thurs 26th	March	St John's	▪ Friday 27th March
▪ Thurs 2nd	April	St Margaret's	▪ Friday 3rd April

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Friends Renewal Night

This event took place at the end of October and the numbers that attended were very disappointing but many people had paid their renewals at different times. Because of the poor turn out for the entertainment, we will not be holding another renewal night and hope to come up with some new ideas and formats.

Handbag Party - This event was also poorly attended and therefore we will not be running this event again. However those who were there enjoyed themselves and a profit of £300 was made.

St Andrew's Night on Saturday 30th November

At time of going to print we will be holding our St Andrew's Night with a three course meal, entertainment, singing and quizzes.

More details in the next issue.

COMING UP

Church Coffee Morning Saturday 11th January - come along and catch up with your friends after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Flick N' Chip Night on Wednesday 15th January at 6:30pm

This has proved to be such a popular event over the last couple of years so we have decided to bring it back. On this date we will have our fish suppers at 6:30pm followed by the film **ROCKETMAN** which was a big success in the cinema. We will even allow you to sing-along with some of the songs!



SATURDAY: -

- **21st December:** Christmas walk and lunch
- **18th January:** come along and walk off all the extra calories that you added over the holiday period and catch up on what's been happening



All our boys and leaders were invited to join the Girls Brigade at Lowson Memorial Church to share a Halloween party on 31st October. We had an enjoyable time playing lots of games and sharing delicious food, many thanks to them for the invite.

Sunday 3rd November, four Company Section boys and three officers took part in the Drumhead Service which formed part of the Big Sing for Remembrance evening in the church.

On Remembrance Sunday most of the boys and some parents attended St Margaret's Church and a short service at The Cross. After the wreath laying, the parade moved off to the British Legion.


Last week the Anchor and Junior Sections welcomed twelve Members of Inverarity Guild to the BB Hall. They came to learn about Boys Brigade which is one of their chosen charities. We all had fun making calendars together and joining in the games.

Friends 'R Us - This group for widows, widowers and singles continues to flourish.

We meet in the Social Area of East and Old Parish Church on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm when we arrange walks, outings of interest etc for the next month. Some of our recent outings were a visit to Hospitalfield House in Arbroath and a very enjoyable night at Dundee Rep to see "A Tribute to Buddy Holly and the Crickets". At the beginning of November we visited Reekie Linn where we enjoyed a nice walk and saw the fantastic waterfall and the lovely trees which were beginning to change colour. We then went on to the Backwater Dam finishing the afternoon with a coffee at Peel Farm, Glen Isla. On 2nd November a group of us thoroughly enjoyed The Royal British Legion's Memorial of Remembrance Service in the Caird Hall, Dundee. We are now looking forward to our Christmas meal together in mid-December and then we will have a short break over the festive period meeting up again in January 2020.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Cooking & Baking Classes Saturday Morning:			9:30/10:00am start to 12 noon
18th	January	COOKING	
25th	January	BAKING	
8th	February	COOKING	
15th	February	BAKING	

- **Faith Discussion** 13th January and 17th February
- **Bible Study** 23rd January



We have entered a team called The Big Kirk to raise money for MND Scotland.



Currently from the congregation we have Sheena Benvie, Glenda Robertson and Bill Sim walking the **25 Mile Mighty Stride on Sunday 16th August 2020.**

All information is available at www.thekiltwalk.co.uk if anyone wants to find out more about this event or speak with Paula Stewart if you are interested in joining the team. More information will be available in future editions leading up to the actual walk.

Big Kirk Shop - *The shop had been reasonably busy this year although the wet summer didn't help and unfortunately we have no control over the weather!*

We are lucky to receive plenty donations of Clothes, Shoes, Handbags, Bric-a-brac, Toys etc – keep them coming please. Our customers come from Forfar and across Angus and Dundee and we play a big part in the community with information posters on display in the shop for local fundraising events.

A huge thank you for the donations of tea bags, coffee and biscuits for all the staff.

Wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2020.

THE GUILD



It was great getting back into the routine of coming out to the Guild, we started with our opening social on 25th September, where we were entertained by 'Accord'.

This was followed by a meeting on 9th October where we had a panel of 3 giving their thoughts and views on a number of questions put to them by the Guild members, great thanks to Rev. Elaine Garman (rector at St. John's Forfar), Mrs Arlene Lucas (a retired nurse) and Mr Bob Kidd (one of our own members). Their comments were thoughtful, all different and very entertaining. We had a joint meeting with the 2 other Forfar Guilds on 23rd October and this was held in St Margaret's with a speaker from the 'Sailors Society Scotland' which is one of our projects for this year. On the next evening the 'West Angus Guilds Together' held their Autumn meeting in our church and this was well attended by the various Guilds in Angus.

On 13th November our speakers were Neill Wilson representing 'Forfar Athletic' and Susan Forbes representing 'Forfar Farmington'. Neill spoke of the history, background and stories of the club while Susan explained to us her work as chaplain to 'Forfar Farmington', dealing with not just the girls but all that come in contact with the team. Both showed a great love and dedication to the roles they have undertaken and we are blessed as a community that they are willing to give their time and energy to the game of football.

As we go to press, we look forward to our next meeting on 27th November with a representative from McDonalds restaurant and lastly for this year our Christmas meal will be at Chapelbank Hotel on 11th December. We start again on 8th January with an afternoon meeting.



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

October	28	John Douglas	< 37 >
November	9	Catherine (Cathy) Strachan	< 23 >
	10	Agnes (Nan) Kidd	< 30 >
	17	Thomas (Tom) Fraser	< 40 >

BAPTISM

November	3	Finlay Alan Alistair Cull
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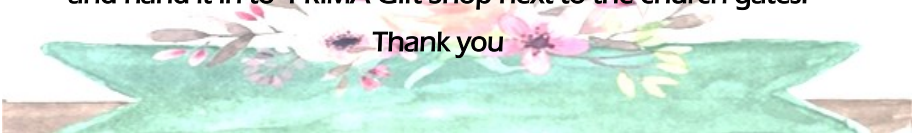
CHURCH FLOWERS

The 2020 Flower Calendar is now in the church foyer and the dates are filling up fast. If you have a special date in mind for the flower group to do an arrangement in the church, please check the calendar to choose your Sunday slot. We ask for a minimum donation of £20 which pays for the weekly church flowers and some of this money is also allocated to the flower delivery fund – giving flowers to those who need to know that our church community is thinking of them during difficult times.

Thank you to all who contributed to the flower fund in 2019 which brought cheer to so many people and special thanks to all members of the flower team who make it all possible.

Please pass your donations prior to your chosen Sunday to Catriona Milne, Irene Duthie or pop your money into an envelope and hand it in to PRIMA Gift Shop next to the church gates.

Thank you



Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
Depute Session Clerk		
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	Vanessa Ferrie	01307 461111
Groovy Gryphons & Echo Teens	Joyce Archibald	01307 469519
Guild Contact	Lauraine Grant	01307 468724
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	Barbara Ann Sweetin	01307 464935
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228



NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES
 The deadline for submission of articles for
 the **FEBRUARY 2020** issue is
15th JANUARY 2020
 Material can be given / sent to the Editor
 or e-mail ed@thebigkirk.co.uk

