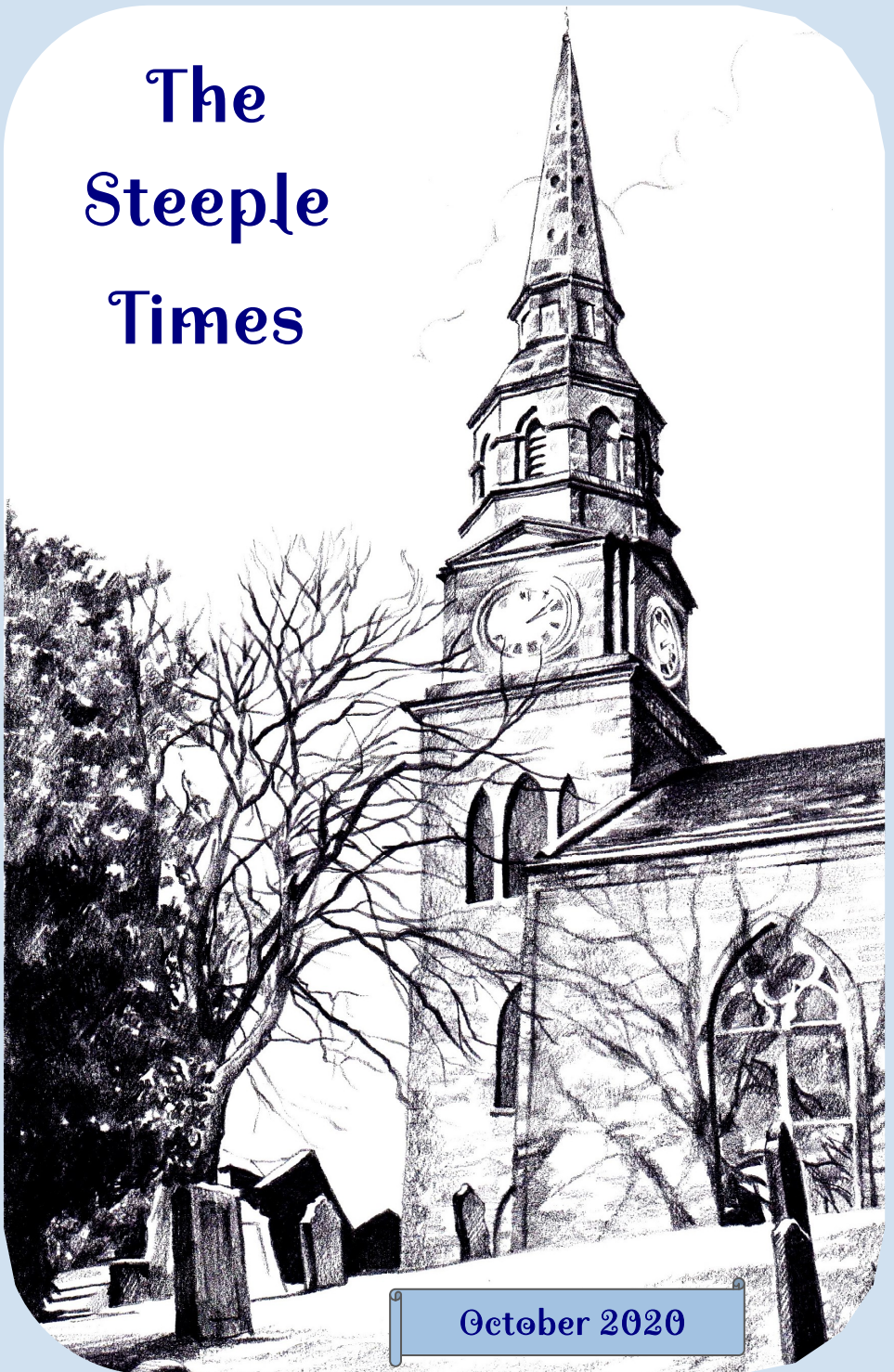


The Steeple Times



October 2020



Services of Public Worship:

✠ **Every Sunday at 9:00am and 11:00am**

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

Hello my dear friends

I feel it has been so long since I have seen many of you. I have really been missing the social interaction with other people during these long months and when the rules were relaxed a little and the government gave us an inch – well I wanted a mile! However I am doing my very best to stay within the rules and guidelines.

I hope and pray that the majority of you have avoided this dreadful virus and the same for your families, however, I do know that the virus has affected a few of our members some directly and some indirectly via family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

It has been very difficult for many of our members who have loved ones in nursing and care homes and also in hospital because there was literally no contact and then a slight easing of access but it feels like we are standing on a precipice and at any time another lockdown will be upon us. (I am writing this letter two weeks before you will receive it so a number of things might have changed by then!)

I am always saying church life continues to change and adapt through the years but who would have thought we would have to change so much and so quickly in the last six months. However what I would say is that a number of things in the church will probably change both nationally and locally and I have a few new ideas for restructuring the Kirk Session and the duties of elders and I will be seeking their opinion, and yours, on this matter as well. I can't tell you any more as of yet as I

need to discuss this with the Kirk Session first and they may throw the whole idea out the window!

Another change for East and Old is that I have been asked to accept a gentleman from Dundee who is in the discernment phase of his journey in the ministry. Neil will be with us in East and Old for three months and you will see him at one or two worship services and possibly on some home visits also.

Some people may be finding our new format in the church strange and even uncomfortable because of the distancing, masks and no singing to name a few and over these many, many years the church has adapted and changed thousands of times but it was never done in an instant – it took lots of time over many years. I know that the members of East and Old are good at adapting (well you need to be with me as your minister) and I am sure we will adapt to these changes like we have to many others. Just think of the joy and delight it will be when we adapt and change again in the future and we can see people's faces and sing our much loved hymns as well as having tea and coffee after the service.

Just remember that the changes we have made are to protect and keep our members safe and although every one of us has made changes over the last 6 months, God has not changed. God is with us constantly supplying us with love and grace like always.

I am so looking forward to seeing you at some point soon

Every blessing to you and your families.

Your friend and minister

Barbara Ann





It has been so long since I wrote anything for our magazine but I am glad to say things are getting back to a little bit more of normality – whatever that means in today’s climate. We held a worship service on Sunday 30th August for the elders just so that both myself and the elders could see what was what with the new formats. We were happy with all the safeguards that have been put in place – well happy that they work but not how it all looks! I certainly did not enjoy the service that particular Sunday and I asked for feedback from the elders who were mostly supportive but also gave me some thoughts to digest. However, we immediately broke the rules by me asking them for comments because they had to raise their voices so that I could hear their answers – that is not allowed. Since this service I have cut down on the time of the service and put more visual images up on the screens so that I am talking less as well. Because we are not allowed to sing that means we do not stand which then in turns means you are seated for 30-35 minutes – that is too long – so we now stand to pray! Our children and youths will be returning to church after the October holidays and we will really enjoy seeing and hearing from them again.

At this present time the Kirk Session took the decision to allow people to come to church on a first come basis but if more than 50 people turn up to each service then some of the elders will go home. If any of our members cannot get access because our numbers have gone above 50 at a service then they will be given first place the following week. Depending on our numbers we may go to a booking system.

As you are aware the rules, regulations and guidance that are being issued by the Scottish Government change quite a bit and sometimes it is so difficult to keep up with it. However the national church has guidance from the government but they go hand in hand with guidance from other organisations also. So for example at the time

of this issue going to press, the new rules in Scotland mean that you **must not** meet people from any other households in your home or another person's home socially – this unfortunately means that **Barbara Ann is currently not allowed to visit people in their homes.** You can meet people outside, in your garden or a public space, in groups of up to 6 people from no more than 2 households (not counting under-12s). There are a few exceptions to these rules and thankfully church worship services are allowed with appropriate Covid-19 precautions in place. The Church and its halls can only be used for worship and organised youth activities like Sunday School, Boys Brigade and regulated child care such as Chimes playgroup.



We have a wedding in the church on 17th October - these can now take place in the church for a maximum of 20 people which excludes the minister, the church beadle and the organist if music is required. This may change again over the coming weeks.

Teas and coffees after morning worship are a bit of a hit and miss! We were allowed, then we were not and we were allowed again but each table needs to be 2 metres apart, each table can only have two households at it at the moment plus another few regulations – needless to say we won't be starting teas and coffees after church until the rules are relaxed a bit more. Anyway I don't want to go on about what we can and cannot do just come along on a Sunday morning and join your church friends as we once again worship God together as a faith community.

Sunday 20th September was our first public worship service in six months with services at 9:00am and 11:00am. At the early service we had 36 people and at the 11:00am service we had 32 people so plenty of space for those who would like to come along. Remember our elders will give up spaces if we reach our maximum numbers. The service was well received and enjoyed by those who attended.

Online and telephone line - At present we have decided to keep the online services and telephone line services running. It is giving me quite a bit of extra work in front of the computer which means it impacts on how often I can go out and about. I put up the online services and telephone services every Sunday and Wednesday. The online service is on Facebook which is linked to our web page also. You don't need to be a Facebook member to watch the online services as it is a public page – just type in Facebook – East and Old Church. Our **dedicated telephone line number is 01307 490405**. The services on these two platforms will differ from the Sunday services in the church building.



**25th October with services
at 9:00am, 11:00am, 2:30pm and 6:30pm.**

The wine and wafer will be on your seats in a pre-sealed container which we have sourced and we hope you will come along to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. There will be **no communion cards** delivered and we ask you not to bring any communion cards if you have them as we have the track and trace system in place.



Remembrance Sunday - the services on **8th November** will be at 9:00am and 2:30pm and there will also be a service online.



On a happier note! - Thank you, thank you, thank you to the members of East and Old who responded to our plea for money whether it was dropping in your offering envelopes or getting us to pick them up, changing over to standing orders at the

bank or making a gift donation to the church. Many members donated £500, £1000, £3000 and £5000 donations to help boost our funds. Our biggest payment is to the national church where we pay approximately £8000 per month and that still had to be paid. The shortfall was due to no money coming in through the offering plate and no fundraising.

A huge and massive thank you must go to our friends in Dubendorf and Schwerzenback Church in Switzerland who at their Kirk Session meeting agreed to send us 5000CHF which is £4200 to help us stay afloat and pay our bills. Sadly we hear a few people saying the church is always looking for money but without money coming in to cover all the bills there will be no church. Once again we raise the point that some people pay £5 per week for the offering and we are very grateful for that but how long have you been £5 per week? 5 years, 10 years or even longer! What £5 paid for 10 years ago does not give the same value and that is why we fundraise in the Kirk and it is not just East and Old – all churches need to fundraise to pay the bills.

During lockdown and as the restrictions were lifted lots has been happening in the church (not the church building – remember the church is the people not the building).

The weekly Sunday and Wednesday services and reflections have been well received with an average of over 300 people every week watching both. Input from many of our members online and from our friends in Hungary and Switzerland. The new dedicated phone line for the church was set up so people could listen to the services and the new way of working is of course over Zoom! The Book Club were first to set up



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their meetings on Zoom, followed by the Kirk Session, the Groovy Gryphon and Echo Teens leaders, the Music Café and then the Wee Blether.

Thank you to the elders of the Kirk for doing their best to keep in contact with our members and delivering a few items of information through our member's letterboxes. Over and above that learning how to connect to Zoom and taking part in meetings online.

For a bit of fun a few of the members got dressed up in their own homes and mimed the words to Dancing Queen by Abba. Matthew who is a 'whizz kid' on the computer put it all together and came up with a great video of it. Sadly Facebook informed us that we were in breach of copyright and we had to take it down. Watch out for the new video that Matthew is putting together at this present time – 'The Jokers of East and Old'.



Kiltwalk – Raising funds for MND.
Last year a number of our members signed up to take part in this year's Kiltwalk in August but sadly it had to be cancelled like

most things. However the organisers suggested they could do the walk in other ways in their own local areas. So in July some of the team took up the challenge to walk the 25 miles in a different way whilst still observing the social distancing rules. Many people sponsored the team both in person and online and they raised £4000.

The Hunter Foundation agreed to donate 50% on top of this taking the amount to £6000 but once the numbers came in and the foundation noticed there was less money raised they said they would match the fund raising pound for pound **so our team raised £8000 for MND! Well done everyone.**



Foodbank Donations – at one of the Sunday services Barbara Ann spoke about the story of the feeding the 5000. At the end of the service she asked people to come along to the church to drop off food donations for a two course meal which would be given to the Foodbank and boy oh boy did you respond! There were bags and bags of food for breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks and drinks which the Foodbank were very grateful for.

The Creative Bunch : facemasks, laundry bags, hearts, hats and cardigans – many of our members during the lockdown took to making items that were needed at that time. Nurses needed to change clothes before leaving the hospital so some of our ladies made many, many laundry bags for them to put their clothes into.



Knitted hearts were made in pairs so that people in hospital could have a knitted heart and their relative could have one as well so to keep them connected when they couldn't see each other. Members in our church have always knitted hats and cardigans for the neo-natal unit at Ninewells and this has also continued. And then latterly our members started making face masks for people to have – who would have thought we would have needed a few face masks because they are in the washing machine or being hand washed often.

Shopping, hospital appointments, telephone calls, visits etc – again our members rose to the challenge of helping not only other members of the church but people in the community also by shopping – there are a few funny stories about that! Members were taken to hospital appointments, so many people were phoning each other or randomly phoning people they had not seen or heard from for a while and our minister when she was out for her daily walk, would ring a doorbell of some of our members, step back and have a wee chat.

PRAYER GROUP



Hi everyone, yes many of us are still in some kind of simple lockdown, not yet fully outgoing in the community, so what has been happening in the Prayer group since we can't yet meet together as a group.

Since going into lockdown due to the virus way back in March we've agreed to join together in Prayer not in the church, but separately in our own homes at 11:00am every Wednesday for at least one hour, then we listen to the mid-week Facebook reflection service and the church web page. We would be delighted to know if anybody else is joining us at that time too!

So please feel free to join us in prayer each week.

We normally begin with Praise for the good things that are happening even though we have restrictions due to the virus. So rejoice in the fact that we are still realising God is still in control and we rejoice in His presence and guidance as we pray.

After opening praise for God's guidance and goodness we continue to remember in prayer our church members, those in our congregation who are unwell or need help in some way and also for our Minister Barbara Ann Sweetin, as she continues to minister to us online, and through pastoral visits etc.

Following this we remember people and concerns in our community, and the work of our congregation in the community. As we prepare for our hour of prayer, some of our members listen to the news and read the press and keep in mind issues countrywide which require our thought and prayers, following this we move on to worldwide needs and issues concerning the continued spread of the Coronavirus, praying for a vaccine to wipe it out worldwide.

We know we have a powerful God who can and will make this happen if we faithfully pray. So please join us to pray, anytime, any hour.

The prayer group will continue to pray every Wednesday at 11:00am in our own homes until we can gather in the church once more.

The Groovy Gryphons and Echo Teens would like to share their thoughts and feelings about Lockdown since March.

GROOVY GRYPHONS

Jack (age 11) - When school closed and football stopped I really missed seeing my friends. I was given tickets for my birthday to go and see Disney on Ice in April, but that was cancelled which I was very sad about. I was also going with my family to London in April to see my Gran and Grandad but that was cancelled too. I haven't seen them face to face for a long time, but it's good to see them on the computer and speak to them. I am happy to be back at school now and see my friends. In May Molly and I got a baby rabbit, he is all white and is called Murphy.

Jemma (age 10) - When lockdown started I was not that bothered because I thought it would only last for a few weeks and then everything would go back to normal. At first I was able to go to school 2 days a week as my Mum and Dad are keyworkers. On the other days it was good as I was able to have a long lie. I missed lots of my friends who did not go to school when I was there! I played in the garden and went out for walks and in the beginning I found it very difficult to stay away from my friends but then it became the norm just like the schoolwork. I really missed getting my hair done and my fringe kept going into my eyes! The saddest part of lockdown was that my grandad was unwell and then went into hospital. He then died and I became a big help to my grandma. In the Summer holidays I was out playing on my bike and I fell off, I hurt my hand but it's ok now. I really like that school is open again.

Stephanie (age 10)

I liked being at home and like watching You Tube videos. I'm sad that I can't go to gymnastics right now. I was looking forward to going to England to see my Auntie Pauline, she has 2 dogs called Toby and Milo, I like taking them for walks, but Lockdown meant we couldn't go. I am missing church and seeing the Groovy Gryphon leaders and children.

ECHO TEENS

Alana Since lockdown I have been able to spend more time with my Dad helping on the farm dealing with the cattle. It has really opened my eyes to how busy and important farmers are.

Erin I liked the school being closed to start with, but after a few weeks it became boring. I really liked being able to do home schooling in my pyjamas. Sometimes I lacked motivation as I wasn't physically in the classroom with my school mates or the teacher. I was really annoyed and upset when my trip to London with my Mum was cancelled in the Easter holidays, we are hoping to go next year. One thing that was good about lockdown was my keyboard classes never stopped, they were changed to be on Zoom!

Jacqueline I didn't like when the school closed, home schooling was terrible. I really missed the Royal Highland Show this year, I have been going to this with my Mum and Dad every year for as long as I can remember. I am glad school is open again, I am now in 4th Year at Forfar Academy.

Molly Life for me has changed through lockdown as I've not been able to see my family, especially as most of them live in Inverness. When my grandad died, I found it really hard as I hadn't seen him since new year and I would've seen him in Glasgow because he booked us tickets to see Disney On Ice but that got cancelled. That would've been the last time I would've seen him!

I found lockdown hard as well because I wasn't able to see my friends. I found that really difficult because I was so used to seeing them everyday at school. When I'm around my friends, it cures my boredom but all through lockdown I was just so bored. Not being able to go places like Dundee etc, was really boring!

Leader Joyce - I was furloughed from my work for 6 weeks, starting work again in the middle of May. All staff have been provided with a laptop to work from home, this has saved me a small fortune on fuel as I am based in Montrose. Like the children I have also had a few holidays and days out cancelled, however we did manage to get away to Pitlochry in August for a long weekend which was great, spending time with the family and visiting the Queen's View and Blair Castle.

RETIREMENT



We had hoped to hold a special thanksgiving service to thank **Captain Irene Duthie** for all her hard work, loyalty, commitment and dedication to 2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade Company over many long years of service as she was

due to retire when the boys came off for their Summer break.

Needless to say the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown put paid to this opportunity to give Captain Duthie the recognition due by the many who came under her wing attending the Boys' Brigade.

The congregation, current and past officers, leaders, boys and their parents wish Captain Duthie a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Congratulations!

Birthdays and Anniversaries - there have been many, many special birthdays and anniversaries during the lockdown and some of them were recorded while others were missed.

We tried to keep on top of it but we would like to say congratulations to those who have had special birthdays (ending in a 0) and special anniversaries (silver, pearl, ruby, golden and diamond).

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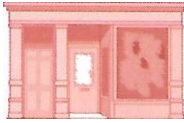
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Coronavirus and the Church in Switzerland



On March 17th, 2020 Church life came to a halt. Gatherings of more than 5 people were not allowed.

Home visits were cancelled. I can't speak for all of Switzerland because in this federalistic country every canton has its own laws and measures, but I can share some of our experiences in Canton Zurich.

Strict lockdown measures lasted for 10 weeks. On Pentecost services resumed but with Coronavirus restrictions, such as contact information, social distance seating, masks, no singing, open doors and windows. During the 10 weeks without physical services we experienced an outpouring of solidarity and creativity in our otherwise traditional and conservative society. The will to help the isolated elderly and the young families struggling with home office and home-schooling at the same time was enormous. In the city of Zurich, Church social workers organized a network of 4000 volunteers to run errands for the elderly within days. In my own parish of 8000 members, we involved our 5 visitation groups in calling all members over the age of 80 to chat and ask if they needed help or a talk with one of the ministers - we spent hours on the phone. A lot of pastoral care took place via WhatsApp. One man with terminal cancer spoke with me regularly and told me his life's story on WhatsApp. When hospitalised and in his last hours, his wife called me and put the speaker on for me to say a prayer. In one of the nursing homes a social worker in charge of activities asked me for liturgies so they could hold short services for the elderly as pastors were not allowed access. Later, small visiting spaces were improvised. We used these spaces for serving residents individual communion. With nursing home services resumed (but with social distanced seating) we now hold the same short service twice in a row.

Many congregations livestreamed church services every Sunday morning. We did as well and learned very fast from the feedback received - we were amazed at the number of viewers. People usually

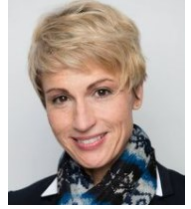
preferred to attend the amateur services of their own congregations to watching more professional services on TV. It made them feel like part of a community. Many were thankful and hoped that we would continue livestreaming after physical services resumed, but the church session found the complexities of arranging musicians and technicians were too cost-prohibitive. We don't have the kind of space or equipment in our main church that would be conducive to livestreaming and in our smaller church the WLAN is not stable - so many technical hurdles!

In the city of Zurich a local TV station filmed a service from different churches each week and aired it on Sunday. But many churches streamed anyway. New formats were developed – shorter, outdoors, with rituals, with special music, creative. While we experimented in new digital rooms, we tried to stay in touch with people who can't connect on the internet. We sent Easter cards to all members over 65, a Christian children's magazine to all families with children and wrote a pastoral letter to everyone in the nursing homes. It was a blow to our youth work to have to cancel all activities, lessons and retreats. When we did an outdoor Sunday School parcours for families before Pentecost, there was a big turnout. Our planned evening with an expert for ecology politics with a panel discussion was turned it into a ZOOM conference and had more participation than we may have had otherwise. Besides that, it was an ecological and economical way to reach a lot of people in different places. It was a great experience. But we all agree that nothing replaces physical encounters.

During Lockdown I had several Skype meetings with couples who were planning their weddings - several had to postpone because of Coronavirus. At present I have a wedding almost every Saturday with groups of up to 100 allowed. If social distance seating is not possible, the contact data has to be collected. At funerals we issue facemasks and hum more than we sing. In spite of these restrictions, some find the services to be more meaningful and the song lyrics on PowerPoint slides. Those who were against using the projector before have

changed their minds - hearing the melody, reading the words silently and humming gives the song new meaning.

Thinking back to how it was before and how things have changed, I feel hopeful. The Church is capable of hearing the cry of the people and responding in a brave, loving and reflective way. "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."



Catherine McMillan Hauéis

Minister in the Protestant Reformed Church in Dübendorf-Schwerzenbach, Switzerland

"We self-isolated from March 16th and kept to a daily routine, getting up early, walking round Lunanhead village & Benzil, watching the farming seasons change, meeting Forfar rambblers, dog-walkers, bikers, runners, wild life (1st red kite). Esther knitted fish, sewed masks and NHS washbags and baked scones & cakes, hence her fear of standing on the scales. Our medical appointments were cancelled till August, but local volunteers delivered prescriptions. Tesco and Asda delivered groceries while food from North St Dairy and fresh-laid eggs from Hatton of Carse were much appreciated. We think Nicola Sturgeon and Jason Leitch are great on daily briefings. We've been catching up on DIY projects in the house, garden and drive. We've missed the weekly church services, but Barbara Ann's online reflections, wee blether & Music cafe have been a blessing. We had weekly Zoom meetings with family, but it wasn't the same as being able to meet up with them again in person especially our grandchildren. They all hosted an open-air distanced party for our Golden wedding. They've been a great support and helped us to stay in good health. We have not missed pubs and eating places during lockdown although we do appreciate the struggle businesses are having. We have had each other for mutual support and feel for those who are facing this pandemic alone."

Esther & Bob Kidd

Reflections on lockdown from a teacher's perspective

"Lockdown started for me on 20th March when the schools closed. It had been a really stressful week as I had tried my best to fit in as many of my senior pupils' talking exams as possible in every non-contact period, lunchbreak and after school.

The first few weeks were very stressful as my colleagues' stresses and anxieties rubbed off on me, we spent a lot of time researching new teaching methods, making up resources and navigating MS Teams, which was now our main teaching platform. I was worried about the pupils – those not engaging and who just thought this was an extended holiday, those with major mental health issues, those bereaved, those left home alone while their parents went to work for the NHS.

But I soon adapted and work from home had its advantages: I didn't have a half hour commute, I saved a fortune in petrol, and I was no longer restricted by a bell to visit the bathroom or make a cup of tea! Then in April I had my first job interview via video call. It was strange putting on my best clothes, going through all the preparations and then sitting down at my kitchen table! I got the job but finished the summer term at school so I had 3 months to get used to the idea of not returning to my "old" normal. I started my new office based job in August, from home. I have never met most of my new colleagues in person and I don't know when I will as I continue to work from home for the foreseeable future while the offices remain closed. Six months ago I could never have imagined how different my life would be now. "

Budapest Zugló Church



Many greetings to you from Budapest-Zugló church! Though our last meeting with you was almost two years ago, please be sure that we think of you in our prayers and keep watching East & Old Facebook messages twice a week.

The pandemic has changed many of our traditions and church customs - it reached Hungary on March 4 and already by Sunday March 8 one could feel that it may be the last ordinary Sunday for a

while. The church building closed on March 15 and this was an awkward feeling knowing that even in the worst years of “communism” (1950s) this had never happened. For a while all attendable church events got cancelled, but activities got incredible momentum on the internet.

We now have four ministers who serve in the congregation, (János, Noémi, Áron and Gyöngyi) but they don't all take turns to preach on Sundays on a regular basis. However, in these extraordinary times the ministers decided to record the Sunday worship in advance, which they made available on YouTube on Sunday mornings. This way, the worships got downloaded as many as 500-1,000 times, which is more than the number of our usual churchgoers. Our church newsletter was printed in May and many copies were personally delivered to our members. Also several Zoom meetings were held for Bible study during this period.

Communion in its traditional way was not possible, however, Easter communion became very special. Hungarian state TV televised a service by one of our bishops (moderator), and in this service he had communion with his close family. As in the church press people were informed of this in advance, families could prepare for this with bread and wine at home and follow the communion of the TV service. In my family we did the same and this single occasion may have had the largest number of Communion participants ever in the Hungarian Reformed church, in Hungary and Romania, Slovakia, etc.

The confirmation worship in May was cancelled too, but it is now going to be held on October 4. As the official pandemic figures got better and first wave seemed to be passing, there was more hope to return to “normality” for the summer at least for some relief. We are very grateful to God that state and church authorities allowed church buildings to be opened again at the end of May. Like each Calvinist congregation in Hungary, we also had to create our defence regulation that is still in force (wearing masks, disinfecting hands, etc.). Since May 31 we have three worships on Sundays (8:00am, 10:00am, 12noon) instead of the traditional two. No communion has been held since February and much to my regret choir practices also stopped abruptly in March.

The old school year changed radically from March 16, when schools closed and teachers, parents and children all found themselves among

the challenges of digital education. Many parents who have office work continued in home office, which caused more conflicts in the families, but such stories are not truly Hungarian, but quite the same in the UK or internationally.

The new school year started on September 1 with traditional education. However this may change as the number of new Covid-19 cases is on the rise and we are in a second wave. Hungary's borders have been closed since September 1 for non-Hungarian passport holders and Hungarians must obey the quarantine and testing regulations, when they enter. Like Barbara Ann said, we are in the middle of running a marathon and have no idea, when it is over.

Once again, thank you for your prayers for Zugló church and we also share your joy on September 20, when you can first enter your church building after so many months. I also trust that 2021 will bring us the opportunity to meet in person again and enjoy face-to-face meetings with you all.



Every blessing, **Mihály Kovács**
elder, organist

Billy Sweetin

"I must admit that the Covid-19 lockdown has not really affected me a great deal. I continued to drive the hearse and go out my daily walks. The most important aspect of the lockdown for me was not seeing my family. I missed going to church and socialising with my friends there but one of the best parts of the lockdown was that I got to be with Barbara Ann much more and especially in the evenings when she would normally be out at meetings or speaking engagements. The only new hobby I took up (well that was because Barbara Ann took it up) was jigsaws. You are not going to believe this but Barbara Ann and I disagreed on the best way to find pieces! The jigsaws were family photographs that Barbara Ann managed to organise and we started with 500 pieces and worked up 1000 pieces. We still have 3 jigsaws to complete. When we were on our daily walk during lockdown I also stopped to say hi to some of our members as we passed their

house and became Barbara Ann's cameraman as she recorded the reflections for the online material - I am really glad you didn't see the out-takes! I was also the one from the house who did the shopping at the supermarket every three days or so which meant I could buy what I wanted!"

Barbara Ann Sweetin

"Lockdown changed just about everything for me! No church, no meetings, no family visits, no cuddles from my grandson, no road trips, a steep learning curve in many aspects of work life, only going out 1 hour a day for a walk, not eating out, not socialising, no fundraising activities, no hairdresser, no back massages, no facials, no trips to M&S and I could keep going on! However, there have been many positives during lockdown! I spent more time with Billy (well mostly positive!), not going out in the evenings (fabulous), not travelling to Edinburgh or Glasgow for meetings, took up two new hobbies - a fat blaster class three times a week online and a hula hoop class once a week and secondly jigsaws. Billy and I took walks most days before lockdown, during lockdown and after lockdown. Learning to film and edit the clips that I put on Facebook and the web page was a big learning curve as was deciding what the right material would be. Zoom is my new word for 2020 because a lot of my meetings are now on Zoom but they are much shorter than face to face meetings. Some of these things will remain while others will not but we are definitely in a 'new norm' now."

"The Covid-19 lockdown has been extremely challenging due to the restrictions on visiting loved ones and close friends and it will have taken its toll on many of us.

Low points included the inability to visit relatives in hospital and then be faced with restricted numbers at their funeral - a time when you need the support of all loved ones at your side.

Technology eased the physical restrictions and we all probably spoke more on the telephone and perhaps learned to use computer applications such as Skype and Zoom to check-in with family, friends and colleagues. For many the joy of cuddling their grand-children after so many months apart was the absolute high of these unprecedented times"

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

February	14	Elizabeth (Betty) Willox	<i>(member)</i>
April	2	Annie Dewar	<i>(member)</i>
	4	Patricia (Pattie) Davidson	<i>(parish)</i>
	5	Vina McLaren	<i>(member)</i>
	20	Minnie Copland	<i>(member)</i>
	22	Edward (Eddie) Watson	<i>(member)</i>
May	2	Charles Robb	<i>(member)</i>
	4	Edward (Ed) Milne	<i>(member)</i>
	10	May Sutherland	<i>(member)</i>
	21	Neil Pringle	<i>(member)</i>
June	2	Douglas Thomson	<i>(member)</i>
	6	Jean Pirie	<i>(member)</i>
	9	Andrew (Andy) Duncan	<i>(member)</i>
July	8	Marlene Sim	<i>(member)</i>
August	19	William Baird	<i>(parish)</i>
	22	Alan Garrick	<i>(member)</i>
September	8	Mabel Taylor	<i>(member)</i>





MINISTRY OF FLOWERS



For those of you who paid for their flowers in advance for any of the Sundays when the church was closed (due to the Coronavirus pandemic), a full refund will be available unless you wish to carry forward the money for your flowers next year.

The 2021 Flower Calendar will be situated in the church foyer from December.

If Catriona Milne has not already been in touch with you regarding this, she will be shortly.

4 OCT	Margaret Myles	8 NOV	Irene Duthie
11 "	Liz Nicoll	15 "	Lorraine Dick
18 "	Ruth Stewart	22 "	Marion Birse
25 "	Isobel Farquharson	29 "	J & M Herron
1 NOV	CJ Milne & J Gair	6 - 27 DEC - FLOWER GROUP	

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

NEXT ISSUE OF STEEPLE TIMES

The deadline for submission of articles for the **DECEMBER 2020** issue is

15th NOVEMBER 2020

Material can be given / sent to the Editor or e-mail **steepletimeseditor@gmail.com**

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 	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 The Boy's Brigade	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
Friends of Forfar East & Old	Barbara Ann Sweetin	01307 464935
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 462053
Minibus Hire	William Sweetin	01307 248228