

INSPIRE

EAST, OLD & INVERARITY
PARISH MAGAZINE



Issue 2: Summer 2024



EAST, OLD and INVERARITY PARISH



Services of Public Worship:

✝ **EAST & OLD: Every Sunday at 11:15am**

✝ **INVERARITY: Every Sunday at 9:45am**

Additional service:

✝ **First Sunday of the month: Breakfast Service
9:30am at East and Old Church**

Locum Minister:

The Rev. Malcolm Rooney

Tel: 07909993233

e-mail: **malc.rooney@gmail.com**

Interim Moderator:

The Rev John Orr

The Glens and Kirriemuir United

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Church E-mail:	eoiparish@yahoo.co.uk
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A message from John Orr – Interim Moderator

Dealing with Presbytery processes can be a frustrating experience, and even more so when an error is made. I've no doubt there is plenty of speculation about why the vacancy process seems to have stalled, but the answer lies in a simple oversight by Presbytery. However, it has had a positive benefit. The hiccup highlighted the fact that there had been little consultation with the Kirk Session about the vacancy. This has now been remedied and, following a recent meeting, both the Session and Presbytery are clearer about the goals to be achieved. Another benefit is that we were able to make representations about the buildings at Inverarity and I understand that the situation has been clarified and there is now no issue, from Presbytery's perspective, to keeping both buildings. Of course, '121' needs to be on side and it is hoped that they too will agree with Presbytery's decision. The vacancy process will resume after the next Presbytery meeting in June.

In the meantime, Malcolm has been guiding us through various changes and proposals that will bring long-term benefits to East, Old and Inverarity parish (EOI). These will see changes in responsibilities to ensure smooth day-to-day running of the congregations' work. They will lay foundations for developing missional work in both Forfar and Inverarity. They will encourage greater engagement with the Sunday services for those who are perhaps unable to attend church. Look out for these initiatives and give them your practical and prayerful support. I believe they will be of great benefit in making the charge of EOI even more attractive to a new minister.

Please do get in touch if you have any concerns about the current status of the vacancy and the ongoing work of EOI.

*Every blessing,
John
(Interim Moderator)*

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Organ Recital at Inverarity

Lionel Steuart Fotheringham's latest Organ Recital at Inverarity Church



in early March was attended by 110 music lovers.

He is Director of Music at Dundee High School and his virtuosity on the keyboard delighted everyone present. Thanks go to all involved in the event,

especially the catering, including host David Pate and Rev Malcolm Rooney who proposed the thanks. The evening raised a profit of £900.

Boys Brigade and Girls Association

Since the last edition of Inspire we have been busy with many different things: Egyptians and Hieroglyphics, Mother's Day and Easter crafts, planting bulbs, Earth Day, Rain, exploring by torchlight and lipreading to name but a few, as well as the normal marching, games and Dodge Ball.



Anchors and Juniors enjoyed an informative evening with the animals at Newton Farm before the Easter break.

We are now preparing for:

Parents Evening on Thursday 30th May at 6:30pm, when the boys and girls will be presented with badges gained throughout the session and have a bit of fun too.

The following evening, Juniors and Company depart for Craggan Outdoor Centre near Killin for their weekend camp. Company Section have also been invited by the 30th Dundee to participate in their canvas camp in July. Our final evening is 6th June — a Party with Chloe for the Anchors, while the others watch a film.

We hope everyone has a lovely summer break and look forward to welcoming old and new members when we resume in August, date to be confirmed.

Inverarity Sunday School

The children have been learning about God's wonderful world with our locum minister Rev Malcolm Rooney. We started off at the service in Inverarity Church to mark spring when we coloured pictures. Then we learned about the important work that bees do. Last week we learned about the life cycle of the butterfly.

We are looking forward to our prize-giving service at Inverarity church on Sunday 2nd June. In the afternoon we will hold our annual picnic at the RDA Riding School by kind permission of Mrs Elinor Phillips.

Sunday School will continue as usual over the school holidays.



Since the last newsletter, the book group have read...

The Herd by Emily Edwards. Elizabeth and Bryony are polar opposites, but their friendship has always worked. They are best friends and godmothers to each other's daughters – because both women trust that their children's safety is a top priority. Little do they know that they differ radically over one very important issue. That issue is vaccinations. A powerful story that the group all enjoyed, and provided a very thought-provoking discussion.

The Nightingale by Kirsten Hannah. This tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France. A heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit. A good insight to what it was like during the occupation of France for those left behind when loved ones went to war. It documents the horrors of this occupation and the risks the resistance movement took to help allies escape. Another inspiring read for the group.

The Survivors by Jane Harper. The Survivors, a standalone mystery, is set on the Tasmanian coast. Kieran Elliott's life changed forever on a single day when a reckless mistake led to devastating consequences. The guilt that still haunts him resurfaces during a visit with his young family to the small coastal community he once called home. This book will be discussed in May.

If you would like to join our book group., give Linda Spence a call on 07709 652952.



We would like to thank everyone who helped us raise **£209.70** at our last Preloved is Reloved sale at Inverarity in March. At our Celebrating Spring Service, the children were pleased to give the cheque to Elinor from Angus Riding for the Disabled towards the upkeep of Jeannie the pony.

Our next Preloved is Reloved sale will be held in Inverarity Kirk in early September – check the website calendar nearer the time.



On Friday 15th March, the children from P6T at Langlands Primary School came down and took over our Heat Hub. They set up lots of fun games for everyone to play and it was lovely seeing the church so busy.

The end of winter Heat Hub was celebrated with an Easter cake and party, on Friday 29th March. Thank you to all who volunteered over the colder months to enable the Heat Hub to run.

Family Worker Report

Our Fun Morning on the 19th of Feb was a great success - around 90 to 100 children and their families took part, the social team providing a delicious lunch welcomed by all.

Both Baby Blether and Toddler Time are very well attended and it's lovely to see lots of new people joining.

Easter Holiday trips to Newton Farm and Murton were well attended and the children as well as their parents/carers all had lots of fun. Our thanks go to Angus Council for helping to fund these trips.



During **Volunteer Week** (commencing 3rd June) we will be hosting an Afternoon Cuppie and Cake on **Friday 7th June at 2:30pm**. Invites will be sent to all volunteers throughout the church.

I would like to say a BIG thankyou to all the wonderful volunteers who make the groups run smoothly with their help - it is very much appreciated.

Sheila Whitelaw



Many thanks to all who contributed to our Lent Projects this year.

Inverarity Sunday School's Water Aid Project raised just over £130, and East & Old Church's "Pounds for Lent" event made over £185.

We are delighted to be able to donate the combined total of **£325** to the WaterAid charity.



MUSIC CAFÉ - Our Music Café held every Monday afternoon in the Social Area at East and Old church has a strong following. We recently enjoyed a lovely celebration cake and sang Happy Birthday to Wilma and Lily, who was also celebrating her 63rd wedding anniversary. Around twenty people regularly attend the café where we have a lively singing session with keyboard or recorded musical accompaniment - favourite hymns, songs from shows, old ballads, Scottish or wartime, all words in large print. There's a half-time tea-break to ease the throats, then on till 3:15pm. You'll get a warm welcome, a social get-together and a singalong with refreshments – come and join in - no charge!



Twinning Events

Over 45 people attended the Community Team's successful Twinning Evening on 12th April. This great social event was to raise awareness of a more than 10 years' working partnership with our friends in Budapest and Zurich.

Bob Kidd said grace before a delicious 2-course meal of Hungarian Goulash and Swiss apple strudel prepared by the Team. During tea and coffee, Karen Liddle gave a presentation on the links between East & Old (and now Inverarity!), Zuglo church in Budapest, and Dubendorf / Schwerzenbach churches near Zurich.

We joined our Hungarian friends live via video call from Budapest, including Zuglo members at a weekend youth camp. They sang for us in an impressive performance! Git was good to chat with them all. Entertainment followed with our fabulous musical group Accord singing Swiss themed songs to get our toes tapping. Thanks to Elizabeth for accompanying them on the piano.

Our knowledge of Hungary was put to the test with a quiz by Sheena Benvie. We were glad of the multiple-choice options as there were tricky questions and Sheena did well at pronouncing Hungarian. Lots of photos and funny stories were shared of the various trips abroad and of when we welcomed our visitors to Forfar. We now look forward to more visits to and from our international friends.

Inverarity 'Celebrating Spring' Service and Heritage Display

Inverarity Church changed things up a bit holding their Spring Sunday



Service on 21st April in the afternoon. They had a good turn out with many East and Old members attending also. Afterwards, folks were able to learn about the history of Inverarity Church and 100 years of Inverarity Women's Rural Institute (WRI) at the Heritage

Display in the church. Local historian Shaun Wilson was there along with WRI members to answer any questions and tea and coffee was served in the hall.



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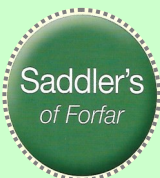
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Souper Fridays at Inverarity Hall

A very successful start to Souper Friday at Inverarity Hall on Friday 26th April. It ran from 12noon to 2pm with three tasty soup choices, attractive tables with cloths and daffodils plus tea/coffee & biscuits.

A good crowd attended with lots of chat, children and social mixing.

Thanks to the team who cooked, laid out and served! At time of going to press, our second Souper Friday was about to take place on 31st May.



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T tractor Road Run at Inverarity

On Sunday 5th May, over 30 vintage tractors from Angus and Aberdeenshire took part in the annual road run organised by retired lorry driver Dave Findlay in aid of Motor Neurone Disease (MND). They started and finished at Pickerton on the Forfar to Montrose Road, on a 36-mile circuit through Guthrie and Redford, stopping for a lunchbreak at Inverarity Church Hall. Drivers and spectators enjoyed refreshments there, donating the fantastic sum of **£151.95 for the MND** charity.



We recently held our last folk group before the summer break and again enjoyed a lovely evening of music and entertainment with performances from Linda Clark, husband and wife singers Richard and Carol, John and Brian, Bob and Val, Kirstin on the fiddle, Alf Birse pairing up in various duos with John Young, Bill Carr and Ruth Stewart. We also had Brian Batson reading his poetry.

Special thanks to all the performers and the behind-the-scenes helpers, who make these evenings such a success - we have raised **£1400 towards church funds since September**. The Folk Evenings will resume again in September – check the website calendar for future dates.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS - East and Old Church Grounds

Please be reminded there is currently no parking permitted in the grounds of East and Old Church except for 'Blue Badge' holders attending church events. If you have any concerns or questions regarding these restrictions, please contact our Administrator at **eoiparish@yahoo.com**

Chips and Quiz Night

The social team arranged a successful “Chips and Quiz Night” on Friday 17th May in the social area with over forty in attendance. After the suppers, the quiz was run by Bob with lots of multiple-choice questions. There were eight rounds on various subjects, with a break



for tea & coffee halfway through. The results were very close for the first three team prizes. A vote of thanks to the quizmaster and the organising team was given by Ian Stewart for a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Although this was not a fundraising event, the sum of **£182** was collected which is to be forwarded on to the Christian Aid appeal.

EAST & OLD GUILD

The Guild Coffee morning held on 23rd March was a great success and raised £556 - an excellent total - thank you.

April 2024 – We had a change of entertainment for the closing social and we thank Ken Orrock and Alf Birse for stepping in at the last minute - they were marvellous and everyone enjoyed the cuppa and cake afterwards. We had a get-together in May to finalise our summer outing, which will be on Wednesday 26th June.

This year we hope to get together once a month just for a cuppa and to keep in touch.

Before our new session starts on 2nd October, the Guild will be taking the Sunday service on 15th September to celebrate ‘Guild week’, when Guilds all over Scotland will be taking part in church services.

We wish you a happy summer and if you are interested, why not come

along to our meetings. We are a group of men and women and always ready to meet new friends to share fellowship and God's word. We meet in the social area of East and Old church at 2pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month from October to April with a break for Christmas and the cold month of January. So if you would like to come along to our **opening social on 2nd October**, you will be made most welcome.



INVERARITY GUILD

Lillian Carnegie welcomed all to our meeting on 17th March. Speaker, Tim Podger, trainee minister, gave an illustrated talk of how his life had evolved. He grew up in the south of England, then attended Newcastle University, where he studied Chemical and Processing Engineering. Following this, he gained employment with ICI in Manchester and it was here he met his wife, Lyn. Tim's job took him abroad - Germany, America, Venice, Belgium, before returning to England and working for a spell in sales. He joined Merpro in Montrose in 2006 and came to live in Monikie with Lyn and his two sons, Tom and Ben.

Throughout his life, wherever he lived, Tim always found a church to worship in, and on coming to this area, he joined Murroes church and became an elder in 2015.

Around this time, Tim thought about retiring from work and following a different path in life. He then decided to embrace a role within the local ministry. His training began and placements were with Rev Linda Stevens, then Rev Karen Fenwick. He has been with Rev Carleen Robertson this past year.

His probationer period ends in June, when he will become a local ordained minister. We wish him well.

At our recent AGM in May, seven members attended, with two apologies. The Treasurer presented her report and it was agreed to give donations to the Sunday School, RDA riding school and Guild projects. Office Bearers:- Contact Secretary - Lillian Carnegie; Treasurer - Diane Acheson; Minute Secretary - June Richardson

INVERARITY - In the past year, the National Church reviewed and graded all its buildings, excluding manse. East and Old Church was graded A which in essence means continue as before. Some churches, including St Margaret's, were graded B, which means close in the near future. Others, including Inverarity Church were graded B* which, in simple terms, means tell us why you should be an A. The East, Old & Inverarity (EOI) Kirk Session agreed to support a request to Presbytery that the Inverarity Church building be upgraded from B* to A.

These are the reasons why I think it should be an A:

- Recently been re-adjusted and deserves a chance to consolidate and grow. The Union with East and Old was completed very shortly before its Minister resigned.
- [Revised] Mission Plan submitted in March – awaiting a formal response. This is very much in line with the plan submitted for Farnell and Gardner Memorial.
- Offers a Rural Christian presence (3 rural churches within 10 miles have closed) and Inverarity is attracting new members because of this - at least 8 since February.
- Consolidating and growing links with the local primary school. The youngsters come to the Church for their end of term services, and we are currently investigating an after-school club using both the hall and the Church plus other uses of the Church by the School.
- Worship is easily accommodated on a Sunday with a 9:45am Service in Inverarity and 11:15am Service in East and Old.
- Openness to being flexible and innovative e.g., having a Celebrating Spring Service on a Sunday afternoon with no morning service. Over 50 attended this service with at least a dozen from E&O.
- Souper Fridays have begun with over 40 attending, including locals with no church connection, supporting community social events.
- There is an expanding programme of community events - Men's Club now has 25 members (some coming out from Forfar). On 5th May we played host to the local Vintage Tractor Run, providing lunch and a chance to see round the Church. We now have a team structure within the sanctuary aimed at developing our impact.

- For Autumn, we are looking at a round of evening events in the Church, including concerts, talks and recitals.
- Attendance is solidly 20/30 adults and 2/7 children [tea, coffee and a blether after the service for 45-60 minutes is a valuable opportunity for sometimes isolated rural residents to keep in touch].
- There is a younger age profile with up to six young families worshipping on a Sunday.
- An active Sunday School that uses the Hall after the Children's address in the Church.
- Folks believe there is potential to become the West/Central Angus "District Rural Hub" with a potential role as farming hub. The Seeds for Growth Fund has indicated support for "market research" but needs a more certain medium-term future to justify spending money. If the Church is upgraded to an A, then discussions can take place with the local community, farming unions and the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Society.
- Church and halls are in sound fabric condition. Church has Wi-Fi and two large screen TVs for PowerPoint Projection.
- There is a desire to remove side aisle pews and create a display area. A current display over the pews details the history of the Church. The school has plans to create a new display highlighting their work – and of course that could be followed by a Climate Change display!
- Folks are aware that there will be regular assessments of buildings and that an A today is not an “unrestricted call” – just a chance to prove ourselves.
- There is strong support amongst worshipers at Inverarity Church and we believe that moving to A grading would underpin and increase that support. Over the past 10/15 years, the Congregation has come under West Angus Area Ministry (WAAM) Guardianship, and on reflection was managed and directed on a survival basis.
- The folks are working together with the Church as the core of their efforts and the hall as one means of their mission and outreach. They deserve a chance!

Rev Malcolm Rooney

Five Marks of Mission

I have just completed a series of sermons on what the Church calls The Five Marks of Mission. These are meant to be a blueprint for Church growth and are:

- 1) To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- 2) To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers
- 3) To work for justice, peace, and reconciliation
- 4) To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth
- 5) To respond to human need by loving service.

Personally, I am not convinced by the language and indeed the focus. I would rather see:

- 1) *To build and deepen relationships*
- 2) *To be inclusive and welcome all*
- 3) *To consider contemporary issues and give a lead based on love*
- 4) *To act, personally and collectively, to reduce our carbon footprint*
- 5) *To develop an approach to life based on a 24/7 spirituality.*

I am happy to let you see the sermons if you are interested. Let the office know.

Rev Malcolm Rooney

General Assembly

The 2024 General Assembly runs from Saturday 18th May, with 29 Reports, all with recommendations, for example:

- Agree that the Church's financial situation demands further urgent attention supported by a focus on the agreed priorities;
- Continue to encourage uniting congregations to ensure that the Guild is involved in discussions and



enabled to explore ways in which Guilds merge or work in new ways, welcoming those mergers that have taken place;

- Note the position in relation to Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) Regulations 2021;
- Commend the Church Hymnary Supplement ‘God Welcomes All’ and thank the Hymnary Supplement Committee for their work in producing this resource of contemporary songs supporting the renewal of worship;
- Reaffirm the ecumenical vision articulated in the Declaratory Act in line with the Third Article Declaratory (2010), and instruct the unincorporated entities of the Church of Scotland to take account of this in their future work;
- Urge political leaders and media institutions to avoid the use of dehumanising and hostile language when describing migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; and instruct the Faith Action Programme Leadership Team to work with partners in speaking out against this rhetoric.

Rev Malcolm Rooney

Coming to Church - Our minister came across a survey on Facebook about why people come to Church.

- ◆ 86% came because a friend had invited them
- ◆ 6% came as a result of organised visitations
- ◆ 6% came because the minister invited them
- ◆ 2% came because of advertising

Why did you come to Church and can you bring a friend?

Cosy Corner and Wee Blether

Perhaps some of you are unaware that we run a Cosy Corner every Wednesday in the social area of East and Old from 12 noon until 1pm. We provide delicious soup and sandwiches, biscuits, tea and coffee for a donation, all served with a smile (no charge for the smile).

On a Thursday morning from 9:30 until 11am, why not drop into East and Old church's office for a coffee or tea and biscuits. Come in and have a chat. If you are waiting for a bus or out shopping, we would love to see you. You will be made most welcome at both these events.



Ladies Night Out

On past occasions, ladies have enjoyed meals at several venues in Forfar: The Royal Hotel, Corner House, The Stag and Chapter & Verse.

There are usually 10 to 14 of us and this group is open to any ladies wishing to join us on the **last Thursday of each month, from 6pm onwards**. There's always lots of chat!

Just let either Joyce Archibald (tel. 07815676452) or Edith Watson (tel. 07821612784) know if you want to come along.

We would be delighted to see new faces.



Thank you for supporting Lochside Connections recent fundraiser - **WALK THE WINDMILLS** – members and friends of East, Old and Inverarity Parish collectively walked/ran/cycled a total of **497 miles** to help the centre cover the distance from Forfar to the original Dementia Meeting Centre in Amsterdam and home again (approx. 1500 miles), raising funds for the Forfar Meeting Centre with every step taken. EOJ's generous sponsorship raised a total of £260 for this cause.

The fundraiser exceeded their initial target raising £5030. Collectively all participants completed a total of **4518 miles** using a combination of walking, running and cycling.

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THE MEDIA TEAM

As stated in the Spring edition of 'Inspire Magazine', we are the ones you see working the PowerPoint screens on Sundays, but we also keep the website of East Old & Inverarity up to date, produce the magazine, design posters and coffee morning tickets etc.



The 'Media Team' have currently been looking at ways we can move forward in the church to bring the message of Jesus to more people, such as live-streaming our service on a Sunday as many people may not know what is going on in our parish. We tried this a few months ago, but soon realised that if we go ahead, we will have to update our

equipment. We would be interested to hear our congregation's views on this or if you would like to be part of this endeavour, please let us know. You can contact us by email at: eoimmediateam@yahoo.com

Remember if you have an upcoming event, please let us promote it on the website calendar so everyone knows what is going on.

The media team wish to draw your attention to the photo permission notices placed throughout our church buildings.

PLEASE NOTE

We regularly take photos and videos in all of our buildings. They can be used in print, on our website and on social media.

If you are not happy for your image/recording to be used, please make an elder aware or contact:

eoiparish@yahoo.com

07897 456655



RECYCLING – We continue to collect old spectacles, empty crisp packets and soft plastics but remember you can also take soft plastics directly to our local Tesco and Asda Stores here in Forfar for recycling.

TESCO BLUE TOKENS for our Family Summer Holiday Campaign



Just a reminder to pick up your BLUE TOKENS from the checkout when you are doing your shopping in TESCO Forfar and use them to vote for our Family Summer Holiday Campaign - looking to support the local community during

the school summer holidays by providing a week of fun and food for the whole family free of charge. From April through to the end of June you can help us to win 1 of 3 different cash amounts to pay for food for families at our organised events over the summer holidays.



Helpful Advice

It doesn't take long to say thank you,
It doesn't take long to say please,
And only a moment for sorry,
Yet we often neglect words like these,
When turning one's lips up to smile,
Or holding one's hand out to wave,
Such gestures cost nothing in effort,
But, Oh what a heartache they save.

Christian Persecution

Are you aware that each and every day, thousands of our fellow Christians in many countries face violence and persecution?

A recent Release International report states that for last year alone, 686 acts of violence were reported in 34 states across Nigeria, resulting in 4357 deaths and 1791 abductions. Sadly, the killing and kidnapping of believers continued unabated into the New Year. In January, 25 Christians were killed by terrorists in attacks on villages in Plateau State; Christian Daily News reported that thousands of people were displaced in violent attacks in Mangu County.

James Bitruss, a Christian Leader in the predominantly Christian Karakoram county, said terrorists had killed more than 100 believers in the past four months, and many thousands of people have been forced to flee their communities. This is just a small snapshot in one country, but similar tragedies are reported in many other areas. Remember that many thousands of small acts of daily violence go unreported.

Please support our struggling fellow Christians in your prayers:

- Pray for all Christians in Nigeria and elsewhere who have suffered immense persecution
- Ask God to help all those injured or traumatised by these acts of terror and to provide for those displaced by violence
- Pray for our partners as they work to help all those affected by these attacks
- Pray that the perpetrators will repent and put down their weapons

You can find out more about Christian persecution at www.releaseinternational.org

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

If you require transport to get to one of our Sunday Services, please **contact Jean Alexander on Forfar 463860**. Jean has an answer-machine, so you can leave her a message, if necessary.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Monthly Breakfast Service

Starting from Sunday 2nd June, the Worship Team will be leading a Breakfast Service at 9:30am on the 1st Sunday of the month in the Social Area at Forfar East & Old Church. You will be most welcome to attend this short informal service, that is open to all, and includes a light breakfast. It will be led by different members of the Team each month and will be in addition to the regular Sunday worship at Inverarity and Forfar.

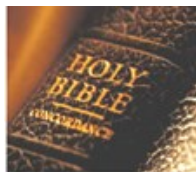
9:30AM

STRAWBERRY TEA – INVERARITY

Come and join us at our Strawberry Tea on Thursday 27th June at 7pm in Inverarity Church Hall. Tickets are £5 for adults, no charge for children.



Bible Study Group - Our final monthly meeting, before taking a summer break, is on Friday 28th June at 6pm in the church office at East and Old.



We would be delighted to welcome any new members along to these relaxed and informal discussions. The group will resume meetings again in September – see the church website calendar for dates of our regular meetings.

Deirdre Knight Centre Fundraiser - Dundee

Our Depute Session Clerk, Karen Kelly, works at the Deirdre Knight Centre in Lour Road and a team of 5 members of their staff are taking part in the Dundee Kiltwalk (a distance of 21.5 miles), on 11th August and are trying to fundraise £2500 towards the cost of a new minibus.

The centre is a valuable asset to our community and both current and former members of our congregation have benefited from attending.

Donations can be made via the Just Giving website: www.justgiving.com search for Forfar Daycare Centre – then select an individual Just Giving page of one of their 5 team members – either Kathleen Blythe, Lesley Cameron, Morag Rennie, Mairi Ingram or Cali Roberts. Thank you.

Upcoming Twinning Visit

Our Swiss friends arrive on Thursday 4th July and plans are well underway to receive them. The visit's theme is 'Our Church: Our Community' and we hope to introduce them to East & Old and Inverarity



churches and community links in the area. On arrival, our visitors will be welcomed to Inverarity church for an evening reception and a look around.

Friday 5th July will be spent in Forfar, at East & Old, finding out about the work of the church as well as Forfar's history and community projects. We'll visit Restenneth Priory and see Angus Archives on the town and church. Local members are welcome to join us at any point during the day. Also on Friday evening, is a Ceilidh with a 2-course meal and band to accompany our dancing. It's sure to be a great night and everyone is welcome. Tickets will be on sale soon - £10 per ticket - please make sure to get yours quickly!

Saturday 6th is a full day trip to Edinburgh. The coach is booked and there's lots of space for East, Old & Inverarity members to join our visitors, get to know them better and have a fun day out. Tickets on sale soon - £10 each - please speak to Karen or Paula.

On Sunday 7th our guests join us for morning worship, so please come along to either East & Old or Inverarity to see them and to say farewell before they head off home.

Trip to Zuglo Church, Hungary

We are busy planning our visit to Zuglo church, Budapest in October.



So far 10 people have signed up for this youth and family work themed visit. We will find out more about Zuglo's excellent missional work and get some ideas. We'll also spend time sightseeing and getting to know the local

area, especially those visiting for the first time. There are still places, so if you are keen to join us, please get in touch ASAP.

CHURCH MINIBUS

Our Church Minibus is available for hire.
Drivers must have a valid D1 code on
their driving licence.

To make a booking, please contact
Johnny Forbes on 07718244872



Dates for your Diary

Forfar Gala Day – visit East & Old stall	Sunday 16 th June
Strawberry Tea at Inverarity Hall	Thursday 27 th June - 7pm
Swiss Visitors Arrive	Thursday 4 th July
Ceilidh at East & Old church	Friday 5 th July 6pm (for 6:30pm)
Trip to Edinburgh with Twinning Guests	Saturday 6 th July
Coffee morning for McMillan Cancer at East & Old Church	Saturday 7 th September – 10am
Coffee morning for Leprosy Mission at East & Old Church	Saturday 26 th October – 10am
East, Old & Inverarity Visit to Budapest	Thu 10 th to Tue 15 th October
For further details of the above events, please check 'Upcoming Events' on our website at https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk/ or our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk	

~ NEXT ISSUE OF INSPIRE ~

The deadline for submission of articles for
the **AUTUMN 2024** issue is **THURSDAY 15th AUGUST 2024**
Pass items to the Editor or via e-mail: **eoieditor@yahoo.com**

THE JIGSAW – A Tale from Covid Lockdown

I bought a puzzle years ago – but where is its location?

It was a present for a friend that never reached its destination.
Beneath the stairs with torch and gloves, I fought the dust and muddle,
And there at last beneath the mess, I found the long-lost puzzle.

‘I found it!’ jubilant I cried, but himself was not impressed.

‘Well, this keeps us both amused, it’s all the rage,’ I stressed.

With mocking sniff and nose in air, He turned his face away.

‘Have your childish pastime then, but don’t expect ME to play.’

For days I struggled on my own, at first it wasn’t fun.

But then at last, I heaved a sigh with the edges finally done.

A coffee break was overdue, and from the kitchen door,
I glimpsed him deftly take a peak, then scuffle back across the floor.

Aha! I thought he’s curious, I’ll play him at his game,
And coming back I shook my head: ‘These edges aren’t the same.’

Off I went to do some chores, and I found my instinct right.

When I returned, the scene had grown, Just as I thought it might.

A corner of the puzzle now, boldly sat complete,

In mock surprise, I feigned delight, but hardly dared to speak.

Across the week the tempers rose, with silence interspersed.

As isolation held its grip, and worries far, far worse.

I ached to do some useful thing, to help the situation,

But staying home and safe and well, was now our occupation.

That bit’s not right, the colour’s wrong, you’ve got it upside down,

Can’t you see it doesn’t match? The blue’s beside the brown.

Another minor spat ensues, the silence has been broken.

But still, it’s progress, in a way it’s three days since we’ve spoken.

And so the puzzle, bless its heart, became our major task.

How much time we lingered there, I didn’t dare to ask.

It’s challenging, frustrating, with a thousand tiny bits,

But oh! The unexpected joy, when you find a piece that fits!

It’s 18 days since we began, we’ve very nearly won,

But I’m really getting anxious now, what happens when it’s done?

Sadness falls, it’s finally done, but I’m sure I’ll soon recover.

How will we fill the next few weeks?

Can anyone lend me another?



CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

DEATHS

Irene Millar	14	February 2024	(district 19)
Bruce Walker	1	March 2024	
Dorothy Douglas	20	" "	(district 34)
Tom Coburn	26	" "	(district 10)
Amy Patullo	28	" "	(district 29)
Elizabeth Knox	5	April 2024	(district 22)
Jack Ewen	10	" "	
Jean Hart	1	May 2024	(district 14)

BAPTISM

Ella Marie Angela Cull 5 May 2024



East & Old Church ~ Ministry of Flowers			
2 JUN	Jean McEwen	21 JUL	Karen Kelly
9 "	Wilma Pringle	28 "	Stewart Davidson
16 "	Dr A McDonald	4 AUG	Sheena Benvie
23 "	Dave Bowman	11 "	Jean Alexander
30 "	Barbara Ann Sweetin	18 "	Glenda Robertson
7 JUL	Edith Douglas	25 "	AVAILABLE
14 "	AVAILABLE	1 SEP	Sheena Ewart

Session Clerk	Lexi Smart	01307 464330
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Depute Session Clerk ■ Roll Keeper 	Karen Kelly	01307 465043
	eoisession@yahoo.com	
Administrator	Paula Stewart	07897456655
	eoiparish@yahoo.com	
FWO Treasurer	Margaret Myles	01307 467428
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Flower Group Admin ■ INSPIRE Editor ■ Website/Facebook 	Catriona Milne	07962065936
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	eoimmediateam@yahoo.com	
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Choirmaster	Bob Kidd	01307 462701
Church Officer	Bill Duthie	01307 465895
Inverarity Sunday School	Anne Wilson	01307 818624
Family Worker	Sheila Whitelaw	07735938528
	eoifamily@yahoo.com	
East & Old Guild Contact	Marion Duncan	01307 463075
Inverarity Guild Contact	Lillian Carnegie	07944 294848
Property Convener	David Pate	01307 820340 07970071166
Life and Work	Esther Kidd	01307 462701
Big Kirk Shop Organiser	Muriel Fairley	01307 463936
Prayer Group	Mary Pickstone	01307 466569
2nd Forfar Boys' Brigade & Girls Association	Betty Lovegrove	01307 466467
Safeguarding Coordinator	Isabel Farquharson	01307 479582
Minibus Bookings	Johnny Forbes	07718244872